

# First Press

## First Reformed Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America.

12900 Frankstown Road • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

### *Letter of Acceptance from John Tweeddale*

Dear First Reformed Family,

This letter is a formal acceptance of the congregation's call to serve as the twelfth Senior Minister of First Reformed Presbyterian Church.

I stand amazed at God's gracious provision in granting me the privilege of serving as your next pastor. For over two hundred years, the Lord Jesus Christ, as Head of the Church, has blessed FRPC with a legacy of faithfulness to the word of God. My prayer is that we will together continue that heritage of gospel faithfulness for the building up of the body of Christ, the salvation of the lost, and, most importantly, the glory of our triune God.

Thank you for the warm welcome you gave Angela, Amelia, and me last weekend. We are overjoyed to be able to call Pittsburgh our home and FRPC our family.

Your fellow servant in the cause of Christ,

John W. Tweeddale

## COMING EVENTS

**MARCH 7 AND 14**  
*PREACHING SEMINAR FOR RULING ELDERS*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**  
*LADIES MYSTERY DINNER*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15**  
*UNDERSHEPHERD GROUPS MEET*

**MARCH 27-29**  
*MISSION CONFERENCE*

## LOOKING AHEAD

### APRIL

April 5 Palm Sunday  
April 9 Maundy Thursday  
April 10 Good Friday  
April 12 Easter Sunday

### FAQs - What Happens Next?

#### **Q. - When will the Tweeddales be moving to Pittsburgh?**

A. - John will be focusing on completing his dissertation for his PhD and preparing for his ordination exams over the next two months. Lord willing, John will complete his ordination exam before the Pittsburgh Presbytery on April 25 and submit his dissertation around May 1. The Tweeddales will then use the month of May to move to Pittsburgh and to get settled in. They will be moving items to Pittsburgh from both Florida and Minnesota.

#### **Q. - When will John start preaching at FRPC?**

A. - Lord willing, John's first Lord's Day in the pulpit will be June 7.

#### **Q. - Where are the Tweeddales now?**

A. - The Tweeddales are staying with John's parents, Jim and Norma, in Mount Dora, FL (near Orlando) until they move to Pittsburgh.

#### **Q. - Will the Tweeddales be back at FRPC before May?**

A. - Lord willing, the Tweeddales will be back to FRPC at least the weekend of April 25-26 for John's ordination exam on April 25 and John will be preaching at FRPC on April 26.

**T**HEREFORE GO AND  
MAKE DISCIPLES  
OF ALL NATIONS,  
BAPTIZING THEM  
IN THE NAME OF THE  
FATHER & OF  
THE SON & OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT...



First Reformed was pleased to welcome the following new members on February 22, 2009.



Jeff and Rachel Clayton  
 Rob and Erin Gray  
 Judy McGuire  
 MaryPat McGuire  
 Tom and Norma Putman

Looking Ahead:

### Holy Week Schedule

**Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday**

10:45 a.m. Lord's Day Worship - Dr. Dennis Prutow

**Thursday, April 9**

Maundy Thursday Worship - Rev. Jim Spitzel

**Friday, April 10**

Good Friday PCA Joint Worship - Rev. Aaron Garber

**Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunday**

8:30 A.M. Congregational Breakfast

9:30 A.M. Sunday School Classes

10:45 A.M. Lord's Day Worship - Dr. Dennis Prutow

### Joint Choir Good Friday Worship

Vocalists are welcome to join the combined choir which will sing during the service. There will be one choir practice on Friday, April 10, an hour before the service. Jim Spitzel will lead the choir.



## March Birthdays

1	Bob Agate Jim Crawford Alice Cervi	17	Lucille Agate
2	Jessica Mattson Brendan McGuire	18	Joel Master
4	Becky Lozenski	19	Bruce Airgood Dorothy Master
6	Duane Agate April Crawford Lydia Musser	21	Michael Manna Jeff Taylor Matt Shepler Christine Lim
9	Rachel Dutton Kaylin Probst	23	Patrick Bennett Bob Crawford
10	Susan Dietz Joshua Schofield	24	Virginia Isherwood Janet McGuire
11	Nancy Cadwallader Martha Dizak Elizabeth Lim	25	Rodger Cahill
12	Beth Campbell Elaine Dutton	27	Debbie Anthony Holly Vizino
14	Alanna Master Martha Mbandi Lynn Miller	29	Nathan Bremmer
16	Salah Burton	31	Jim Lozenski Steven Patterson Tat-Koon Koh

Our sympathy to Linda and Dale McLane and family on the passing of Linda's father, Mr. Delmar Vollbracht on Feb. 5, 2009.



Congratulations to Tat-Koon and Elaine Koh as they welcome baby Josiah Koh to their family. He was born on Feb. 21 and weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz.

### Financial Summary January 1 - Dec. 31, 2008

**Operating Account:**

Receipts \$ 347,835  
 Disbursements \$ 258,841

*Account Balances -*

Operating Checking \$ 19529  
 Operating Saving \$ 211358

**Benevolence Account:**

Income \$ 143710  
 Disbursements \$ 148,027

**Deacons' Fund:(as of Jan 2009)**

Income \$ 11660  
 Disbursements \$ 13919

*Account Balances - (as of 2/08/09)*

Current Balance \$ 17,451

## 2009 Spring Missions Conference

### *Inevitable Apostolicity*

We look forward to our Spring 2009 Missions Conference which will be held March 27 - 29, 2009. This year's conference preacher will be Rev. Bill Yarbrough, the International Director for Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa at Mission to the World (MTW). He is responsible for the care and organization of both regions. Bill came to MTW from New City Fellowship in St. Louis where he served as Associate Pastor of Missions. Prior to joining the New City Fellowship staff, Bill did church planting and pastoral work in Alaska and, from 1980 until returning to the U.S. in 1996, led a multicultural church-planting team based in Central Mexico.

Jeff and Esther Talley, missionaries to Slovakia, will join us for this year's conference. Jeff and Esther started their career calling as foreign missionaries in 1979. After serving in Kenya and Tanzania until 2003, they left Africa to serve as church planters in Trnava, Slovakia where they joined a small MTW team. They are currently on Home Ministry Assignment in the U.S. and plan to return to Slovakia in August 2009 and collaborate with MTW colleagues to plant another church. Dawn Brady Sparks, missionary to the Ukraine, will also be joining us with her new husband, Steve. In accordance with MTW policy, when a missionary marries they must spend time away from the missions field. Dawn and Steve currently reside in Texas where she continues to support the Ukraine church planting work by serving as the Ukraine Finance person. Steve will be taking seminary classes to strengthen his theological base. The couple is seeking the Lord's direction for their future path.

The conference starts on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> with dinner, followed by an introduction of the missionaries and Rev. Yarbrough's preaching. The Saturday morning program features three module presentations by Bill Yarbrough, Jeff & Esther Talley, and Dawn Brady Sparks. The morning will conclude with lunch and preaching by Rev. Yarbrough. During the Adult Sunday School class, we will have a more informal opportunity to learn more about the missionaries and ask questions during the Missionary Panel Discussion. We also look forward to Rev. Yarbrough's preaching during the morning worship service and Rev. Talley's preaching during the evening service.

A Children's Program is also planned for children ages 4 through grade 6. It will be held Friday evening after dinner and Saturday morning during the adult program. A nursery will be provided for younger children throughout the conference.

Mark the weekend of March 27 - 29 on your calendar to reserve the dates. We look forward to your participation!

### Truth Troop Tutoring



Is in need of games and/or  
books which would be appropriate

For 2nd and 3rd graders.

Please place on the table in the downstairs  
entrance. Thank you!

### TODAY by Email

Did you know that you can receive the TODAY devotionals free every day via email? Sign up today at [www.ThisIsToday.net](http://www.ThisIsToday.net) for the free meditations from Back to God ministries International in your mailbox.



Cont. from page 1

**Q. - How can I get in touch with the Tweeddales?**

A. - John has asked that we set up an email address for him so he can maintain contact with the congregation until he arrives in Pittsburgh. The email address is [jtweeddale@firstreformedpca.org](mailto:jtweeddale@firstreformedpca.org). **However, please keep in mind** that John's primary focus over the next couple of months needs to be completing his dissertation and preparing for his ordination exams. Until John's call is approved by the Pittsburgh Presbytery and he officially begins as our pastor, please use his email for general communication and encouragement only and not for pastoral or ministry issues. John will be checking his email once or twice a week and you can expect his responses, for the most part, to be brief. Please know that we have put these ground rules in place to balance John's desire to stay in touch with the congregation with our need to guard John's time over the next couple of months so that he will be in a position to best serve FRPC when he arrives. If you are not an email user and would like to send a note to the Tweeddales, please drop it off at the FRPC office and we will include it in the envelope with the FRPC bulletin that we send to John each week.

**Q. - What can I do to help the Tweeddales during this transition?**

A. - The most important thing that you can do right now is pray for John, Angela and Amelia. Pray for health and protection while they are in Florida and for wisdom and guidance as they make their preparations to move to Pittsburgh. Pray that their love for Christ and for each other would grow during this time and that God would be knitting their hearts with ours at FRPC even while we are apart during this time. Pray for focus and diligence for John as he completes his dissertation and prepares for his ordination exams; for his ordination exam before the Credentials Committee of the Pittsburgh Presbytery on April 6; and for his ordination exam before the entire Pittsburgh Presbytery on April 26. Pray for Angela as she cares for John and Amelia during this time and as she plans and prepares for their move to Pittsburgh. Also pray for her as she cares for and supports her parents, Richard and Marcia Tangwall, who are dealing with treatment for Marcia's recently diagnosed cancer. (This includes preparations for Angela and Amelia to travel to Minnesota for a visit sometime in March.) Pray for Amelia that she would remain healthy and strong and continue in her growth and development and that despite all of her traveling over the last 3 months, she would settle into a regular sleep pattern. As more prayer requests and specific ways to help arise, we will let you know.

**Love Bade Me Welcome**

George Herbert(1593-1633 ), one of the greatest English poets, wrote with a passion regarding the joy and struggles of his faith in Christ. One scholar calls him "the poet of the Reformation". He left a promising career to become an exemplary Anglican pastor.. My attraction to his poetry is for another reason. He always seems to write poems about the soul's struggle with Grace.

In one poem, *The Collar*, he remembers a time that the temptations to follow his old ambitions to live like the rest of the world overwhelmed him. He was fed up with being different. Yet he knew "that such realizations were doomed to failure...the runaway child needed to go home."

We pick up the action in that stanza....

*But as I raved and grew more fierce and wild at every word  
Me thoughts I heard one calling, "child"!  
And I replied, "My Lord"*

Dr. Gene Veith writes "The Word of God breaks in. Despite all of his rebellion, God calls him, addressing him lovingly as His 'child'. The relationship between the Lord and His child is restored." Here is the perseverance of God in His people.

*Love Bade Me Welcome* is a well-known poem. Here is God's gracious invitation and our growing reluctance to respond to His overture of redeeming grace.

*Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eye'd Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  
If I lack'd anything.*

Then finally, Love (God's redeeming grace) issues one command, and Herbert (and others similarly called) obeys.

*You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
So I did sit and eat.*

Isn't the grace of God an awesome reality? The gospel of grace transcends time. The joys and struggles of a believer nearly 400 years ago could be written today by us.

Jim Spitzel

**Each Sunday:**




- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Group
- 4:45 p.m. Parents Prayer
- 5:30 p.m. Promises
- 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship

# March



**2009**

*Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday*

First Reformed PCA 12900 Frankstown Road Pittsburgh, PA 15235 412-793-7117						
<b>1</b> 10:45 a.m. <i>Dr. Prutow</i> Lord's Supper  6:30 p.m. Dr. George Scipione	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  3:30 pm Tutoring  7:15 pm Choir	<b>5</b>  9:30 a.m. WIC Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club 7:15 p.m. WIC Bible Study	<b>6</b>  7:00 p.m. College & Career	<b>7</b> 8:30 AM Preaching Seminar  1-3 p.m. Youth Group Girls @Roseums
<b>8</b>  10:45 a.m. Dr. Dennis Prutow  5:30 Promises  6:30 p.m. Rev. Jim Spitzel	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  3:30 pm Tutoring  7:15 pm Murrysville Cov. Group	<b>12</b>  9:30 a.m. MOPS  6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club	<b>13</b>  6:30 pm ? WIC Mystery Dinner  7:00 p.m. College & Career	<b>14</b>  AM Preaching Seminar
<b>15</b>  Dr. Prutow 5:30 p.m. Great Commission Prayer <b>Undershepherd Groups Meet</b> 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  7:00 p.m. Session	<b>18</b>  7:15 Choir  3:30 pm Tutoring	<b>19</b>  9:30 a.m. WIC Bible Study  6:30 pm Pioneer Girls Mis- sions Night	<b>20</b>  7:00 p.m. College & Career  	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  10:45 a.m. Dr. Prutow  6:30 p.m. Rev. Sam DeSocio	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  3:30 pm Tutoring  7:15 p.m. Murrysville Cov. Group	<b>26</b>  9:30 a.m. MOPS  6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club	<b>27</b>  7:00 p.m. College & Career	<b>28</b>  <b>Mission Conference</b> <b>March 27-29</b>
<b>29</b>  10:45a.m. Mission Conference Rev. Bill Yarbrough <i>No Youth Group</i>  6:30 p.m. Rev. Jeff Talley	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  7:30 p.m. WIC Prayer Meeting				

*It's time again*

*for*

**the Ladies Mystery Dinner!  
Friday, March 13th, 6:30 pm**

*At whose house will you be eating dinner?*

*With whom will you be eating dinner?*

**Don't miss out on the mystery, good food and fun  
fellowship!**



**Guests, hostesses and co-hostesses needed!  
Sign up now at the welcome center.**

contact Alice Harke with questions, 412.243.6709