

First Press

First Reformed Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America.

12900 Frankstown Road • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

November Missions Focus: *Of Whom the World Was Not Worthy*

The persecution and martyrdom of Christians continues into the 21st century in places like Pakistan, Gaza, India, Nigeria and Eritrea. These men and women may be consigned to a second class status such as the Zimmis in Islamic states who are denied citizenship and the right of religious expression and are subject to tribute (Jizya). They may languish in state prisons under indescribably inhumane conditions and are often brutally tortured and executed. Or they may be murdered by extremist thugs. Their imprisonment or murder leaves orphans and widows, churches without pastors and leaders, and evangelical ministries without laborers for the Gospel. They are persecuted because they seek the things of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

These Christians are low and despised. They are nameless to the world. Their suffering has brought them no notoriety. Yet God chooses what is weak in the world to shame the strong. Their faith is unflinching and unwavering. Given the choice to recant their faith or die, they choose death. They have learned to hate their very life.

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

This is the hallmark of the martyr and something that few Christians in the West have come to grips with.

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Here are some recent events as reported by The Voice of the Martyrs.

Rami Ayyad (30), the manager of the only Christian bookstore in Gaza, was killed by unknown assailants on October 6. Ayyad is survived by a pregnant wife and two young sons. At least nine Christians were killed by Muslims in a series of violent attacks in northern Nigeria on the weekend of September 28-29. Local Muslims also burned churches and destroyed believers' homes and businesses. Authorities have removed all corpses in a likely attempt to obscure the true death toll.

Ajay Topno, a missionary with a Christian media organization, was shot and killed in the Ranchi district of Jharkland state on September 19 for converting three tribal families to Christianity. His body was found in a jungle near the village of Sahoda three days later. An imprisoned Christian woman, Nigsti Haile (33), was tortured to death by Eritrean authorities in the Wi'a Military Training center in Massawa on September 5 for refusing to sign a letter recanting her faith.

Christianah Oluwatoyin Olusase, a Christian teacher at in Gombe state was murdered by a mob of Muslim students on March 21. A girl claimed that because Oluwatoyin was a Christian, she had desecrated the Quran by touching it. The students began to shout "Allahu Akbar" and then beat, stoned and clubbed Oluwatoyin to death. They dragged her corpse outside of the building and burned it.

Rev. Pau Za Khen (62), pastor of the Upper Myanmar Evangelical Lutheran Church, was beheaded by an unidentified group in the town of Churachanpur, Manipur on July 5.

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COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18

5:30 p.m.

Great Commission
Prayer Meeting

NOVEMBER 21

7:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship



LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER 1

Church Christmas

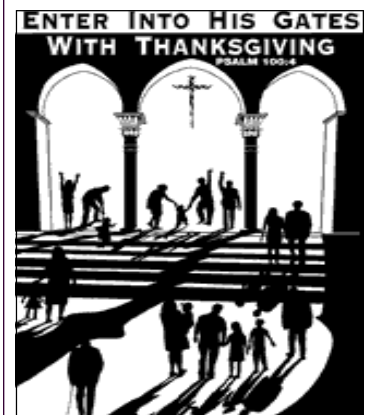
Decorating

9:00 am-noon

Everyone Welcome

DECEMBER 8

WIC Christmas Event



Pulpit Committee Update

Brian Dutton

The goal of the Pulpit Committee ("PC") is to present to the congregation the man that we believe God is calling to be the next Senior Pastor of FRPC. In seeking that man, the PC established three specific qualities that it believes are essential for the next Senior Pastor to possess. First, he must be a shepherd to lead the congregation in worship. He must be strongly committed to Reformed worship, expository preaching and teaching the Reformed faith as reflected in the Westminster Standards. Second, he must be a shepherd to lead the congregation by example. He must clearly exhibit love for Christ, love for his own family and love for God's people. In other words, he must have a "shepherd's heart". Third, he must be a shepherd to lead the congregation in discipleship, outreach and fellowship. He must be a servant leader and consensus builder in evaluating, prioritizing, and meeting the ministry goals and challenges that are before FRPC, all to the glory and honor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Since beginning its work in May, 2007, the PC has reviewed approximately 40 applications and listened to many sermons, all the while praying for God's wisdom and direction. In August, 2007, the PC began to focus some additional attention on one potential candidate in particular by conducting interviews of both him and his wife and conducting reference checks. During this time, the PC's interest in this potential candidate and the potential candidate's consideration of the possibility that God was calling him to FRPC has grown. Also during this time, the PC continues to do its work by evaluating other new applicants and their sermons. Even as we evaluate these other applicants, God continues to lead the PC unanimously back to the same potential candidate. In October, the PC invited this potential candidate and his wife to travel to Pittsburgh to meet with the PC in person and to tour the church building and the area around the church to help both the PC and the potential candidate better discern God's will. By the time you read this article, this visit will have already occurred. Please continue to pray for this visit as many decisions will have to be made both by the PC and the potential candidate in the days that follow it. The PC will continue to provide updated information to the congregation on this visit as it is appropriate.

Whether the next Senior Pastor will be the potential candidate the PC is meeting with in October or whether it will be someone else, the one thing we can all be confident in is God's goodness to FRPC. God already has the next Senior Pastor chosen. Please pray for the PC and its work that God will lead us to the man He has already chosen and that our path to him and his path to us would be clear, short and easy.

November Birthdays

3 Rachel Mattson	17 John Batchelor
4 Harry Carter	Emma Boyer
Jim Frost	Sarah More
7 Marian Himes	Skip Paul
8 Jared Anderson	19 David Dering
Suzann Hindman	Courtney Masick
9 Doris Bennett	21 Ginny Irwin
Mary Ryan-Nelson	22 Theresa Hargraves
11 Michael Henderson	23 Walt Turner
12 Ken Nemit	24 Christopher
13 Suzie Paul	McElhinney
Heather Vizino	25 Russ Servetnick
15 Margaret Comin	26 John Anthony
16 Lillian Crawford	Chris Berlin
Michael Henderson	28 Becky Harris
Mark Pifer	Aurelia Henderson
Leah Sabella	Mary Beth Hardin

Christian Sympathy is extended to Mr. Jim Brown and his family on the passing of Mrs. Dorothy Brown, Oct. 23, 2007

Our sympathy to Roger Cahill and family on the loss of his brother, Rick Cahill, on Oct 18, 2007.



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Nemit. Ken and Bethany were married on October 20, 2007



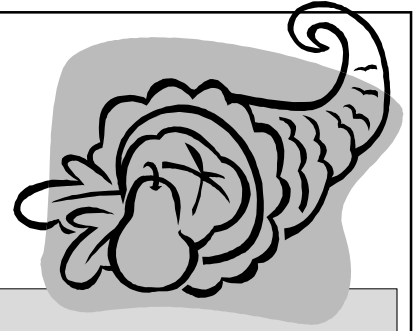
Lara Cathryn DeFazio, daughter of Dan and Erin DeFazio, was baptized on October 14, 2007

**Financial Summary
January 1 - September 30, 2007**

Operating Account:	
Receipts	\$ 288,417
Disbursements	\$ 269,317
<i>Account Balances -</i>	
Operating Checking	\$ 20,018,
Operating Saving	\$ 98,867
Benevolence Account:	
Income	\$ 91,646
Disbursements	\$ 93,150

First Reformed PCA
12900 Frankstown Road
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November



2007

Sunday

Monday



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<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>				<p>1 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>2 8 p.m.– 9 a.m. Pathfinder Sleep-over Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>3 9:00 a.m. Mission Committee Meeting</p>
<p>4  10:45 a.m. Lord's Supper 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group</p>	<p>5 7:00 p.m. WIC Council Meeting At McLane's</p>	<p>6  Election Day 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting</p>	<p>7 6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Plum Covenant Group(at the home of the Sisteks) 7:30 Crawford Covenant</p>	<p>8 9:30 a.m. MOPS 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club,</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 7:00-9:00 p.m. Youth Group Party at the Anderson's</p>
<p>11 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group</p>	<p>12  Veteran's Day observed</p>	<p>13 7:00 p.m. McLane Covenant Group 7:30 p.m. Murrysville Covenant Group</p>	<p>14 6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>	<p>15 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>16 7:00 p.m. MOPS Crops</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group 5:30 p.m. Great Commission Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21  Thanksgiving Service 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>	<p>22 <i>Office Closed- Happy Thanksgiving!!</i> </p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:00 p.m. McLane Cov. Grp. 7:30 p.m. Murrysville Cov. Grp 7:30 p.m. WIC Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>28 6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Crawford Covenant Group</p>	<p>29 9:30 a.m. MOPS 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club,</p>	<p>30 December reminder: December 1 Deck the Halls!!! Come and help decorate the church– Everyone Welcome 9:00am-noon</p> 	

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His decapitated body was found in a field outside of town the following morning. His hands were tied behind his back and he was blindfolded.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Commissioners on MTW to the 35th General Assembly of the PCA recommended “That the General Assembly set aside **Sunday, November 11, 2007**, as a day of prayer and fasting for the persecuted church worldwide.”

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Ask God to fill Rami Ayyad’s loved ones with a peace that surpasses understanding in the midst of their grief (Philippians 4:7)

Pray that believers will rely on the Lord's strength as they are suffering for Him (2 Corinthians 1:8-11).

Pray that Christians will rejoice in the opportunity to grow in Christlikeness through the ongoing opposition they face (James 1:2-4).

Pray that Christians will rely on the Holy Spirit to comfort, strengthen and embolden them.

Pray that those who have lost loved ones will find peace in the fact that those who suffer with Christ will be glorified with Him (Romans 8:15-17).

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you.

Pray their persecutors will come to know Christ as Lord.

Ask God to open doors of opportunity for them in prison so that they can share the gospel for which they suffer (Colossians 4:2-3).

Ask God to continue to bring forth church leaders to guide those churches whose leaders are imprisoned.

Pray that families and congregations will focus their eyes on Jesus to find strength and comfort in Him (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Pray for the release of all Christians who are imprisoned because of their loyalty to Christ.

Pray that Christians in Gaza will exhibit the love and forgiveness of Christ.

Remember my chains.

<http://www.answering-islam.org/NonMuslims/rights.htm>