



Connecting with God, One Another and the World  
First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

September 2015

## DATES TO NOTE:

**Sep 6**

Blessing of Our Hands

**Sep 13**

Worship & Parish Picnic  
in Downing Park

**Sep 20**

Blessing of the Backpacks  
Church School  
& Adult Ed Begins

**Sep 27**

Mission Trip Sunday

# The Disciple

**“The Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it.”**

~Psalm 24:1

Take a moment and think about this verse. What does it mean to say that the Earth and everything in it belongs to God? Every person, place and thing, every plant and animal, every drop of water and grain of sand, every speck of dust, every atom – all of it belongs to God. That is quite a statement of faith!

Go ahead and memorize this verse. Tack it up on your refrigerator, write it on a post-it note at work or on the bathroom mirror, put it by your computer or someplace where you will see it every day.

This verse is going to be our theme for the fall. Starting on **September 13** with our worship service and picnic in the park, we are going to explore what this verse means for how we live our lives as people of faith. On September 13, we highlight our Green Faith initiative and recognize our Green Team which has already been working hard through the summer toward our 2-year certification as a Green Faith congregation. On **September 20**, we kick off our program year and return to two worship services with Church School and Adult education. Church School is also following a “green” theme for the year, starting with the creation story in Genesis and exploring other creation-oriented stories throughout the year. On **September 27**, we celebrate the faithful work of all the youth and adults who participated in the mission trips this summer and fall. Then during the month of October, we will explore what it means for us to live faith-



ful, generous lives in light of this basic truth – all that we are and all that we have belong to God.

We are also inviting everyone to further engage this theme in your personal devotional lives by purchasing a copy of the book ***Earth Gospel: A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation*** by Sam Hamilton-Poore. Hamilton-Poore is a PC(USA) minister, spiritual director and professor at San Francisco Theological Seminary. He has put together a wonderful collection of prayers, hymns and writings that span the globe and the centuries. It is organized into a 4-week cycle of morning, midday and evening devotions that is easy to follow and adapt to your schedule. Books are available for \$7 in the office and after worship services. Join us as we pray for God's creation and deepen our understanding and appreciation of it as both a blessing and sacred trust from our Creator.

See you in church!

*Jami*



**JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH PICNIC**  
Sunday September 13, 2015

Come to the 10:45 worship at Downing Park and stay for a picnic.

Please bring a salad, side, or dessert to share and the church will supply the hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages.

Help is needed to make this a success.  
Sign up in the gathering space.

## ***Fifteenth First Presbyterian Church Concert Series Announced for 2015-2016***

The FPC Concert Season kicks off it's fifteenth season on Saturday, November 14th at 7:30 p.m. with a concert featuring the Carelli Jazz Quartet. Trombonist/Vocalist Gerard Carelli and his Quartet featuring son Marcello on drums per-



forms swinging jazz and American popular standards. Trombonist/singer Gerard

Carelli hails originally from New Jersey, but graduated from North Texas State University where he recorded with the One O'clock Lab Band before relocating to San Francisco and touring as part of the Ray Charles Orchestra. He ultimately settled down in New York City where he fronts and books a variety of bands, everything from quartets to 17-piece big bands. Carelli has played at such venues as Lincoln Center for their Midsummer Nights Swing, Rainbow Room and the Waldorf-Astoria to name just a few. The concert will also feature the talented 16 year old drummer and percussionist Marcello Carelli. Don't miss this toe tapping, classy and classic immensely entertaining evening of jazz favorites!

### ***The 2015-2016 Concert Series:***

<b>November 14th</b>	Gerard Corelli Jazz Quartet featuring Swinging Jazz & Contemporary American Standards
<b>December 5th</b>	A Mainly Mozart Christmas
<b>February 13th</b>	An Evening with Lenten Ladies
<b>March 19th</b>	Romantic Classical Concert featuring Cello, Violin and Piano
<b>April 23rd</b>	Barely Sung Broadway

The First Presbyterian Concert Series is supported by the generous donations of people like YOU!

You too, can be a Concert Series Patron by making a gift of \$50.00 or more to the 2015-2014 Concert Series either by check or payment through online giving at [www.FPCYorktown.org](http://www.FPCYorktown.org).



## Our New Operations Co-Chairs



Dave Ramage



Kirk Larsen



Ian Spence

## Operations Commission

With many of the Operations Commission members away on vacation we decided to cancel our August meeting and reconvene in September. Even though the summer offers many the chance to take a well earned rest from our busy schedules, this quieter period in the life of the church also presents an ideal opportunity to tackle a few tasks that would otherwise conflict with normal activities.

The largest of these is the waxing of tiled floors. As of late August work has been completed on the Gathering Space, Pre-School, Fellowship Hall and adjacent hallways. All remaining floors should be finished by the end of the first week in Sep-

tember. Similarly, carpets in several locations are getting attention as well and cleaning of selected areas will be completed in the same time frame. Other items on our to-do list that have been addressed include repairs to lifting sanctuary ramp floor tiles, kitchen counter tops and playground gate, replacement of broken sanctuary glass panes, window screens and ladies room hand dryer and cleaning of eaves. Unfortunately we are starting to see some paint distress in several locations on the outside of our buildings. We will do our best to touch up these areas ourselves rather than call in a contractor.

If you see any items that need attention please do not hesitate to bring them to the attention of anyone on the Operations Commission as we all now share in the facilities coordination role. One final note to be confirmed within the next few weeks is that the tentative date for the annual Fall Clean Up is November 14th. Please pencil this in on your calendars.

Thanks,

Dave Ramage  
Operations Commission Co-Chair

## Church Directory App Available



Are you a smartphone user?  
Now you can access fellow  
FPCY members via our  
church directory App.

The only requirements are a  
smartphone and an active  
MYFPCY log-in.

Download and try it today!

## Stewardship Commission



We have reviewed our  
giving status at the half-  
year mark, and we want  
to thank every member  
of our congregation for  
your generous support.

Our commission has sent  
out thank-you notes to all  
of our givers.

Did you get your giving statement? The office mailed them earlier this month. Please contact Lisa in the office with any corrections or questions.

Thank you.  
Tim Lupfer, Co-Chair



## The Ministry of Our Deacons

*Would that my eyes could see you, Lord,  
to meet you face to face;  
my journey here with JOY be filled  
I would not need of FAITH.*

*When I listen very quietly  
the stirring of my heart,  
beckons me oft to go into this world  
and do my part.*

*If I could only see you,  
if my ears could only hear;  
I would have no need of doubt,  
I would have no need of fear.*

*Would that my ears could hear you, Lord,  
the calling of your voice;  
I would haste to do your bidding,  
In all your WILL rejoice.*

*I will hear the call of others,  
my brethren one and all,  
and when I serve them from my heart,  
I'll know I've heard your call.*

-C. Thorne

The summer quickly draws to a close and we find ourselves back in our “normal” routines – kids are back in school, there are buses to catch, lunches to make, meetings and choir rehearsal to attend, back to work and whether we realize it or not we are already starting to brace ourselves for fall and winter.

A quick look back to summer with all of its fun, family, barbecues and vacations will also give us a peek into all that our Deacons continued to do. The Food Pantry continued to operate every other Saturday and delivered upwards of 10,000 pounds of food each month. There were times the Pantry was short staffed because of vacations but they managed with the help of other volunteers and got the job done. **Please pick up a Food Pantry schedule in the Gathering Space and let one of our Deacons know if you are interested in helping. We even need people to pick up Panera Bread the evening before Pantry days.**



We are pleased to report that the Yorktown Lions Club made a check presentation to our church during the intermis-

sion of one of the summer concerts at Veterans Memorial Field last month. Carl Anderson has reported that the Lions Club contributed a total of \$2,800.00 over the last year to our church for the Food Pantry efforts and Diaper Ministries through cash donation and gift cards from stores in the area like Stop and Shop and Walmart.

Chuck Radke reported that “Beanie Babies” and sports cards were given away to the delight of the children of Food Pantry clients during August. You should have seen the children's faces light up when they were told they could choose these items to take home.

August was also the month for School Supplies which were donated in age appropriate kits to children. Debbie Hager reported that there were over 60 kits dispersed for children in grades K-2 and over 75 kits dispersed to children in grades 3-5. That's amazing! And the school children were absolutely delighted. Thank you ALL for your donations, support and efforts to make this happen. If you check on-line on our website at [fpcyorkton.org](http://fpcyorkton.org) you'll see that the Fed Ex delivery truck arrived with all the supplies just ahead of the storm.

The fall and winter promise to be as busy and exciting. The Deacons continue with their Diaper Ministry supplying those in need each month. You can help by making donations of any amount to the Deacons and indicating “diapers” on your check or memo line of your online contribution. There will be a “Hat, Scarf and Mitten” tree set up in Advent to accept all of your donations of purchased and hand made items.

### Food Pantry Item-of-the-Month

#### Canned Fruit

Next Dates:  
September 12, 26  
9 to 11am



These will be delivered during Food Pantry days during December. Remember – we need your help. Check with any Deacon to see how you can give of your time, money and talents!

The Food Pantry item of the month for September is CANNED FRUIT. Todd reports that it seems canned fruit has been hard to get. You can leave cans of fruit, or any other item for that matter, in the basket located in the Gathering Space next to the bulletin board. Oh! The Pantry always needs plastic grocery bags. You can bring them to Room 2 or just leave them in the basket with the canned goods.

As always, we praise God for the work we are able to do through all of your many efforts and we thank you for all of your caring and loving support. God Bless you.

Carol E. Thorne-Gaetani for the Deacons

Are you a member of BJs? If so, if you see a coupon for Berkley and Jensen Diapers please clip, save & give to Lisa in the office or to Pat Prauda. Pat buys the Diapers for the Food Pantry Diapers every month and has determined this is the best deal, but she is always looking to save another dollar!

Donations of Diapers and Monetary Donations are always appreciated.



### FPCY Sees the World!

Join us on September 27 for a slide show (and food!) as we hear from those who made up our mission teams, going to Point Pleasant, New Jersey, the Dominican Republic and Stony Point. The “hands and feet” of our church were very busy this summer, connecting with those near and far.

The Amnesty letter writing campaign is another way we connect with the world. Amnesty International identifies human rights issues and provides information and templates for letters. You can learn more here: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now>. Carol Myers has coordinated the Amnesty Table for nine years. We staff the table from October until June. Some years Carol's had help from a high school student or a member of the congregation. **She's looking for someone to help out and take over-interested?**

See Carol Myers or contact Connie Knapp [connie.knapp@icloud.com](mailto:connie.knapp@icloud.com), 914.671.5114.

We commissioned three YAVs – Young Adult Volunteers – on the last Sunday of August. Alex Sprague is in Chinook, Montana, Emily Stevens is in Asheville, NC and Shaina Miller is in Peru. You can learn more about them, and follow their “adventures” at their blogs:

**Shaina Miller** (Peru) <https://shainamilleryav.wordpress.com/>

**Alexander Sprague** (Chinook, MT) <https://alexspragueyav.wordpress.com/>

**Emily Stevens** (Asheville, NC) <http://emilyinashevilleav.tumblr.com/>

To learn more about the YAV program, visit: [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/)



We are always looking for new members. If you have an interest in mission work, whether here or far away, or if you are just curious about how we plan, please join us on **Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30** at the church, or contact Connie Knapp [connie.knapp@icloud.com](mailto:connie.knapp@icloud.com) or 914.671.5114 for more information.











## Church School “Chalkboard”

We hope you all had a great summer! We have been busy preparing and looking forward to the New 2015-2016 Church School year. We will be making new friends, learning many new things and having fun too!

Thank you to all staff members, both newcomers and old in dedicating your time each week to teach this wonderful program and be a part of our children's faith journey.

The program consists of:



### Spark Activate Faith

for Pre-K through Grade 4,

The first Rotation's Bible story for Pre-K through Grade 4 is on Creation from Genesis 1:1-31; 2:4-25.



### Connect

for Grades 5 and 6

Connect, 5th/6th Grade will begin to take our Tweens on a path through the New Testament by reading biblical text, having open discussion, and participating in craft activities.



### Re:form

for Grades 7 and up.

Re:form will begin the youth formation series, an exciting and thought provoking program for both staff and students!



To all the parents we thank you for these opportunities to work with your children. We encourage both families and members of the congregation to take the time to talk to the children about their Church School experiences in order to strengthen the home, Church, and Church School connection

Conversation sparks could include:

1. What is your favorite thing God created?
2. Why do we like to create things?  
What do you like to create?
3. How does our family help God  
take care of creation?

Please remember to register your child if you haven't already: <http://fpcyorktown.sparksundayschool.org/>

Also if any parent does not want their child's picture taken during Church School please sign Photo opt-out form and return it to us.

We are looking forward to all the experiences we will share together and know that we will have an exciting 2015-2016 Church School Year!

Peace,

Liza Placido and Michele Mosca  
Church School Superintendents



## Childcare Help Wanted

The position is permanent, pays \$15/hr, and the hours are 8:15 am-noon on Sunday mornings. The person should be at least 18 years old and would be working alongside our other caregiver. Please contact Michele Mosca, Childcare Coordinator, at (914) 227-7237 or [michann731@gmail.com](mailto:michann731@gmail.com).



### Important Middle School Youth Group Dates

#### September 13-15

Mission Trip to  
SPC Farm

#### September 27

Food Justice Unit

#### October 11, 25

Sunday Meetings

#### November 8

Sunday Meetings

#### November 22

Yorktown Thanksgiving  
service

#### December 13, 27

Sunday Meetings

#### December 20

Christmas Caroling

*Note: some dates may  
change due to holidays,  
special events or other  
church-related needs.*

## FPCY YOUTH

Welcome back! It was a busy, full summer, and now it's time to get our new year of activities underway.

### Mark your Calendars!

The Middle School Youth Group will kick off with our Mission Trip to Stony Point Center Farm, September 13-15, 2015. And then we will meet (generally) on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month 4:30-6 PM.

This year, instead of choosing a new theme each month, we will explore a few topics in greater depth over the course of 4 meetings. Since we will have food justice matters fresh in our minds after our mission trip, we'll start there! September through November, we will explore what the Bible and the church have to say about food justice; we will pray about food justice; we will spend some time thinking about what we do as individuals and as a church to show that this matters to us; and then, we will find ways to serve God and our neighbors to bring about more justice! We will close this unit by attending the Yorktown Community Thanksgiving Celebration together on November 22. Join us!

We have a new webpage! Please visit <http://fpcyorktown.org/youth-ministry/> for regular updates on youth ministry programs. Thank you, Donna Gresh & members of the Communications Commission, for your invaluable assistance this summer.

There is an ongoing conversation taking place at this time about what kind of youth ministry is appropriate to offer for High School Youth here at FPCY. In the past few months, there has been a growing awareness that our efforts have been solely focused on ministry to youth, and we need to think more broadly about ministry to, with and by youth. To that end, session and our commissions were asked to think about youth as they would visitors; how we might develop more intentional programs that seek to integrate youth into the life of the church. Because the conversation is still taking place, we do not yet have a schedule of activities. Please be patient as we discern the will of the Holy Spirit in this very important conversation. Prayers are appreciated.

Blessings as we shift from summer schedules into school and programs,  
Margery

## Adult Education and Faith Formation

### Engaging our Heads, Hearts and Hands

Bible "Study" is, perhaps, a misnomer in our church. Our Adult Education programs are about:

- Sharing our individual faith journeys with one another.
- Wrestling with life's tough questions – e.g. "If God is a loving God, why do the innocent suffer?"
- Exploring what God is calling me – as a Christian – to be and do in the world
- And, oh yes – we study the Bible and other challenging writings by great people of faith.

We offer two kinds of programs:

1. Programs open to all, requiring little or no advance preparation. These include –
  - One-time presentations by a guest speaker or screening of a film with spiritual themes, or, perhaps, a mini-retreat on a Saturday morning or Sunday evening.
  - "Sermons for Lunch" when we gather in the lounge after the 10:45 worship service for lunch and conversation about that day's sermon and other faith-related issues. .
  - Short-term studies – usually meeting once a week for four to eight weeks.
2. In-depth Bible and topical studies which often require daily or weekly readings and committed participation in a weekly discussion group. This year we're offering two options: Covenant and Disciple.

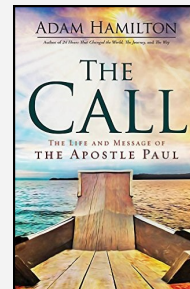


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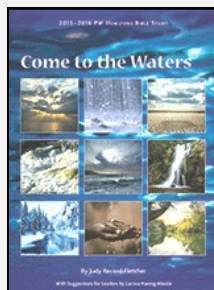
## Adult Education and Faith Formation *(continued)*

### Sunday Morning Study — The Call: the Life and Message of the Apostle Paul

This study was created by Adam Hamilton, a perennial favorite of our community. Hamilton invites us to experience faith through Christ's greatest teacher and missionary. In this study we will follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. We will explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians.



**Sundays, September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18 & 25; 9:30 am in the Lounge.**



### The Women's Circle—Join us on September 9

Tami again will lead our study. We meet at 10:30am on the first Wednesday of the month (not including this September date) for a little refreshment, prayer and study. This year's topic is "Come to the Waters".

For our regular attendees I hope you are raring to go. For those who have never been, we hope you will give us a try. We are a friendly and welcoming bunch and we would love to have you join us. Bible Study is a great part of your commitment and spiritual growth. Please contact Marianna Sherman (914-737-8294) for any information you may need.

## Come join us at the Table – give Covenant or Disciple a try!

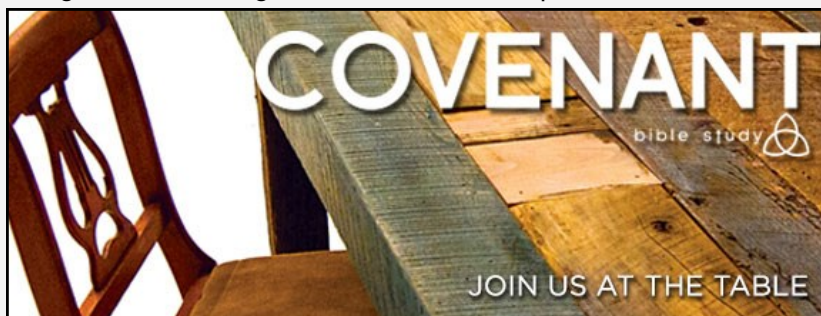
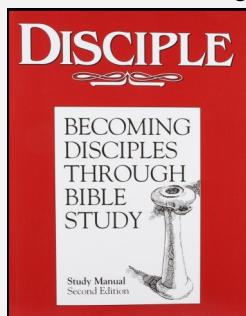
**Have you always wanted to read the Bible but didn't know where to start? Would you like Scripture to come alive for you? Would you like to get together with other folks for great discussion and fellowship?**

This year we are pleased to offer two in-depth group Bible Study options – Covenant and Disciple. Both studies involve personal daily Bible reading and a weekly group meeting which will include lively discussion, prayer and fellowship.

**Covenant Bible Study** centers around our relationships with God, with each other, and with the world, and it underscores the unique relationship that God chooses with us as God's people. The 24-week study, divided into three 8-week sessions covers the whole Bible by moving between the Old and New Testaments and discussing books from each in a way that shows the interconnectedness of scripture as a whole. Covenant aims to deepen your relationship with God, one another and the world.

**Disciple Bible Study** has been changing lives and growing faith for over 30 years. Our church is participating in testing out a revised curriculum called Disciple Fast Track. Also 24 weeks, Disciple Fast Track spends 12 weeks in both the Old and New Testaments, so that participants experience the whole Biblical story from start to finish. Disciple calls on people to dig deeply into the Bible, to put themselves under the power of God's Word, and to be transformed into more faithful disciples.

**If you would like learn more about Covenant and Disciple, please contact Tami Seidel or attend an information session after worship on September 6, 13 & 20.** Possible group times include: Sunday evenings, Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, Thursday mornings and evenings, and Friday mornings. Please let Tami and Chip know if you're interested so we can assign meeting dates/times and get started the week of September 20.





## Knitting Groups



**Prayer Shawl Group** will meet next on September 9th at 9:30 am and again on the 23rd at 10:30am. Anyone who would like to join us in knitting is most welcome. In addition to the regular knitters who come on Wednesdays, we have at least seven off site knitters. Any questions please call Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294 or Fran Schiel at 914-245-5396.

**The Knit Togethers** will meet on: September 14 & 28 and October 26, 2015. In September we will be knitting for our December giving. We are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable three months of knitting this Fall. All who knit or crochet are welcome to join us. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00am to 11:30am in the Lounge/Rm 15. Contacts: Noreen Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809.)

## Noon Time Meal

All are invited to join our team of Noon time meal volunteers who prepare a monthly meal for the Peekskill Salvation Army.

We meet each month at the Peekskill Presbyterian church (705 South Street, Peekskill), and in just one hour prepare a meal that will feed up to 50 people the following day.

Our next event will be on Tuesday, September 8th at 2:45 PM. Please feel free to come and share in what is always a lively and worthwhile endeavor.

For more information, contact Andy Mavian at 914-788-4198 or [akmavian@gmail.com](mailto:akmavian@gmail.com)



## Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will begin its fall season of Luncheons in the Fellowship Hall the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at Noon. September 16th and October 21st will be Pot Luck, so bring a dish to share. November and December will be our holiday Feasts watch for more details as the time approaches!

*Not Just for Seniors!*

All are invited to join us at any time. If you enjoy good food and meeting new friends or visiting with old ones, this is the place for you! -Pat and John Prauda

## Jan Peek Meal

Jan Peek House is a shelter for homeless men & women, run by Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill. On the 4th Saturday of each month we provide dinner at Jan Peek. It is rewarding to share food and conversation with the residents, and it is an important part of our congregation's ministry to the community.

Thank you to Jeff Gephart, Donna Gresh, and the Mayes Family for providing the July dinner and to the Corpolongo and Gruber Families for supplying August dinner. The September dinner will be made and served by Ruth Deemer and her family.

Two families are needed for November 28th. If interested in getting involved, please call Pat at 737-4674



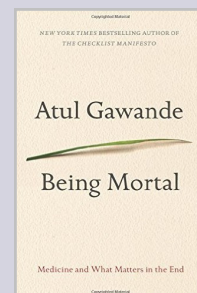
## Check it Out! New in the Church Library:

A review in the New York Times prompted me to read the bestseller **Being Mortal; Medicine and What Matters in the End** by Dr. Atul Gawande (362 G). I was so impressed with his critique of our medical system's treatment of aging and death that I ordered a copy for the church library. I urge everyone to read it! Beginning with the physiology of the aging body, the author describes the inhumane aspects of many nursing homes and how they could be improved, his personal experience helping his dying father decide on appropriate medical treatment, and many stories from his medical practice.

Just one example: he convinced the staff of a nursing home to obtain a number of animals (birds, cats, dogs) and urge the residents to help care for them. Many residents greatly improved, both physically and mentally, as a result. My mother loved cats, and I'm sure she would have benefitted from such an experience.

Dr. Gawande demonstrates that "the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life — all the way to the end."

Carol Jensen  
Church Librarian



First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown  
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# The Disciple

September 2015

www.FPCYorktown.org

914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00

Co-Pastors

Rev. Chip Low

Rev. Tami Seidel



office@fpcyorktown.org



@fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown

		1	2	3 7:00pm Church School 7:30pm Education	4	5
6 9:30am Worship Services	7 10am Knit Togethers	8 2:30pm Noontime Meal  7:30pm Session	9 9:30am Prayer Shawl 10:30am Women's Circle	10 6:45pm Bells 7:30pm Green Team 8:00pm Choir	11	12 9am Food Pantry 11:00am Ken Hardy Memorial
13 <b>Worship in the Park</b> 10:45am Worship in Downing Park followed by the Parish Picnic	14  7:00pm Church School	15 9:30am Covenant  7:30pm Worship Mission	16 10:30am Prayer Shawl 12pm Lunch Bunch (all invited) 7:30pm Adult Ed	17  6:45pm Bells 8:00pm Choir	18	19
20 <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b> 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Church School & Adult Education Begins 10:45am Worship Service	21 10am Knit Togethers	22  7:30pm Operations Education Communications	23 9am Stewardship	24  6:45pm Bells 8:00pm Choir	25	26 9am Food Pantry  6pm Jan Peek Meal
27 <b>Mission Trip Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Church School & Adult Education Begins 10:45am Worship Service 4:00pm MS Youth Group	28	29	30	September		