



CRESCENT SPRINGS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Editor: Carol Buckhout

Floyd H. Starr
Interim Pastor

Members of the Session

Class of 2011

Dan Alexander
Jim Burdick
Ernie Elliot
Brad Neal
Janet Stadtmiller, Stated Clerk

Class of 2012

Mark Boyd
Karen Ginn
Terry David
Sarah Cottongim

Class of 2013

Martha Ann Thrasher
Patricia McGregor
Craig Mullins
Crystal Harden

Members of Board of Deacons

Moderator

Kim Newton, 341-2096
Millie Lockert
Heather Alexander
Nancy Reed
Jeff Williams
Candace Hinners
Erin Murphy
Billie Grant
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Personnel

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Mark Boyd, 587-9137



CRESCENT SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Clarion

Between the Times

June 2010

For Presbyterians who care about how their faith intersects with the bigger world, this summer's General Assembly will provide a panorama of possibilities for discussion. Even assembly veterans seem stunned by the amount of work to get done when the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) meets in Minneapolis July 3-10.

That's the teaser line from a bulletin insert provided by *The Presbyterian Outlook*; you'll see the whole piece in a few weeks. I want to share some thoughts about the General Assembly as the biennial event approaches. Because GA no longer meets each year, it's easy to get out of touch with activities at the denomination's highest governing level. But those activities matter to all of us, and we should make the effort to learn what's coming up and what happens as the meeting progresses.

There are many sources of information about the GA. As it is with national news, some sources are better than others. Unfortunately, the ones that attempt the biggest splash and the most sensationalism are also the least reliable. *The Presbyterian Layman* – a periodical that has been in existence since the mid-60s – is published by The Presbyterian Lay Committee. Some of you are aware of it, and many of you aren't. I would simply suggest that, if you read it, please do so with a grain of salt – or something smaller. I have found their past reporting heavily biased. Of course, you are free to disagree!

I am more comfortable with *The Outlook*. Realizing that there's really no such thing as purely objective journalism, I see more balance and less agenda in that long-established publication. I also recommend the denominational website: www.pcusa.org. It will have links to the various GA events. There are likely to be some real-time links, as well. As is true with all research efforts, your best bet is your own observation of raw data. Try to read and hear as much first hand as you possibly can. Then, use the minds God gave you to reach your own conclusions. Yours are just as valid as any editorial writer. Please don't forget that!

Not all of us will be pleased with what the GA does, or does not do. We may find ourselves in strong disagreement with the matters it chooses to discuss. We will likely find ourselves displeased with at least some of

the resulting decisions and actions the governing body takes. I've been both displeased and disappointed with the group before, and I expect I'll feel that way again at some future time.

So, let's consider what our denomination has to say about handling issues.

There will be some serious discussion this year about international relations. The Middle East will be a hot-button item. There may be pronouncements made, and we need to understand something important about General Assembly pronouncements. That's all they are: pronouncements. They are not binding on anybody. They are simply statements made by the governing body at a particular point in time. If they make you angry, don't pay any attention to them! Seriously! An important Preliminary Principle of our Form of Government states that: All church power is only ministerial and declarative. What that means is this: The General Assembly may never make any kind of declaration that binds the conscience of any person. If you pay careful attention, you'll never find any statements coming out of any governing body – or out of any preacher, for that matter – declaring what any member of the church must believe. Basically, the larger church – and the preachers – simply make statements about what we think, what we feel God is calling us to do, and what we encourage others to consider. At the end of the day, each of us is free to take it or leave it. People of good conscience may always disagree, and we should never be in the business of seeking the destruction of those who see matters differently.

Presbyterians believe that councils and assemblies are full of humanity and, as a result, can make mistakes. But, we're also convinced that, as cumbersome and disappointing as they may be, these assemblies also offer us the best chance we have for discovering the will of Christ for his Body, the Church. I encourage everybody to be aware and informed about our GA next month. Let's see if we can discover something of the Will of God for us at this point in our journey **Between the Times**

– FHS

The Scott Memorial Scholarship

Young adults at CSPC who are heading off to college in the fall, or continuing their college studies, are reminded to complete an application for the Robert and LaVerne Scott Memorial Scholarship. A copy of the scholarship guidelines gives application instructions and can be found in the narthex. Completed applications are due to Elmira Scott by July 11, 2010.

Spring Fling 2010 was a success!

Many thanks to the volunteers who made CSPC's second annual Spring Fling arts and craft show a success. The works were on display from May 23-28 and featured entries from artists throughout the region.

The event brought a number of visitors into our church building, providing outreach into the community we seek to serve.

A special thank you to Stephanie Redman for chairing the Spring Fling!

Update from the PNC

The last couple of months have seen continued good progress from the PNC. As part of our on-going weekly meetings, we can report that the PNC has now received and reviewed a total of 100 Personal Information Forms from prospective pastors! Even more exciting is the fact that we have completed initial telephone interviews with 10 strong individuals from among this group. In addition, we have progressed into more in-depth, follow-up interviews with five top candidates from the initial set of interviews. With the Lord's help, we are now completing the discernment process regarding which prospective pastor(s) to invite to come visit us in person to see the area, meet with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, and conduct face-to-face interviews with the PNC. We hope to conduct any such visits within the next 1 to 2 months, and if all goes well, be in a position to call a pastor by late summer / early fall. The PNC appreciates the continued prayers of the congregation as we move into this key phase of the search process.

VBS is Coming to CSPC!

CSPC will offer Vacation Bible School July 12-16. Each day's session will be organized around the theme of the twelve tribes of Israel, featuring tribal leaders, story time, drama to illustrate the Bible story of the day, crafts, snacks and more.

Hours are 9:30 to noon each day. Children ages three through elementary grades are invited to attend.

We want the program to be fun and memorable for the children. There are plenty of jobs to help us get ready:

- Drama team to re-enact the Bible story of the day: teens and an adult (or college-aged) leader to help them get organized;
- Crafts group to plan crafts for each day, obtain supplies and do the prep work for each craft;
- Tribal leaders;
- Donors—we need old standard or queen-sized pillow cases (to become tunics for our small tribe members); gift certificates to Remke's or Crescent Springs Hardware (to purchase VBS supplies); corrugated cardboard at least 6 in. x. 10 in.

VBS is fun for all and a wonderful way to provide Christian education for our youngest members. It takes many hands, so please join in. Terry David or Karen Ginn can answer questions.

Financial Update

The Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for May 2010 are posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. YTD as of May 31, 2010. If you have any questions contact Karen Peters or a member of the Finance Committee.

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$91,154.38	\$90,565.00
Expenses	<u>83,473.25</u>	89,910.00
Difference	\$ 7,681.13	

Who is the mystery pencil donor?

Thank you to the generous, but anonymous, donor who provided mechanical pencils for the pews. We appreciate your gift. Please let the church office know who you are.

Notes from the May Session Meeting

At its stated meeting in May, CSPC's Session:

- Reviewed the first six Transformation Discernment sessions for the new session members
- Examined confirmation candidate Lauren Newton for membership
- Added some line items for Christian Education to the budget due to church's financial standing and C.E. need
- Decided that Friday Night Live will become a monthly event to be held the first Friday of each month
- Set a Training Session for new elders on Saturday, August 28th at 9 am.
- Designated that Session will keep a permanent record of all memorial gifts
- Defined need for new Committee Chairpersons.

Calendar

Summer Worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

June 15 Worship Committee Meeting - 7 PM

June 17 Christian Education Committee Meeting - 7 PM

June 18 Chicks with Sticks noon to 2 PM

June 21 Men's Softball at Pioneer Park - 7:15

June 22 Bound by Books - 7 PM

June 25 Lunch Bunch

June 27 Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 28 Men's Softball at Middleton Mills Park 6:15

July 2 Chicks with Sticks, noon to 2 PM

Choir Practice each Wednesday 7:30 PM

Men's Fellowship each Saturday 8:00 AM

Cycling Group each Sunday 12:30 PM