

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church

January 2012

Abbreviated Edition

We Miss You, Sujoy!

With the editing team on vacation, the January 2012 edition of CONNECTIONS has been reduced to an abbreviated version. We promise you a return to our regular format in February.

Pastor's Notes

Happy New Year to the VFPC family! It feels like we are sitting in a roller coaster car poised at the peak of the first hill. Anxiety, anticipation, exhilaration all jumbled up in one big knot in the stomach. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Lord supplied us several prophets who gave us daily readings on the Lord's will? The only thing left for you and me to do would be to check the church website every morning to learn where we needed to be for our next "Divine appointment". The Christian life would be oh so easy then. Or would it?

There may be a few of us who would need to have our wills cauterized to curb our self-leaning tendencies. Others may require a body-clock adjustment to get to our appointments on time. And still others may only function with a "swift kick in the pants" or "swat upside the head" for our refusal or forgetfulness to go online.

Knowing God's will does not always lead His children to obey God's will. So the Lord is content with the old-fashioned way to live the Christian life: "for we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). The view from the top of the hill is breath-taking, and all kinds of experiences in the Savior are just ahead. I invite you to join me on this "walk of faith" in

2012 knowing that He who has called us is faithful. Happy New Year in Jesus!

Pastor Don

January Board Meetings

Session: Monday, January 9th, 7:00pm in the Chapel.

Deacons: Wednesday, January 18th, 7:00pm in the Chapel.

Congregation: Sunday, January 29th, following worship in the Sanctuary.

January Worship News

Sunday, January 1st:

"When God Will Not Rest"

Isaiah 43:15 - 21; 2 Corinthians 2:12 - 3:6
Holy Communion Sunday

Sunday, January 8th:

"No Less, No More"

Proverbs 31:1 - 5, 8 - 9; 10 - 12; 28 - 31
Ephesians 5:21, 22, 25

Sunday, January 15th:

"Toe to Toe, Side by Side, Back to Back"

Ephesians 5:22 - 24, 33b;
Ephesians 5:25 - 33a

Sunday, January 22nd:

"Uncle!"

Genesis 2:18 - 25; 1 Timothy 4:1 - 5

Sunday, January 29th:

"BMI and the Body of Christ"

1 Corinthians 12:3 - 7

Congregational Meeting After Worship

Plan to stay for this important meeting of the congregation where 2011 reports and 2012 budgets will be discussed and received.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) reported to the congregation on December 11 that the CIF was approved by Session, and is being submitted to the COM, and after their approval we will be able to receive PIFs. The congregation's response was overwhelming: everybody was perplexed by the alphabet soup.

The November CONNECTIONS had a page titled "Making Sense of Presby-Speak" that explained what all the letters mean, but that was months ago. So in the interest of ongoing communications, that page has been put on the web site "permanently" as long as we're working to identify our next pastor. Briefly, here's a summary:

PNC - Pastor Nominating Committee - Our church's search committee.

CIF - Church Information Form - Description of our church.

PIF - Pastor Information Form - A pastor's self-description, like a resume.

COM - Committee on Ministry - Committee of Presbytery that helps in this task.

CLC - Church Leadership Connection - National entity. Matches CIFs and PIFs.

Of course, you will probably want to check out that page on the site for a more thorough understanding of the terms and their significance in the process. We will continue to keep the congregation up to date on the PNC's progress by announcements during worship. If we use new initials and forget to mention what they mean, let a PNC member know, and we'll publish more definitions ASAP.

February Connections Deadline:

Sunday, January 15th

New Members' Class Sessions

The last two New Members' Classes will be held at 9:45am on Sunday mornings, January 8th and 15th in the Pastor's Study. The VFPC family looks forward to Kelly Hand, Alan Whiteley and Miyo Wong joining the congregation before the end of January.

On A Musical Note...

The Bell Choir meets Sundays immediately after worship in the Bell Choir loft at the front of the church. We welcome anyone interested in ringing bells. Our next play date will be in March and we will start rehearsals in February.

The Adult Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Sunday mornings we meet at 9:30am to run through the worship service and our anthem for the day. We will soon start learning a cantata for Easter and welcome folks to learn it with us. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled with Marty Meyer-610-293-0959, or organistmarty@yahoo.com.

How Many Pastors...

...can you fit on the head of a pin? Millions. How many pastors can you fit on the pin's point? Zero. Pastors can never get to the point!

In the Event of a Weekend Snow Storm

Should our region be struck by a winter snow storm, you can find out if the Valley Forge Church Worship Service and Sunday School have been cancelled. Simply call the church office, **610-265-2420**, after 7:30am. A notice will have been posted cancelling all programs. If there is no message of cancellation, programs will be held at their regular times. Please use caution before venturing out.

“Check Out” the Library This Week!

It's a NEW YEAR! Have you set some new goals also? Linda Heuser and I have been trying to find some of our "missing" books. Please look at yours when cleaning up to see if they have "LIBRARY" markings on their spines, inside the covers or on inside pages. If you find some, bring them back to Church. If not finished with them, Re-sign the card. Do help us with this project.

Bobbie Fiorito has donated "Outlive Your Life" by Max Lucado to inspire us all. Max really grabs your attention and keeps explaining that God called people like you and me, not the famous. He follows the early church through the book of Acts, chapter 12 and brings home the message that we too can learn the ways of Jesus, and how all of us can do something that goes onward. God changes the world with folks like you. Just try a few of these ideas and see how it is done.

"And God Created Angels" is a series of stories by Jim Gallery. He describes angels, created only by God, and their activities. Throughout he examines Biblical Stories that demonstrate the ways that God uses Angels to accomplish His will. We learn of eleven different activities of Angels. All these try to help us understand his purpose and communicate with us. Try this and feel its power.

Have you ever wondered how to approach God? Steve Brown's book "Approaching God - How to Pray" gives us clues and directions. We have to learn to accept that God is in charge and there are times we have to wait for answers. This book is disarming in its honesty for Steve is one of us. It's fun to read. Hope you will also be inspired.

2011 Financial “Report to Date”

Congratulations!!! And thanks to all of you who faithfully supported the church in 2011. By your efforts, VFPC was able to meet its financial obligations for the year. What began as a challenge to 'beat the \$24,000 deficit' back in February, has resulted in success. Envelope income for the year was almost \$21,000 more than budgeted. Combined with expenses, which were held to less than budgeted, the church was able to end the year with a small surplus. What a wonderful achievement for our church and a clear statement of support as we go into a new year.

2012 Pledge Campaign Update

As the Pledge Campaign draws to a close, the church has received 67 pledges for 2012, totaling \$187,570 (in 2011 we had 83 pledges totaling \$192,084). The amount pledged for 2012 is only 79% of the envelope income needed to balance the 2012 budget, so there is still much to do. We need to remain financially strong to be able to meet our goals, find a new pastor, and serve our Lord as the people of God at the Valley Forge Church.

If you have not pledged for 2012, it is still not too late. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge. It helps the church's financial planning and gives us all greater peace of mind.

Bible Study Opportunities

Women: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (10th & 24th), 10:30am in the Chapel. Pack a lunch.

Men: Thursday evenings, 7:00pm in the Library.

Co-Ed: Tuesdays - Kerygma, 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

Open-Book Quiz

Notes to the Congregation

The family of Lee Sellman thanks the many of you who sent and brought prayers and words of comfort on the day of his Memorial Service. We still feel a strong connection to the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church and to the members and we appreciate the fact that so many remember the many things that Lee did for "our" church.

Nancy Sellman

“Game Night”

**Hosted by Forever Young
January 23rd at 7:00pm**

The whole congregation is invited to the Chapel on Monday evening, January 23rd as the Forever Young Seniors' Club hosts a Game Night for our enjoyment. We are asked to bring our favorite snack, favorite friend, and favorite game. The Club will supply beverages and dessert! For more information, or to RSVP, please call Eileen McFalls at 610-265-3058; or see her on Sunday mornings in church.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!

All annual reports, written and financial, are due in the church office by Friday, January 13th. If you are the chair of a committee or board of the church, the head of a ministry unit or team, the treasurer of a church board or organization, or “special project” leader, we look forward to having your report in hand on time. Thanks.

Connections

Is a publication of the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church, 191 Town Center Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406. You can contact the church by phone at: 610-265-2420; by e-mail at office@valleyforgepres.org; by fax at 610-265-0567. Learn more about the church at its website: www.valleyforgepres.org.

See if you can match the saying to its original Bible passage. You get two guesses each before you can look in your own Bible.

Bible Saying

1. The blind leading the blind.
2. Don't let the sun go down on your anger.
3. Go the extra mile.
4. A house divided against itself.
5. It's more blessed to give than to receive.
6. Love your neighbor.
7. Man does not live by bread alone.
8. No rest for the wicked.
9. Pride goes before a fall.
10. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
11. See the writing on the wall.
12. Swords into ploughshares.
13. To everything there is a season.
14. A word to the wise is sufficient.
15. You reap what you sow.

Bible Source

- a. Leviticus 19:18
- b. Deuteronomy 8:3
- c. Proverbs 16:18
- d. Proverbs 19:25
- e. Ecclesiastes 3:1
- f. Isaiah 2:4
- g. Isaiah 57:20
- h. Daniel 5:5
- i. Matthew 5:41
- j. Matthew 12:25
- k. Matthew 15:14
- l. Matthew 26:41
- m. Acts 20:35
- n. Galatians 6:7
- o. Ephesians 4:26

(We thank Barbara Roback for submitting this clever quiz to this month's Connections. She left us with a hint: every saying matches a source! Enjoy.)