



First Press

First Reformed Presbyterian Church

— A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America. —

12900 Frankstown Road • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

First Boys Club

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures primarily teach?

A. The Scriptures primary teach what man must believe about God, and what God requires of man. Westminster Shorter Catechism

In this generation, parents have looked to parenting books, talk show hosts, and child development specialists to aid us in the raising of our children. But the church of Christ has always believed that the scriptures hold the answers to all wisdom and the applications of that wisdom, applied by the Holy Spirit to the believer's life. First Boys Club came into being with two objectives in mind.

First, in the footsteps of our reformed fathers we wanted a format that would assist parents in catechizing their children. The catechism directs our attention to what the Bible teaches in a clear and systematic way. Each week one of the leaders expounds on what the question is teaching, explores scriptures that the question derives from, and seeks to show how the teaching might be applied to the Christian life. Last year the boys memorized nearly 30 of the 107 questions in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Each week we began with the singing of a hymn, the recitation of the question for the week in small groups, then the exposition of the question that the boys would memorize for the following week. Watching these young men's interest and participation was a great testimony to what God is doing in their young lives and will continue to do in the years to come.

Secondly, First Boys seeks to provide fun and engaging activities that fit with the energetic and inquisitive nature of our boys. Dave Dering brought to the table a wealth of ideas and leadership that helped to make our first year of organization a great deal of fun for men and boys alike. One of the activities was making catapults with wood, ending with a marshmallow launching competition. Throughout the year we had team decathlon competitions, rope and pole constructions (that had to be seen to be believed), the making of First Boys Club commercials, and ending with the much anticipated pinewood derby races. As a service project our boys collected, through our church, supplies to send to our troops in Iraq. The boys then packaged the supplies that were mailed to a friend of Rob Dalbey's stationed in Iraq.

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COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 26

2:00 p.m.
Church Picnic
Turner Farm

AUGUST 27

5:30 p.m.
Great Commission
Prayer Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER 14

6:30 p.m.
Pioneer Girls and
First Boys Clubs Resume

OCTOBER 28 - 29
Reformation Conference



No branch can bear fruit
by itself; it must remain
in the vine.

Neither can you bear
fruit unless you
remain in me.

John 15:4

Shoring Up the Foundations—a Survey of the *Westminster Confession of Faith*

The Salvation of Old Testament Saints

The Westminster Confession of Faith (Chapter 7.5-6); The Larger Catechism (34); The Shorter Catechism (20)

Earlier we looked at the distinction between the Covenants of Works and of Grace. I tried to labor the point that the grace of God is the foundation and underlying assumption and foundation of all God's dealings with us from the beginning. I also tried to draw attention to the fact that in the NT is filled with commandment ("If you love me..."). But the significance of the rise of Dispensationalism is that many have the idea that people in the OT were saved in a different manner from how we are saved today. Some came to the conclusion that keeping the Law saved people in the OT. That's the way it was under the Old Covenant. In the New Covenant we're saved by grace through faith. Now that is a serious misunderstanding of biblical faith and that does involve a radical divorce between the Old and New Covenants.

The big difference we see between the OT and the NT is not the difference between law and grace—the difference between them is what we call "Promise" and "Fulfillment." What saved Abraham? Who saved Abraham? Christ! The ground of Abraham's salvation was the righteousness of Jesus. What and Who saves us? Christ! When I, standing here at the dawn of the 21st century, and I have faith, what do I have faith in? What am I believing in? My faith looks backward in time to the person and work of Christ, which He has accomplished once and for all. He has lived a life of perfect obedience and fulfilled all the righteous requirements of the law, and negatively, he has suffered all of the consequences for my sin by offering Himself as a perfect atonement for me. And so I hear the Gospel that announces what Christ has done and calls me to faith in what Christ has done. I am trusting in a work that has already perfectly been accomplished in the past.

How does that differ from Abraham? Abraham lives on the other side of the line. Abraham lives before the Cross, the Incarnation, before the perfect righteousness of Christ was accomplished. Yet we are told that he is the model for justification because Paul cites *Genesis 15* that says, "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness" (15.6). What did he believe? What was he trusting in? The bulls and the goats? He was trusting in the "promise" of God. He was trusting in the content of the Word of God. Now, did he understand all of the details that would be worked out in the life of Jesus? Obviously not! In the very beginning, back to the Garden, where we saw the first proclamation of the Gospel. What was bad news for the Serpent is good news for the sons of Adam. What is the content? "The seed of the woman - his heel will be bruised - but the seed of the Serpent - his head will be crushed." How much content is there in that? But did Adam believe that? Did Eve believe it? I believe they did. And I believe that before Abraham, Adam and Eve were justified by faith because they trusted the Gospel that they heard in the Garden. The content was meager, and through the millennia that follow God gives more and more information about the Gospel, the person and work of the one who will come, the Suffering Servant, the Redeemer, the Mediator of a New Covenant. Christ is the Savior of everybody in the OT and the way which the merit of Christ is transferred to those people is by faith. We see the continuity, the similarity. We are saved that same way Adam was saved. I'm saved, you're saved, the same way Abraham was saved. The only difference is these people back here were trusting in the promises of God that had not yet been fulfilled - they were looking ahead to a better country whose architect and builder was God.

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First Boys Club is one way the church can seek to fulfill its membership vows as a congregation when we pledge to undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of our children. We are seeking to help families to raise boys to be godly men. The Bible is our guide to being worshipers and giving glory to God in all we do by enjoying him forever. Therefore we are about the business of providing boys with godly leadership from men who seek to be transformed more each day into Christ's image. What a privilege to assist parents in raising future leaders for our church and for God's glory.

First Boys Club is looking forward to great things this fall. Where again we will seek to instruct our boys as King Solomon did by imparting God's wisdom to each generation. "My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you." Proverbs 3:1-2

August Birthdays

2	Daniel Airgood Day Boyd Jim Duch Richard Malone June Miller	17	Melissa Smith Eric Douglas Madison Master
3	Cara Castelli Mark Hicks	20	Nonna Taylor
4	Amy DiNatale Tom Frost	21	Norman Hargraves
10	Joseph Kelly	23	Emily Bremmer Annie Malamisuro
11	Marty Agate Tim Olshefski	24	Jacob DeFazio Pat Watt
12	Dolly Servetnick	25	Linda McLane
13	James Burton Kate Dering Russ Harke	26	Kim Masick
14	Amy Airgood Wayne Airgood Anna Dering Brian Golightly	27	Shirley Micheals Erin Reynolds
		28	Heidi Vizino
		30	Gus Dering
		31	Jay Bennett Jonathan Olshefski

Financial Summary January 1 - June 30

Operating Account:

Receipts \$ 206,434
Disbursements* \$ 262,434

Account Balances -

Operating Checking \$ 3,437
Operating Saving \$ 96,456

Benevolence Account:

Income \$ 55,023
Disbursements \$ 59,827

Deacons' Fund (year to date as of 7/20/06):

Income \$ 14,411
Disbursements \$ 6,128

Account Balances -

Deacons' Checking \$ 14,834
Deacons' Money Mkt. \$ 2,679

*Operating Account disbursements include the cost of paving the parking lot which will be paid from the operating savings account.



Our thanks to Claire Magnuson, Kelley Crawford, David Schofield, Mary Beth Malek, Walt Werner, Linda Lintelman, Heather Mattson, Alanna Master, Emily Conrad, John Irwin, and Fran Campbell who have substituted this summer in the children's Sunday School.

Missions Focus: Bert & Nancy Williams, South Africa



The Williams work with the Mukhanyo Community Development Center. Their job is to walk alongside pastors and church leaders helping them integrate community development principles into the life of their churches. They were prepared for this work through previous experiences. The family lived in inner-city Baltimore ministering through their church's mercy ministry. Then from 1992-1996 Bert's job at the Department of Defense sent them to Australia where they became involved with a MTW church planting team. When they returned they began seeking whether it was the Lord's will that they serve as missionaries. Bert attended Chesapeake Seminary and was ordained in October 2003. At the same time Bert and Nancy were working with MTW in preparation to go to South Africa.

The Williams arrived in South Africa in October 2005 and lived with a family for a couple of months to aid in adapting to the culture and start learning the Zulu language. In January they were able to move into their own home just a mile from the Mukhanyo Community Development Center (MCDC). The Center is involved in training child care workers and foster parents to: care for HIV/AIDS affected children, identify these children in the community and assist them with nutritional and medical needs. They also train and provide home-based care for patients and educate the community in disease awareness and prevention. This work is vital in a country where one in nine of all people are HIV+, the number of orphans is growing rapidly, and over 60% of the households in the area are living below the poverty line. Nancy leads the caregivers support groups at various day care centers and as well as conducting teacher training at the college. Bert is beginning to teach some college courses this semester while continuing his work with five pastors of the Reformed Church of South Africa. The MCDC is trying to strengthen the individual churches so the center can focus on working through the church rather than directly to individual people.

Pray for: their continued struggle to learn the Zulu language; for Bert and Nancy as they teach this semester; for Emily, a recent graduate from Wheaton College as she begins her new job teaching music in inner city Chicago; for Gregory, who will be starting his final home-schooling year in South Africa and preparing to go to college in the United States.



Thank you to our dedicated Sunday School teachers for their spiritual investment in our covenant children during the past year.

2's class - Jane Turner, Anne Jenkins, Debbie Anthony, Lynn Miller, Patty Bennett, and Margaret McCormick.

3's class - Tom and Amy Frost

4's and 5's class - Terry Gardner and Patty Frost

1st Grade - Ruth Smith

2nd Grade - Becky Lozenski

3rd Grade - Suzie Paul

4th Grade - Pete and Cathy Taylor

5th and 6th Grade - Glenn McGuire

Jr. High - Becky Musser and Walter Turner

Sr. High - Pastor Bowlin and Jay Scharfenberg.



Joy Elizabeth Bowlin
daughter of
Larry and Ellen Bowlin
was baptized on July 2, 2006.

Timothy Nathanael McMannis
became a communicant member
and was baptized on July 16, 2006.



Dan and Jessica Roseum
were married
on June 24, 2006.

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

August



2006

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
<p>Each Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship</p>						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>10:45 a.m. Lord's Supper</p> <p>4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group</p>		<p>7:00 p.m. Plum Covenant Group</p>	<p>6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			<p>6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<p>7:00 p.m. WIC Council Meeting</p>		<p>6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>			<p>2:00 p.m. Church Picnic Turner Farm</p>
27	28	29	30	31		
<p>5:30 p.m. Great Commission Prayer Meeting</p>		<p>7:30 p.m. WIC Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>			



First Reformed Picnic
Saturday, August 26
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

You are invited to join us for a picnic at the Turner Farm in Slickville. Activities include: fishing, canoeing, hiking, volleyball and horseshoes. Dinner will start at 5:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Maps will be available on the literature tables.