

First Press

First Reformed Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America.

12900 Frankstown Road • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

REPORT FROM PULPIT COMMITTEE

(This is a copy of the report from the Pulpit Committee given to the congregation before the Morning Worship Service on January 27, 2008)

Good morning. I would like the members of the pulpit committee to join me up front. I hope you can tell from the smiles that we have some exciting news for you.

Work of the Pulpit Committee

As you know this committee was elected by you in May of last year to seek out the man that God had already chosen to be our next sr. pastor. The first thing we did was put together a pastoral qualities description, which you have all seen and had a chance to comment on. The summary of the man we are looking for is a “shepherd” – a shepherd to lead us in worship; a shepherd to lead us by example; and a shepherd to lead us in discipleship, outreach and fellowship.

In our search to find this man, we reviewed over 40 applications and listened to many sermons. During this process, it was evident that one applicant stood out from all the others. As we got to know this one applicant better and he got to know us better, we conducted multiple interviews with him and his wife, listened to more sermons and conducted 9 reference checks. He has made two separate visits here and has met both with our committee and the session. Most importantly, we have spent many hours in prayer as a committee seeking God’s wisdom and guidance. Our prayer all along has been that God would make the man who is to be our next sr. pastor very clear to us. We as a committee unanimously believe that God has answered our prayers. As you already know, we invited this man to be the candidate that our committee recommends to the congregation to be our next sr. pastor. We learned this past week that he has accepted our invitation. God is certainly good!

- continued on page 2

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 5
SESSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 9
*MISSIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING*

FEBRUARY 10
*EVENING - COMBINED SER-
VICE AT CITY REFORMED*

FEBRUARY 14
*PIONEER GIRLS FATHER-
DAUGHTER NIGHT*

FEBRUARY 17
*GREAT COMMISSION
PRAYER
5:30 P.M.*

*Evening - Combined Ser-
vice with Covenant Or-
thodox at FRPC*

LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH 16
Palm Sunday

March 20
*Maundy Thursday Com-
munion*

March 21
Good Friday Service

March 23
Easter Sunday

“Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit
within me.”
Psalm 51:10

Continued from page 1

What Does It Mean to be a Candidate?

As the candidate that we are recommending to you to be our next sr. pastor, he and his wife will join us for a weekend where everyone will have the opportunity to meet them and learn more about them, the culmination of which will be his preaching at our Lord's Day morning worship. We will then have a congregational meeting where members of this congregation will vote on whether to call this man as our next sr. pastor. It is the pulpit committee's role to recommend a candidate to the congregation; however, the congregation has the responsibility of actually calling a pastor. If the congregation votes to extend a call to this man, then he would have the option to either accept the call or not.

When Will This Candidating Weekend Be?

This weekend will most likely be in early to middle April. This is based on the fact that March is a very busy month, with both Palm Sunday and Easter falling early this year, the candidate's church has its Missions Conference in early March and our Missions Conference is the first weekend in April. We will give you plenty notice of the specific weekend and the schedule of events.

We are sure the question you all have is what can we tell you about him today? However, we are going to start by telling you what we cannot tell you about him at this point. We can't tell you his name, the church he is at or many other specific details about him or his family. The reason for this is not that we like to keep secrets or that we want only certain people to know about him. The reason is that we need to protect him, his family and his current church. If we should call him as our next sr. pastor, his congregation should find out from him, not from any other source. If we don't call him as our next sr. pastor, then it is essential that he be able to continue his ministry at his current church without any disruption caused by this process. It is of utmost concern to our committee that this be handled in an appropriate and confidential manner. When the time is appropriate, we assure you that you will get all the information you need to make a decision on whether to extend a call to this candidate or not.

What we can tell you about him today is this:

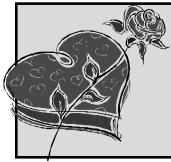
- He greatly loves the Lord.
- He is a gifted preacher.
- His love for the Lord and for his congregation is clearly evident in his preaching.
- He has a pastor's heart.
- He has a great concern for the lost.
- He loves his own family deeply.
- His wife has been blessed with the gifts of care, compassion and mercy.
- He has been a sr. pastor for over 25 years – and only at 2 different churches during that time.
- He has 3 children – two college age and one high school age.

Our committee unanimously believes that God has led us to this man to be the next sr. pastor of FRPC and we enthusiastically recommend him to you.

Continued on page 5

Missions Focus - Lois Ooms (Transformational Development Trainer)

Lois began serving in Kenya in 1969, teaching high school students and elementary school teachers science. She worked with the youth of the African Evangelical Presbyterian Church and assisted the health center at Muruu in the finance department. In 1987 she began a community health/evangelism program. When that work closed Lois joined two Dutch staff members in going to work in Eritrea. She trained traditional birth attendants and community health workers as well as presenting the gospel to Muslim women. When the government chased them out, she returned to Kenya to work at Litein Hospital as community health coordinator. Most recently she has been director of Transformational Community Health & Development for African Inland Church in Kenya. Lois developed materials to train rural communities to supply their own health care. Then she got additional training and began programs in community development. This is training communities to solve their problems with their own resources. The Lord has continued to expand her influence. MTW want others to be challenged to use this approach. It was difficult traveling within Africa and to reach more places. So Lois is now based in the US. She has requests from 9 other countries in Africa and the Middle East. She will also be involved in teaching at a couple of Christian colleges. There will be some orientation of new missionaries and writing out what is mostly in her head.



February Birthdays

1	Sarah Faber	15	Christopher Miller
4	Caleb Sabella Joshua Sabella	17	Earl Lintelman
7	Michael Lintelman Ed Stephens	19	Fran Campbell
8	Mya Bremmer Denise Dalbey Judy Lawyer Shauna Renda Maree Vizino	20	Vanessa Anthony
		21	Gretchen McElhinney Dan Roseum
		23	David Conrad
		25	Jacob Crawford
11	Justin Pifer	27	Lori Andrzejewski Ken Boyer Luke Mattson Dillon Robert Boyer
12	Daniel Faith Ann Magnuson Seth Master Jessica Roseum		
13	Ray Crawford	28	Cullen Boyer
14	Tyler Campbell Randy Lintelman Elaine Tat-Koon		Cheryl Hamilton



Happy Belated Birthday to
Eleanor Thompson
Eleanor turned 95 on October
28th 2007

Congratulations to *Jason Dalbey* who graduated from Geneva College in December 2007 with BS degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. He is currently working in the UPMC Corporate Accounting Dept.



**Financial Summary
January 1 - December 31, 2007**

Operating Account:	
Receipts	\$ 383,579
Disbursements	\$ 354,833
<i>Account Balances -</i>	
Operating Checking	\$ 27,771
Operating Saving	\$ 100,963
Benevolence Account:	
Income	\$ 121,771
Disbursements	\$ 117,412
Deacons' Fund: 2007	
Income	\$ 19,132
Disbursements	\$ 20,552
<i>Account Balances as of 11/19/07-1/14/08</i>	
Deacons' Checking	\$ 8,416
Deacons' Money Mkt.	\$ 10,884



First Reformed PCA
 12900 Frankstown Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15235
 412-793-7117

February



2008

Sunday *Monday* *Tuesday* *Wednesday* *Thursday* *Friday* *Saturday*

					1	2
<p>Each Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 5:30 p.m. Promises 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship</p>						
3 <i>Dr. Dennis Prutow</i> 10:45 a.m. Lord's Supper 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group 5:30 Promises	4	5 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	6 6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study	7 9:30 a.m. WIC Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, and <i>Committee Meeting</i> First Boys Club 7:15 p.m. WIC Evening Study	8	9 Missions Commit- tee Meeting 9:00 a.m.
10 <i>Dr. Dennis Prutow</i> 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group 5:30 Promises Evening-Combined service at City Re- formed	11	12 7:00 p.m. McLane Covenant Group 7:30 p.m. Murrysville Covenant Group	13 6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Crawford Covenant Group	14  9:30 a.m. MOPS 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, Father/Daughter Event First Boys Club	15	16
17 <i>Dr. Jack Kineer</i> 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group 5:30 p.m. Promises 5:30 p.m. Great Commissions Prayer Mtg. Evening-Combined service with Covenant Orthodox at FRPC	18  Presidents' Day	19 7:00 p.m. Plum Covenant Group	20 6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study	21 9:30 a.m. WIC Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club 7:15 p.m. WIC Evening Study	22 7:00 p.m. MOPS CROPS	23
24 <i>Dr. Jack Kineer</i> 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group 5:30 Promises	25	26 7:00 p.m. McLane Covenant Group 7:30 p.m. Murrysville Covenant Group 7:30 p.m. WIC Prayer Meeting	27 6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Crawford Covenant Group	28 9:30 a.m. MOPS 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club	29	

Continued from page 2

What We Request of the Congregation

1. Please be in constant prayer for this man, his wife and his children and our committee, that the Lord would continue to direct and guide each step of this process.

2. We know that you wish we could give you more information at this time. We simply request that you respect the confidentiality of the candidate and this process. When it is appropriate to give you more information, we will. Before then, we can't.

May the Lord bless the candidate, his wife, his children, our committee and this congregation as we go through this process together.

I would encourage us all not to let this announcement, as exciting as it is, to be a distraction to our worship today, but use it as another reason to give praise and honor to God in our worship today. Thank you

Brian Dutton

We would like to extend Christian sympathy to several families who have lost family members in January.

George Christian , a member of First Reformed, passed away on Thursday, January 24, 2008.

William Bruckert, father of Day Boyd passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2008

The mother of Carla Stevens,(an educational missions worker in Belize) Mary Wilkinson , died on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

Donna Gray's aunt Lucille passed on Wednesday, January 23, 2008.

Ken Boyer's father , Ken Boyer,Sr., passed away on Saturday, January 26, 2008.



(This is a small part of a letter sent to FRPC from Jay Scharfenberg)

Dear Brothers and Sisters at FRPC,

I have taken four months to send you all an update on my life because, by this time, enough interesting things have happened .I have officially received half a calling!! What is half a calling, you might ask? Half a calling means that I have been accepted as a member of the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO), a campus ministry that has its headquarters right down the road from my beloved Alma Mater, RPTS. The way CCO works is that it connects its members to a church that wants to reach out to college students. The church and CCO then come up with a combined mission statement that becomes the member's job description. Anyway, I have been accepted as a member of CCO, and I am in the beginning stages of finding a church that seeks to minister to college students .God has used this time to help me develop my Philosophy of Ministry, and given me concrete ideas on how to implement what I desire to do. On another topic, some of you may remember Michelle Ryan. She visited First Reformed a few times last Spring. She just got engaged the other day. Oh, and since I was dating her at the time she got engaged, I am now, by default, engaged as well!! So in a mere four and-a-half months, I will be Mr. Michelle Ryan!!We even have our own wedding website that you can check out!! <http://www.theknot.com/ourwedding/MichelleRyan&JayScharfenberg>

I'm attending a conference in Pittsburgh from February 15th-17th. I'm not sure what my schedule looks like, but I hope to swing by for the evening service that weekend.. I continue to keep you all in my prayers as you search for a new pastor.

In Christ, *Jay Scharfenberg*

***Get Ready to Run
the Race!!!***

*This year's Vacation Bible
School, The Olympion, will
be held this summer the week
of June 23-27, 2008*

Watch for more information!!!



***2008 Missions Conference
April 4 - 6***

We are pleased, once again, to welcome **Dr. Shelton P. Sanford III** as our Missions Conference preacher this year. Many of you will remember him from our 2004 conference and his message from Isaiah "You Are My Witnesses....Declares the Lord!" Dr. Sanford is the Senior Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, SC. He presently serves as chairman of the Mission to the World Committee of General Assembly and has made numerous trips to the mission field. We also look forward to the participation of James Buckner, missionary to Hong Kong; David and Jan Kiewiet, missionaries to Australia; and Lois Ooms, missionary to Kenya. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend; there will be activities for all ages.

Further information will be provided next month.