

# PFPC E-pistles



February 2010

Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

## Great Fun for a Good Cause



The place to be on January 10<sup>th</sup> was PFPC!!! In God's Hands Service Camp sponsored the Baked Spaghetti Dinner and its first auction. As usual, the baked spaghetti was delicious and the congregation enjoyed being served by the youth. Special thanks go to Lisa Ballou who prepared the meals with the assistance of various members of the camp committee.

After the meal, **Norm Thomsen** donned his mid-western hat and thus began an entertaining 90 minutes during which he was able to exhort \$2,250 from his audience. Purchased were a great variety of items, including a handmade hoe, cookies, paintings, handmade greeting cards, a basket of hand decorated eggs, and a dinner for six.

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[www.pfpc.org](http://www.pfpc.org)

## A Note from Pastor Steve



"A good name is to be chosen rather than good riches." Proverbs 22:1 Oh, how we can wish for a good name. There are plenty to be found. "Good names appear on envelopes, on diplomas, in telephone directories, and in all other public places," wrote Jhumpa Lahiri, in his book, *The Namesake*. Lahiri went on to explain that good names are those that relate to "dignified and enlightened qualities." He also wrote, that in contrast, "pet names are frequently meaningless, deliberately silly, ironic, even onomatopoeic." In other words, Lahiri is saying that not-so-good names are obvious: any names that are meaningless and share nothing significant about the person. I would not dare give you any examples out of concern it would be your name. Lahiri concludes that we are given names from our infancy, and we answer to a number of favorite names. But then something happens ... one eventually sticks.

There comes a day when we take a particular name. Perhaps we finally gave in to our family, friends, classmates, or coworkers. It may not have been one we would have picked. Sometimes we deliberately begin using a name that we feel compliments us, or presents us in a different light. I get tickled at my own name. Early on in my "corporate" life most people comfortably called me "Stephen." This pleased my mother, since that is the only name she used for me. Then there came the day of my ordination, and installation as a pastor. All the documents from here to heaven list me as "Stephen." But no one in any church anywhere calls

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**A Note from Pastor Steve****Continued from Page 1**

me "Stephen." I resisted it at first, out of respect to my mother and father who named me such, but came to realize that the name the church began to call me fit my new role ..."Steve". In fact, your children may think my real name is "Pastor Steve." Nevertheless, I have yet to grow comfortable signing my name "Steve." I guess that will come one day.

"And you shall be called a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give." Isaiah 62:2. This new name is the way that God takes claim over his people. We find it in the Old Testament, when Jacob becomes Israel, and we find it in the New Testament, when Simon Bar-jona becomes Cephas (Peter). I wonder if they dared resist. Unless they had something to regret, they may have squirmed a bit when their name was changed. But, considering what they gained they may have never looked back. As for me, I've never looked back to the names I've carried in the past. There's something about the life-giving effect of a well-chosen name.

This month of February our sanctuary will be filled with names. The window sills will be loaded with colorful bags. Each bag will boast seasonal decorations of hearts and cute little cartoons. But the one thing that each bag will boldly present is a name. It will not be just any name but the names of the youth of our congregation. Each year the number of bags grows, as does the number of youth active in our church. Last year we found a spot in the sanctuary for over 60 bags. Watch out this year! With this in mind, the congregation is invited to fill those bags with greetings, sweets, and novelties. The bags will be distributed to our youth on the last Sunday of February, the 28<sup>th</sup>. It is always an uplifting experience. We hope you can be there to give or to receive, as each

youth is called by their name. We each have a name given by God; may yours stick.

Let us rejoice in God's choice.

**Great Fun continued****Continued from Page 1**

The Service Camp Committee thanks all of those who donated items and all of those who purchased items, as well as those who just came to dinner and enjoyed the entertainment.

The Service Camp will be held again this year to help our neighbors in New Kent and Charles City during the week of June 20<sup>th</sup>. Your generosity has again made this possible. THANK YOU, PFPC.



**Session Notes**

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The session of PFPC met on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7pm in the Madeline Carswell room at the church. All elders were in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm, or a 2 hour, 15 minute meeting.

Subjects discussed were:

- Received Kathryn Rebecca Andes as a member by Certificate of Transfer from Bon Air P.C., Richmond, VA
- Approved the exemption from worship duties for elders serving both on the session and in the choir.
- Approved the committee assignments for 2010, including the formation of a new Nurture Committee, to make recommendations to the session toward the care of the congregation.

The next stated meeting of session is on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 at 7pm at PFPC.

\* This note has been offered to inform readers of the PFPC E-pistle by the moderator of session. This note and its contents are not a substitute for session approved minutes. If this note were to contradict session approved minutes, the approved minutes prevail.

**Session Retreat**

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The session also had its annual retreat on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at Camp Hanover. In the setting of this great atmosphere and beside a roaring fire, the session discussed at length the highlights and successes of 2009 and the path forward for our church family in 2010.

**SOUPER BOWL of Caring**

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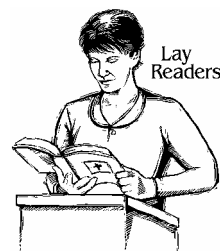
Don't forget our annual **"SOUPER BOWL"** of Caring on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

This service event was begun twenty years ago by a Presbyterian Youth Group. Since then, more than \$50 million has been raised for food banks, soup kitchens, and other charities. Every penny that is raised goes to help feed the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless and share compassion with those who are lonely.

Come one and all and enjoy a hearty bowl of soup and share with others as we assist those that are less fortunate during these hard times for many people.

**Lay Readers Needed**

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As 2010 plans are made and schedules are set, would you consider being a lay reader for our Sunday morning worship services? This is a wonderful opportunity to share your time and talent to enhance our worship. Please call the church office, 966-2079, to volunteer.

## Church Website News

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Big changes are coming to the PFPC website at <http://pfpc.org>. A website redesign team, led by project manager **Joan Gammon** has been hard at work behind the scenes to update and enhance the website.

Soon you will be able to access all sorts of information on upcoming services, events, the church calendar, and of course the Epistles newsletter online with a click of a mouse!

## The Choir Corner

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The choir anthem schedule for February:

**February 7** – For Eternity

**February 14** – How Beautiful

**February 21** – In the Garden

**February 28** – In Christ Alone

## Elders and Greeters on Duty

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February Elders on Duty:  
Jim Wallace & Dwight Johnson

February Greeters on Duty:  
Sarah & Charles Storey

## Thank You Note

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Thank you to Ann Hockaday for helping to get the Epistles ready for mailing.

## PFPC Scholarships for 2010

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It is again time for us to think about scholarships. Donations are now being accepted. Just drop a check into the collection with the

notation of scholarship on it. Applications will be available in the narthex on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Applications are due back to the church office on Easter, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Any member or regular attendee, who is attending a post-secondary institution or plans to in the fall of 2010, may apply for the scholarship. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Martin.

## A Pageant of Victory

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The older youth classes will present "A Pageant of Victory," on Palm Sunday at 10:15 AM during the regular Sunday School hour. "A Pageant of Victory" reminds us all of the symbols of Easter and their meaning. All are welcome to attend this presentation.

## Youth Group Yard Sale

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Mark March 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the annual PFPC Youth Yard Sale!!! Items are currently being collected upstairs for the sale. Generally, we do not accept large furniture items. Clean out that closet or garage and remember, "ONE MAN'S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE."

There will also be a Bake Sale.

## Valentine Wishes

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In February of each year, white bags decorated with hearts by the youth of our church, show up on the window sills of our sanctuary. Then during the month, members of the congregation drop off notes (and sometimes treats) in each bag to remind our children of the love that their church family has for them. On Sunday the 28<sup>st</sup> members of the congregation are asked to help the Christian Education Committee distribute the bags to the children.

# February Calendar

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Louise Perry Circle  Bible study 6:30 pm	3 Session 6 pm	4	5 Bagels and Books 7:00 am Coffee & Conversation 8:30 am	6 Friendship Breakfast 7:30 am @ Luca's  Youth Group @ Mephams 5:30-8 pm
7 Play Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10 am Morning Worship 11 am  <b>SOUPER Bowl Covered dish 12 pm</b>	8	9	10 Worship Committee 7:00 pm  Bible Study @ home of Joe & Connie Bryan 7 pm	11 Va. Early Settlers noon, location TBD	12 Bagels and Books 7:00 am Coffee & Conversation 8:30 am	13 Friendship Breakfast 7:30 am @ Luca's
14 Play Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10 am Morning Worship 11 am	15 Friendship Circle 7:30 pm  Fundraising Committee 7 pm	16 Bible Study 6:30 pm	17 Outreach Committee 7:30 pm	18 Property Use Committee 6:30 pm	19 Bagels and Books 7:00 am Coffee & Conversation 8:30 am	20 Friendship Breakfast 7:30 am @ Luca's  Youth Group 5:30-7 pm
21 Play Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10 am Morning Worship 11 am  <b>Christian Education Committee 8:30 am</b>	22 Facility Design Committee 8 pm	23	24 Bible Study @ home of Joe & Connie Bryan 7 pm	25	26 Bagels and Books 7:00 am Coffee & Conversation 8:30 am	27 Friendship Breakfast 7:30 am @ Luca's
28 Play Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10 am Morning Worship 11 am						

## February Birthdays

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- 3** Chip Wilder
- 5** Ted Gutches
- 7** Michael Minter
- 8** Olivia Thorndike
- 9** David Hockaday, Debbie Ward
- 12** Sharon Phelps
- 13** Brian Davis
- 14** Mindy Thompson
- 15** Donna Gammon
- 18** Norman Thomsen
- 19** Monte Gilley
- 21** Nancy Currie, Richie Zaleski
- 22** Jack Beil
- 24** Lucy Adamson, Catherine Strotmeyer
- 26** Ruth Adams
- 28** Andrew Snead



## February Anniversaries

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- 1** Don and Liz Stimson
- 14** Ayars and Barbara Lore
- 19** Bill and Donna Gammon

**March *E-pistles* Deadline:  
Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

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To submit articles for the March issue:

- E-mail: [pfpcnews@gmail.com](mailto:pfpcnews@gmail.com)
- Use form: <http://e-pistles.pfpc.org>
- Phone: (757) 565-2832  
Tom & Lisa Ballou

## Picture of the Month

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**Smile for the camera!**



- February 7** - Isaiah 6:1-8  
Can You Hear Me Now?
- February 14** - Exodus 34:29-35  
Transformers
- February 21** - Romans 10:5b-13  
Keeping Sentinel
- February 28** - Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Leaving a Legacy
- March 7** - 1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
No Strain; No Strength
- March 14** - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
It Takes a Crisis
- March 21** - John 12:1-8  
The Way to the Higher Life
- March 28** - Philippians 2:5-11  
The Power of Example

# PFPC E-pistles



February 2010

Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

**PROVIDENCE FORGE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
P.O. Box 239  
Providence Forge VA 23140

**Pastor** Steve Hodges  
Office hours: Tuesday-Thursday,  
9 a.m.-1 p.m., 1-3 p.m. by appointment.  
Friday by appointment.  
PastorStephen@verizon.net

Phone: (804) 966-2079

Church Web Site: [www.pfpc.org](http://www.pfpc.org)

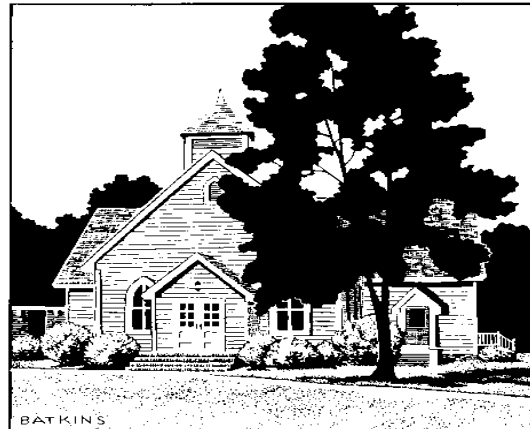
Newsletter Web Site:  
<http://e-pistles.pfpc.org>

E-mail Addresses:

†Office:  
[pfpres@verizon.net](mailto:pfpres@verizon.net)

†Newsletter submissions:  
[pfpcnews@gmail.com](mailto:pfpcnews@gmail.com)

**Secretary** Sue Anne Martin  
**Organist/Choir Director** Melody Raef



Providence Forge Presbyterian Church  
Post Office Box 239  
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**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

Providence Forge VA 23140  
Permit No. 6

Here's your E-pistles for

