#### September 2025

The Living News

#### Inside this issue:

Birthdays/Anniversaries	16
Calendar	15
Church News	11-14
Deacons Ministry	5
Discipleship	10
Fellowship Ministry	9
Historical Happenings	2-3
Missions	6-7
Trustees	8
Thoughts & Smiles	17

#### Special Points of Interest:

- Historical Happenings, the father and son— Grier pastors of the Forks, pg. 2-3
- 290th Anniversary Celebration Potluck Meal & Presentation, October 11, pg. 4
- KATW-Kids Around the World Playground update, pgs. 6-7
- BLOOD DRIVE, Monday, September 29, pg. 13
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trunk or 4Treat, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, pg. 16
- Ladies Evening Out, Looking for ladies to decorate and host a table, pg. 9



#### From the Pastor's Pen

#### **Prayer's Greatest Hits**

The English Reformation of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries produced two everlasting monuments of the English language. The first is the King James Bible. No other text, not even Shakespeare's immortal poetry and plays, has so fundamentally shaped the English language and all of English-speaking Christianity as much as the King James Bible. Many of us are familiar with its beauty, eloquence, and rhythm. Less familiar to us, perhaps, is the second great monument the emerged in the English Reformation, the Book of Common Prayer. This book is the liturgical and doctrinal manual that governs the faith and practice of Anglican congregations when they gather for worship. At its core, the Book of Common Prayer is a collection of prayer's greatest hits. The King James Bible taught the words of Scripture, while the Book of Common Prayer taught the words of faith and devotion. Together, these two great monuments shaped English Christianity and are the heritage of every speaker of the English language.

A preacher once said, "Prayer is the soul of religion . . . Failure in prayer is the loss of religion itself in its inward and dynamic aspect of fellowship with the Eternal." Since this is undoubtedly true, how vital it is that we cultivate this "soul of religion" so that we experience meaningful fellowship with God each day. The Book of Common Prayer is a treasure chest of beautiful prayers that are just as moving and meaningful today as they were centuries ago. They have been the vessels that have carried many saints beyond the world's horizon into the presence of God. I highly recommend using some of these prayers in your own devotions to enrich your communion with God. Perhaps you will find them a heavenly transport for your soul too.

Here are some of my personal favorites. Give these a try. Begin by praying these very slowly and thoughtfully word-for-word, then, still praying, reflect on the meaning and feeling of them and expand them into your own words as your heart glows warm in fellowship with your God.

"We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of thy Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

"Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

"O Almighty God, who pourest out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen."

#### Forks' Historical Highlights

**Historical** In recognition of the 290<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church, founded in 1735, The Forks' Historical Committee is sharing interesting and illuminating articles in our monthly newsletters (first article was in the April 2025 edition).

#### **Article 5 in a Series of Interesting Historical Accounts**

## REV. JOHN NATHAN GRIER AND DR. JOHN NATHAN CALDWELL GRIER Father and Son who led the Forks for 82 years

Brothers John and Matthew Grier came to America from Northern Ireland in 1732. Shortly after their arrival, John married Agnes Caldwell and they first settled in Bucks County, later in Chester County. They were parents of 11 children. The first two sons, John and Nathan, died in infancy but, as was the custom at the time, two sons later born were also named John and Nathan, and it is this Nathan Grier that became the Forks' pastor in 1782.

The Grier children were trained "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," and John and Agnes had the satisfaction of seeing two sons enter the ministry. One of those was our Nathan Grier, born in 1760, with the other being Rev. James K. Grier, who later served as an Elder at the Forks, and who tutored his younger brother

Nathan. Nathan graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1783. After pursuing further theological studies, he was licensed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia in 1786. He served as a supply pastor for a short time, including at the Forks, and became the Forks' pastor in 1787. When Nathan came to Chester County, brothers Col. Joseph Grier and John Grier, Jr., soon followed, and the Brandywine Manor Griers became established.

During the pastorate of Nathan Grier, the community was rapidly growing, comprising areas now occupied by Coatesville, Downingtown, Honey Brook, and Fairview churches. "Mr. Grier performed the duties of this great field, visiting all homes, catechizing the children, counseling, consoling, exhorting, seeking the lost."

Because there were no organized seminaries at the time and because "young men were trained for the ministry under the direction of the older and more celebrated divines," Rev. Grier established a theological seminary in 1792 in his home (still standing on Hibernia Road near Lafayette Road). During this time, he schooled 20 young men at his Brandywine Academy. Of these, 17 went on to become pastors of churches in six states of the union, one served 30 years as a Chaplain in the U. S. Navy, one died before the completion of his duties, and ill health of another prevented him from entering active ministry. Two of the 17 were his two sons, John Nathan Caldwell Grier and Robert Smith Grier.

Rev. Grier "had a very commanding voice and an earnestness and solemnity of manner which secured attention. He spoke as one who felt the weight of ministerial responsibility. He was a man of great firmness of purpose . . . "

Rev. Grier died after a short illness in March of 1814, at the age of 53, and is buried in the Forks' cemetery. His son, Dr. John Nathan Caldwell Grier, was ordained and installed as pastor in November of 1814. "He was a mere twenty-two years old when he donned the mantle his godly father had so recently laid down . . . "

"The record of the first seven years is one of faithful preaching and pastoral service; but in these years there was no outstanding manifestation of divine power." Then things began to happen – "there was a revival in the congregation . . . when 42 members were received." Another awakening came in 1831 "when more than 70 persons confessed Christ as their Savior." Revival continued and, under Dr. Grier's leadership, over 1300 new members were received by Session.

The decade 1830-1840 witnessed the organization of "The Daughter Churches." In 1833, a Presbyterian church was organized in Coatesville, relieving some of the overcrowding at the Forks. By 1835 the congregation was comprised of nearly 700 members and it became necessary to either enlarge the church or divide once again. By 1839, the Presbyterian church in Honey Brook was formed, followed by Fairview in Glenmoore. In addition, Sunday Schools were established in Rockville, Martin's Corner, and at the Friendship schoolhouse, as well as at the Forks. When the Downingtown church was established in 1863, the membership at the Forks "equaled that of fifty years before," despite these "daughter churches" becoming organized.

Over the course of Dr. Grier's pastorate, he preached a total of 5000 sermons and baptized over 1000 persons. He also took "an active part in the temperance reformation and frequently addressed the public on that subject."

#### Forks' Historical Highlights - continued

"But the toil, the trials and even the triumphs of his long ministry at last unfitted him for further labor in the Gospel field . . ." Dr. Grier asked to be relieved of his duties and the pastoral relation ended in April of 1869 after more than 54 years of service to the Forks. He retired to his home, our present-day "Manor House" on Hibernia Road across from our cemetery, and he passed away in 1880 at the age of 88, being the last living student his father John Nathan Grier had trained at Brandywine Academy. Like his father, he rests in the Forks cemetery.

At the 175th Anniversary of the Forks in 1910, Rev. Hector McLean said of Dr. Grier, "The secret of Dr. Grier's power as a teacher was surely in his habit of Scriptural reading and prayer... In 1862 he began to keep a record of how many times he read the Bible through. The last entry in his own handwriting was 'Finished the 159th time, June 8, 1880." He died in September of that year.

As noted, Rev. J. N. C. Grier was an active force in the Temperance movement in the general area surrounding Brandywine Manor. The opening of the 19th century did not find many from along the Horseshoe Pike (Route 322) advocating reform in the matter of strong drink. It was not until 1831 that the first temperance society was formed by the men of Northern Chester County.

Before 1790, it was impossible to harvest crops without providing harvest hands with liquor. It was taken for granted that liquor would be provided to the harvesters, since only wages had to be negotiated. Then, as now, liquor could tend to turn regular, law-abiding men into a raucous group. For example, a schoolhouse once located on the Forks church property was used as a polling place, but so much fighting, rowdiness, and drunkenness occurred there that its use for that purpose was discontinued in 1798.

The Honey Brook Temperance Society was formed in 1831 and included the area where the Forks stands. There were 10 taverns in this area along Route 322. The 24 men who formed the Society each pledged to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors "except when necessary as a medicine." In addition, they agreed no "hospitality" liquors would be served to guests, laborers were "to receive no rum with their wages," and they pledged not to sell any of their grains for distillation.

The first person to sign his name to the pledge was John Nathan Caldwell Grier. It is said that more than 50 years after the pledges of the members, not one member ever violated his pledge, despite the fact liquor was for sale "on every hand" and the temperance movement was unpopular in the community.



The barne that housed his "divinity school" on Wagontown rd.
The Brandywine Academy in the Nathan Grier house started in 1792.



Rev. Nathan Grier Forks' Pastor 1787-1814



John Nathan Caldwell Grier, D.D. Forks' Pastor 1814-1869



The "Manor House" - home of Dr. J.N.C. Grier (circa 1951)



The barn is no longer at the Manor House

(Content derived from Harry H. Kurtz' <u>Historical Sketch</u> . . . [updated through the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary], James M'Clune's <u>History of the Presbyterian</u> <u>Church in the Forks of the Brandywine, Chester County, PA</u>, Forks' 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Historical Committee writings, an unattributed writing circa 1920s from the Forks' historical archives, plus other Forks' archival materials.)

#### FORKS 290TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS!

#### Forks Church Celebrates 290 Years!

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, October 11, 2025

**Potluck Dinner** - beginning promptly at 6:00 PM

**Special History Presentation** in the Sanctuary from 7:00-8:00 PM.

- Invite your neighbors and friends to the History Presentation!

Watch for more information in future Sunday bulletins and emails.



#### Martha Washington

#### Portrayed by Carol Spacht

Martha Washington's remarkable, and mostly untold, story helps audiences to understand the unique role women played in the building of our nation. Martha Washington was instrumental throughout the revolutionary war. Joining her husband at his winter encampments, she provided stockings and other necessaries to the soldiers at Valley Forge and elsewhere. Her most valuable contributions were, undoubtedly, those of her kind ministrations to the soldier's morale. As a first lady, though she felt imprisoned by the role and longed always for the sweet country life at Mount Vernon, she never showed it, and was "determined to be cheerful despite [her] circumstances", which on many occasions took a stalwart resolve.

Carol Spacht performs extensively in the Philadelphia region, presenting hundreds of interactive programs to schools, libraries and civic organizations. She studied theatre at Villanova University and graduated with highest honors from Eastern University with degrees in Literature and Theatre Arts. An author of original scripts and scholarly papers, she also completed a commissioned project culminating in the publication of Whitpaine's Creek, a book on early Pennsylvania history.

As an historic interpreter, Carol portrays several women from history, including Martha Washington for Valley Forge National Park, the Smithsonian Institution and others. She appears regularly as Betsy Ross, our nation's premier flag maker, and has extensive knowledge of hand-sewing techniques, textiles, and the trade of the upholsterer in the eighteenth century. An engaging and delightful storyteller, students of all ages enjoy the educational and interactive "Tree to Lumber" tours on forestry and the Pennsylvania lumber trade led by Carol and her husband, Dave, at Spacht Sawmill in Worcester, Pennsylvania.

#### **DEACONS NEWS**

#### Your Generosity Is Greatly Appreciated!

Our Forks Family continues to bless so many people and so many organizations in so many ways, that we want you to know on behalf of all of those you have helped and continue to help, that your caring, support and generosity is always greatly appreciated!



#### "Thank You!" from Bridge of Hope for Christmas in July

Dear Forks of the Brandywine,

We are so grateful to you for gathering cleaning supplies during the month of July for our Bridge of Hope Families!

9 families will be blessed now with these and extras will be given to future families.

Your generosity is so appreciated! And kudos to Judy Larson for the coordination and delivery!

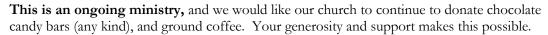
Thanks! Rachel, Melanie & Ty"



The deacons would like to thank the congregation for your tremendous response to this campaign!

#### "Thank You" For Supporting Your Local Veterans

The deacons and local resident veterans (who greatly appreciate our gifts) wish to thank you for your donations of coffee and chocolate candy bars!



There is a box, on the donation table in the Gathering Room labeled "VA—Vets", in which donations can be placed.



The Deacons continue to collect winter coats through this Fall for **local families** of the **Honey Brook Food Pantry**.

This is just a reminder that now might be a good time to start looking for deals at Walmart, Boscov's, Kohls, and other stores.

If you have, or plan to purchase coats, you may bring them and pass them along to a Deacon\*, or bring them to the church office. We will store them through the end of October.

#### To Our DEACONS! Your Church Family Says, "THANK YOU!"

The current Board of Deacons consists of: Ron Lefferts, Colleen Knudson, Cate Pedrick, Kathy Dix, Pete Dawson, Tim Rigg, Judy Larson.

The Congregation wishes to thank each deacon for your caring hearts in serving our church family, and the families within our community through this ministry!

#### KATW - Kids Around the World



#### Forks commitment to Build a Playground

On March 15th, we sponsored the One Meal Food Packing day and supplied 40,000 meals to KATW.

On May 30th, we were able to provide Bibles and a list of prayer sponsors for 52 children in our Veron Hope Zone! Thank you!

Now, we continue the effort to raise the \$12,000 needed to build the playground.



Designer Bag Bingo Fundraiser for Meal Packing Day

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, November 7th More Info to follow soon!

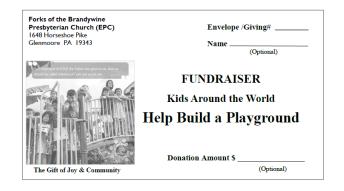
# PLAYGROUND GOAL As of August 24: \$7,274.21



#### **Two Ways to Give Your Support:**

#### 1. Designated Donation Envelopes

Envelopes are by the KATW display poster on the information table in the Gathering Room.

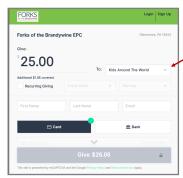


#### 2. Online Giving on Forks Website:

You may also give a one-time donation, or a recurring donation through Tithe.ly on our church website.

Choose the "Giving" tab, then Click "Online Giving" - Enter Amount, Choose "Kids Around the World" from the Drop Down Menu





#### **KATW - A Letter from Session**

### KIDS AROUND THE WORLD - VERON HOPE ZONE PARTNERSHIP - A FORKS CHURCH MISSION "PLAY" POINTS TO THE GOSPEL

In three out of the four Gospels we read about Jesus calling for the children to come to him. In Mark 10:14-16 we read Jesus' words, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them."

Little children have nothing to give to the Lord but they receive the great blessing of resting in the Savior's arms. When it comes to all of us receiving salvation, the forgiveness of our sins, the promise of eternal life, we come before Jesus like fully dependent children.

There is great joy in coming to the Lord, to be placed in His loving arms and to be blessed by Him.

Children learn about joy and are shaped by joy through play. Play stimulates movement and movement is essential in a child's development. Vision, balance, motor skills, brain function, social engagement, and confidence are all developed through play in a holistic healthy way. Kids are happy when they play.

Our confessions teach us that "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Pastor John Piper emphasizes that glorifying God and enjoying Him forever are not two separate things but one. In other words, the reason we exist is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. Joy in the Lord is at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus Christ is our joy. All our eternal hope is fulfilled in, through and by Him. This is the Gospel.

Joy is contagious. Nothing brings joy to the heart of a parent like seeing their children playing and laughing. The poor village of Veron in the Dominican Republic cannot provide a playground for their children. When the parents see the level of care provided for their children, hearts will change. Hearts will be humbled to receive. Not only a playground will be built, but relationships will be built. Relationships build trust - trust helps build a community – a trusting heart receives the proclamation of the Gospel –and receives it like a little child – with joy!

Your Session has committed and set as a mission priority to be a Veron Hope Zone Partner for the next three years. This includes continuing the food packing events that we have held the last two years, providing Bibles for the children and supporting Story Clubs, and the focus for the next few months.

will be on raising funds for the playground that will be built by a Forks' Mission Team next Summer. This is not just about building a playground in a far-off country. This is our Forks Church's response to Jesus' call to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Maybe without saying, this is a God-sized project and commitment. In Luke 11:9-10 Jesus says, "And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

So, are we just to ask God to provide what is needed to fulfill our commitment?

Yes! But let's qualify. This commitment was prayerfully considered. We were led by God to make this commitment. From the very start, in a real sense, this has been God's project. We are asking Him to accomplish what He has already ordained. In this, He will rightfully receive the glory.

But all of us have a part in this. From the Luke 11 passage we learn from verse 13 that when we are truly asking as God would have us ask, we are in fact asking for the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts hearts of sin, but it is also the Holy Spirit who motivates hearts to join in the Gospel mission to bring joy into the hearts of all those who would be called the "children of God".

The Session's request is for each one to prayerfully listen to the Holy Spirit in how you might contribute to our Veron Hope Zone Partnership. God has graciously invited us to join Him in His mission to gather His people unto Himself from all parts of the world.

This all aligns with the Kids Around the World mission statement "to see children's hearts and lives transformed by God's love and a relationship with Him; by providing opportunities for joy, relief with physical nourishment, and hope found in the Good News of Jesus through Food, Play, and Story."

We hopefully have given you some insight as to how and why we have made this commitment. We are certainly open to receive your questions and suggestions.

Your contributions: Forks of the Brandywine Church – memo line: KATW Bibles or KATW Food or KATW Playground. (NOTE: These offerings should be over and above your regular tithe to the church)

Thank you for your faithfulness in responding to all that God is doing at and through the Forks Church. This is for your joy and God's glory.

In Christ, The Forks Church Session

#### TRUSTEE NEWS

#### Two Convenient Ways to Tithe and Give an Offering



#### ACH Giving Is Available to Everyone - with Flexible Giving Dates

The Forks has Automated Giving, also known as ACH (Automated Clearing House). This is the same process as automatic bill pay many utilities and business use. Church Members (and non-members) can set up automatic weekly giving amounts through an ACH Authorization Form.\* No Fees!

No more wondering about how much to make up for missed Sundays due to weather or other circumstances! This opportunity also allows The Forks to maintain a more even income throughout the year, many families vacation over the summer, over the past the trustees have had to use "savings" funds to cover the shortage, then replenish the savings in the fall.

<u>Sign-up is easy and secure</u>, the same information is used that is on your check - Routing & Account numbers along with your bank name. Complete a form, secure in an envelope, and place it in Glady's church mailbox or the Drop Safe in the door of the office....<u>it is that easy!</u>

You can adjust your giving amount anytime\* by sending Glady an email. You may also give a check during the tithing in addition to your automatic giving to supplement other ministries, such as Building Preservation, Emergency Fund, Deacons, Missions and others. \*Note: If you currently give via ACH, this is an opportunity to change your payment schedule option, and/or increase the amount of your tithe. Simply send Glady an email.

\*ACH Authorizations Forms can be found by the Offering Boxes on the table on the landing, and on the information table in the Gathering Room near the portico entrance, or by contacting Glady Office@ForksChurch.org.

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

I currently give using envelopes, and receive a statement at the end of the year for my giving, will I still receive a statement?

YES! All transactions are recorded and a yearly giving statement will be available in January of the following year.

#### Is monthly giving available?

YES, along with other options! No transaction fees, or transaction limits, for you or the church! You have the option to give:

Weekly	Bi-Weekly	1st of Month	1st & 15th of Month
weekiv	Di-weekiv	ist of Month	ist & 15th of Month

#### What if I decide to discontinue with Automatic Giving?

Just contact Glady via email Office@ForksChurch.org or call at 610) 942-2626, five (5) days prior to when you want to stop your ACH, and we can put your account on hold and/or remove your information from the process.

#### I have a question not listed here?

Send Glady an email at Office@ForksChurch.org.

Thank you,

Your Board of Trustees

#### The Forks Has ONLINE Giving Options







The Forks uses Tithe.ly for our online giving platform. Apps are available for most smartphones, just go to your app store and search for Tithe.ly, create an account, and search for Forks of the Brandywine!

You may choose a one-time offering or set up a recurring gift. You will also have the option to cover the costs!

You can also select to give an Offering, or give to the Building Preservation Fund.

Scan the QR Code Now to open a webpage for Online Giving! The QR Code is also on the back of the Sunday bulletins.

#### **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

#### 13th Annual Ladies Evening Out - Tuesday, December 2nd

The Fellowship Committee is Excited host another Ladies Evening Out! Mark your Calendars Now!

The evening is very elegant and consists of a catered dinner, a devotion and entertainment.

The tables are all set and decorated by volunteers (this is where you ladies come in!)

We are asking for volunteers to host/decorate tables: We will be setting up 14 tables. If you would like to Decorate & Host a table again this year, or for the first time, you must email Glady to sign-up, and/or confirm, no later than September 30th (several ladies have said they would like to host again, but need to confirm via email).

<u>Table Decorators & Hosts</u>: (2 people often go together to decorate a table- what one doesn't have, the other does).

- Invite family, friends, neighbors to come (to pay for a reserved seat or as your guest) and see that they are seated at your table.
- Provide place settings for 8 persons: dinner plates, bread plate, water glasses, cups & saucer or mugs for hot beverage, cloth napkins (or high quality paper ones), silverware (the church does have silverware if you choose to use it instead of your own).
- Decorate your table however you desire (Christmas, or a theme, a color scheme, etc.) using a centerpiece, candles, favors, etc. (I will list any items available at church (or in my personal large stash over 13 years) for your use.
- Round floor-length tablecloth (We will provide a list of colored tablecloths that the church has available for your use.)

More details (perhaps a 'training' meeting) will be provided to those who choose to be a Table Host/Decorator for the evening. Decorating tables will begin after worship on Sunday, December 1st, no early set up on Saturday this year!

Your consideration to participate is greatly appreciated. Please contact Glady Toth (office), or Louise Snyder, if you have any questions.





Watch for more information and reservation forms (required) to be sent out shortly. This event fills up fast, so be quick to RSVP once you see the forms!



#### **DISCIPLESHIP NEWS**

#### Sunday School Classes & Bible Studies



The Sunday school class in the Multi-Purpose Room is currently studying the Book of Hebrews. Even though we are already in a study, you can begin attending at any time. This class is open to all adults from the age of 13 and up. The class walks through scripture and asks questions about what the verses mean, and in what way the verses should impact how we think and live our lives. Class participation is essential, and determines the pace of the study. Before year end we expect to begin a study of Exodus. The class begins at 9am on Sunday mornings.

The Sunday School Class in the Chapel will be starting a new study on the Westminster Larger Catechism in September. This class is open to all adults from the age of 13 and up. The class begins at 9:00am on Sunday mornings.



The Ladies Fall Bible Study will resume on Thursday, September 28, at 1:00 PM. The class meets in the downstairs Multi-Purpose Room and will be doing a study of the Book of Ruth. All ladies are welcome to join any class they are able to attend.

The door opens at 12:30, so you can bring a bagged lunch and chat together prior to the start of the study.



#### Small Group CBS - Resumes September 15th & 16th

#### Study of Psalms

**Mon. Sept.. 15:** Co-ed study meets at the **<u>Darnall home</u>**, 7:00 PM <u>New members are welcome</u>

**Tue. Sept. 16:** Ladies only study <u>meets at church MPR</u>, 9:00 AM <u>New members are welcome</u>

Sign up to attend either study by emailing Julie at <u>jadarnall@verizon.net</u> before August 31. Cost is 10\$ for the first session to cover the curriculum.

#### Study of Matthew, Part 3

Mon. Sept. 15: Ladies only study meets at the <u>Stern home</u>, 7:00 PM

<u>New members are welcome</u> as the Book of Matthew has much to teach no matter where you focus. This six-week session runs until Oct. 20th.

#### **CHURCH NEWS**

#### Trial Life Fall Schedule

#### September 2025

Sept 08 Troop Meeting

Sept 15 Adv/Nav Meeting

Sept 19-21 Hibernia Park Campout

Sept 22 Troop Meeting

#### October 2025

Oct 06 Troop Meeting

Oct 13 Adv/Nav Meeting

Oct 20 Troop Meeting

Oct 24-26 Elk Neck State Park Campout



Troop 1:9 has a Scholarship Fund for those families with a need for help in purchasing uniform shirts, books, or going on a campout.

If you would like to help out by donating money to our fund, it will be set aside for when there is a need. You can donate any amount-everything helps! Just write a check out to "Trail Life Troop 1:9", place it in a designation scholarship envelope (see below), and place it in the Trail Life mailbox. The envelopes are on the information table in the Gathering Room by the church mailboxes.

Trail Life troop meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00p.m. Troop Committee meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00p.m.

Choir Rehearsal returns on Thursday nights in the MPR (multipurpose room) at church beginning September 4th at 6:45!

Prayerfully consider joining in as you are available to lift your voice in praise! You may even decide to sing with the choir on Sundays!



#### Church Family HYMN SING - Thurs., Sept. 18th, 7:00-8:00 PM

#### Come Out and Lift Your Voice to the Lord in Song and Thanksgiving!

Everyone is encouraged to join this informal gathering simply to praise the Lord in song and to fellowship together.

Each person can call out a your favorite hymn and all will sing a verse or two.

Light refreshments will be served afterward in the Gathering Room.

note and/or small token gift once a month. if you able.



#### Remember Your Secret Sister & Check for Cards/Gifts!

If you are a Secret Sister, this is just a reminder to check the designated table in the Gathering Room each Sunday for cards/gifts. Some gifts are flowers and/or are perishable. Also remember to be praying for your 'sister', and letting her know you are with a card,

If you have any questions, concerns, or prayer requests for yourself or your Secret Sister, please call the church office and let Karen Hall or Glady Toth know.



#### **CHURCH NEWS**

#### Forks Book Club 2025-2026 - Resumes in September

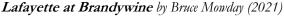


The Book Club will continue to meet at the home of Kathy Stewart 135 Augusta DR., Honey Brook

Time: 7:00-8:30 the LAST Wednesday of each month, September through May 2026\*

All are welcome to join one discussion or all of them! See Julie Darnall or Kathy Stewart

#### **September**



"America's first international hero, the Marquis Lafayette, risked his life and spent his fortune in the fight for American independence from England. Without Lafayette and the assistance of France, America would never have been victorious during the American Revolution. While being celebrated in America in the 18th and 19th century - including a grand American tour that lasted more than a year - Lafayette's heroic deeds are fading from America's consciousness. The importance of the battle of

Brandywine, where Lafayette was wounded on September 11, 1777, has not been recognized as a major turning point in America's independence. Lafayette at Brandywine: The Making of an American Hero redefines Lafayette's role in America's fight for freedom and the historical importance of the battle of Brandywine"

#### **October**

#### Massacre at Duffy's Cut by William Watson (2018)

In June 1832, railroad contractor Philip Duffy hired fifty-seven Irish immigrant laborers to work on Pennsylvania's Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad. They were sent to a stretch of track in rural Chester County known as Duffy's Cut. Six weeks later, all of them were dead. For more than 180 years, the railroad maintained that cholera was to blame and kept the historical record under lock and key. In a harrowing modern-day excavation of their mass grave, a group of academics and volunteers found evidence some of the laborers were murdered. Authors and research leaders Dr. William E. Watson and Dr. J. Francis Watson reveal the tragedy, mystery, and discovery of what really happened at Duffy's Cut. (Some very recent archaeological discoveries near Downingtown to augment our interesting facts...)

#### November

#### The Loval Son by Daniel Epstein

Epstein (The Ballad of Bob Dylan), a biographer, poet, and playwright, skillfully shows how the American Revolution divided communities and households, as would happen more famously during the Civil War. Benjamin Franklin's family is Epstein's case study, with Ben in his familiar role of celebrated patriot, while his only son, William, led the line as a loyalist. What Epstein writes of Ben is already fully known, though here he's rendered as feeling competitive with his talented son and comes off less well than his idolaters will like. Where the book succeeds splendidly is in rescuing William Franklin from obscurity. He was a loving son, an intelligent and honorable man, and a skilled (and final) royal governor of New Jersey who paid dearly by losing everything for his principled, agonizing fidelity to Britain. William could never regain the affection and respect of his father, who refused to fully reconcile with him. Perhaps this isn't surprising, since William actively promoted Britain's military actions during the war. Yet while never exculpating William for his choices, Epstein makes him thoroughly sympathetic (like other Franklin family members beset by the era's divisions), the victim of "a piteous misunderstanding" on Ben's part. Epstein's portrayals result in a thoroughly enjoyable and well-informed, if overly detailed, work of history.

#### December

Catch-up month—we always seem to need time by then...maybe a Tea Party to celebrate books for the holiday?

\*The book readings for January-May 2026, will be listed in the October newsletter.

#### **CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS**





#### FORKS CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025** 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org

**Sponsor Code: FORKS** 

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767),

or Register on Church Website: www.forkschurch.org

**Registration Is Required** 

#### **Contact Information:**

Glady Toth, Blood Drive Coordinator Church Office: 610-942-2626 8am-2pm, Mon-Fri

Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church 1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA 19343

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App © The American National Red Cross I 161501

#### **CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS**

#### "Trunk or Treat!" Saturday, October 25th

The West Brandywine Police and The Forks Church are once again hosting the **Faith & Blue Trunk or Treat!** Last year there was a large turnout, so we are seeking more people (trunks) for this year's event! The below registration forms will be in upcoming Sunday bulletins and available on the large information table inside the portico entrance of the church. Kindly consider being a part of this fun community event!

Forks of the Brandywine Church & West Brandywine Police Department



#### FAITH & BLUE TRUNK OF TREAT EVENT



Saturday, October 25, 2-4 PM

Car Trunk Registration Form

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

Email:





- + Provide candy or treats for 150 children.
- Provide own trunk set up/decorations.
- Trunks and costumes must be family friendly/no scary decorations or costumes.
- This is free for the community to attend.

Please return to Gail Craig at gcraig529@gmail.com, or mail\* to church office by Sat, Oct 18<sup>h</sup>.

\*Forks of the Brandywine EP Church 1648 Horseshoe Pike Glenmoore, PA 19343\*

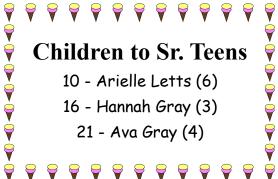


# SEPTEMBER 2025

Sat	6 9:30 AM Karate		13 9:30 AM Karate		k-Off	SO 8:30 AM CHURCH WORK DAY 9:30 AM Karate		CHURCH WORK DAY	, 27 9:30 AM Karate		<b>11</b>		School Buses Carry Precious Cargo! Please  STOP for Red Flashing Lights and Be  Aware of Children Crossing the Streets!
Fri	5 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	4:30 PM Karate	12 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	4:30 PM Karate	6:00 PM Youth Kick-Off	19 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	4:30 PM Karate		26 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	4:30 PM Karate	6:00 PM Youth Night		chool Buses Carry P STOP for Red Flas Aware of Children
Thu	4	6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal Open to All	11		6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal Open to All	18	HYMN SING	7:00 PMAll Invited!	25 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study Resumes		6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal Open to All		BACK TO SCHOOL S.
Wed	3 7:00 PM Bible Study		10 No Bible Study			17 7:00 PM Bible Study			24 No Bible Study				BACI
Tue	2		6			16 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	7:00 PM Fellowship	7:00 PM Trail Life &	23 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church		7:00 PM Session	30 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	
Mon	1	LABOR Day	8 10:30 AM The Daytimers Game Day		7:00 PM Trustees	15		7:00 PM Trail Life &	22 10:30 AM The Daytimers Game Day		3:30 PM Deacons	29 BLOOD DRIVE 2:00-7:00 PM	
Sun			7 9:00 AM Adult Education	10:50 AM Worship	6:00 PM Prayer Hour	14 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion		6:00 PM Prayer Hour	21 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship		6:00 PM Prayer Hour	28 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship	6:00 PM Prayer Hour









- 1 Diane and Craig Shumaker 30 yrs.
- 2 Stacey and Scott Chamberlain7 Shelly and Walt Rigg
- 18 Sunghwa (Hia) and Bob Fernholz22 Erika and Matt Snyder24 Susan and Bill Hein





#### **Thoughts & Smiles**





#### Joy in The Word of God



Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation,

for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—The Table Talk of Martin Luther

#### **Beautiful Feet**

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15, NIV). Such beauty has nothing to do with the feet being clean, newly pedicured, elegantly clad. They may be the dusty feet of aid workers bringing food to drought-stricken areas, or the muddy shoes of those rushing disaster relief to flood zones. They may be the swollen feet of a dedicated nurse after a 12-hour hospital shift, or the tired feet of a parent pacing with a baby at 3 a.m.

In the upper room before Jesus' arrest, he declared his disciples' dirty feet beautiful by touching and washing them lovingly, preparing them to go out yet again with his good news for all. And on the cross, Jesus' own feet — nail-pierced — were beautiful.

After Pope Francis died on Easter Monday 2025, many mourners who paid their respects noticed his shoes. Instead of new, well-polished "dress shoes," the scuffed items clearly had walked countless steps. They were the sturdy boots of a worker, a pilgrim, a travel companion on the road of life, the journey of faith. They were the shoes — the feet — of a disciple of Christ willing to go wherever needed to bring the good news of God's love. How beautiful!

-Heidi Hyland Mann

#### The Gift of Work



Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

"This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God's way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness."

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."

#### It Only Takes a Spark

Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.



-William Arthur Ward

#### God Languishes With Us

Is life not full of opportunities for learning love? Every man and woman every day has a thousand of them. The world is not a playground; it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is how better we can love.

—Henry Drummond



# Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church (EPC)

**NEWSLETTER** 

1648 Horseshoe Pike Glenmoore, PA 19343

Phone: 610-942-2626 Fax: 610-942-7066 E-mail: office@forkschurch.org

We're on the web! www.forkschurch.org





# Preparing Our Church for Our 290th Anniversary Celebration!



Many people are planning and preparing for the 290th Anniversary of Our Church! There will be a very special program, followed by a Pot Luck Dinner for our church family. (More details on page 4).

Trustees are planning a **Work Day for Saturday, September 20th**...coffee and donuts at 8:30....lunch provided. Start and end working as your schedule allows.

We have some contractors coming in the next few weeks to paint and do some repair at the portico entrance, the elevator entrance and the large front doors of the building.

#### Church workers can help on Work Day, or before with some projects.

Let Lew Larson or Louise Snyder know if you can be there or do a job before hand.

We have cleaning work to do in a few places.

We have some heavy work (moving a radiator to storage)

We can use some trim work on some bushes.

#### These jobs can be on Work Day or at your convenience:

If you would like to take on a job of getting some old paint etc to a hazard waste drop off, please let us know.

We need some help to repair where we have some decay in some window sills in the ground floor of the addition.

We will be disconnecting two radiators in the elevator area, we need volunteers to wire brush and paint them before the painting contractors come to paint the walls of the elevator lobby.

#### Before Work Day we need:

\* We need some power washing done (actually not too powerful); we need to clean the walls of the addition to get ready for patching work.

More jobs to be offered.

If you are able to work on any of these projects, kindly contact Louise Snyder, 610-653-7829, or Email her at: <a href="mailto:snydernana@comcast.net">snydernana@comcast.net</a>; or Email Glady in the church office.

