

November 22

Kirking of the Tartan Service**

The Rev. Barrie Shepherd preaching

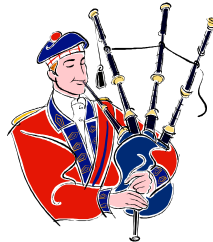
**The "Kirking" is the annual church service of the Saint Andrew's Society of Philadelphia. Saint Andrew's is the oldest charitable organization in continuous existence in the USA - organized in 1729 to assist needy Scot immigrants find a footing in the new world. The society today has close to 500 members, meets regularly for dinner and fellowship, including an annual golf outing, and supports a generous scholarship program which annually sends some 5 area college students for a year of study at one of the four ancient Scottish universities and also brings a Scottish student to study at the University of Pennsylvania.



The Kirkin' service goes back to an old Scottish custom called "The Kirkin' O' the Council" where the newly elected Provost, (Mayor) Baillies and Councillors of the town processed in full regalia to the Parish Church on the Sunday af-

ter the election to receive the blessing - and stern advice - of the clergy. In the USA this has become "The Kirkin' O' the Tartan" a service in which, accompanied by bagpipers, and in full highland dress, members of the Saint Andrew's Society and other Scottish societies, parade to the Kirk (church) for an annual worship service. The Kirking service follows its customary order, but also includes the presentation of the tartans, when society members, and sometimes their children if present, bring forward a swatch of various Scottish tartans and the minister arrays them along the communion table and leads a prayer of thanksgiving. At this point there is also usually a few words of greeting from the President of the society. Our own Parish Associate, Barrie Shepherd, will be the preacher since he is Chaplain and President Elect of the Philadelphia Saint Andrew's Society.

At 9:30 the "Kirking" will be anticipated by a "teaching time" in worship. At 10:30 the bagpipers will arrive, and the full "Kirking" will take place at the 11:00AM worship service. If you or your family have a tartan, please plan to wear it or bring it for display on 11/22!



Christmas Joy Offering

To be received on December 20th!

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian Tradition for almost seventy years. This offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church USA to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.



The gifts from the Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions to help retired church workers and their spouses through difficult times, and to Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education in our related schools and colleges.

Giving to the Christmas Joy Offering is a gift that lasts all year long!

Covenants of Stewardship

In the past several weeks we have been learning in worship about what it means to live in covenant with God. From early times, God made covenant with Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all their descendents. God said in various ways: "I will be your God, and you shall be my people." The scriptures are full of exemplary (and some not so exemplary!) narratives of the graciousness of God toward God's people, and the varying degrees of faithful and unfaithful responses of the people.

The challenge to live in covenant with God, receiving grace and challenge, and responding with obedience and love continues. Particularly we are challenged to respond in four arenas of living:

1. **Personal Life**
As part of this year's stewardship commitment, make a promise to God to seek to care for your mind, body and soul in a ways that bear witness to your life as a temple of God's spirit. Eat wisely. Exercise. Study uplifting, spiritual reading.
2. **Community Life**
As part of this year's stewardship commitment, make a promise to God to be engaged in life at church. Don't be a "pew potato"! Search out a way to serve other believers by supporting ministries that enact the life

of the church. Greet at the door. Teach a class. Weed a garden. Make a friend.

3. **Financial Life**
As part of this year's stewardship commitment, make a promise to God to support the work of Christ's church in the world. Make regular giving a way of life. Give enough of your financial substance that you can feel in your heart that you have made your faith life a priority.
4. **Public Life**
As part of this year's stewardship commitment, make a promise to God to choose an area in the public sphere where, for Christ's sake, you will work for a world that would be pleasing to God. Get involved in a justice issue. Help the poor. Assist creation.

TRUSTEES

We are preparing budgetary estimates for the big ticket items that will most likely come up over the next 10 years, so the Session's long-range planning process can factor them in. Things like roof replacements, heating system replacements, A/C Units, etc. fall into this category.

Thanks to the diligence of Frank Siddons, the "muddy river" that was flowing into the Youth Room has now been stopped. An underground broken drain pipe, along with an overflowing gutter, combined to cause this issue. The pipe was repaired, and rubber matting installed to deflect any overflow away from the area. Special thanks to Joe

Hawkinson and Rob Ross who were Frank's deputies on this project, providing a lot of the hard labor to repair the drain. Now we are left with floor replacement in the Youth Room, along with other water damage to repair. In addition, we will be inspecting the foundational support of the courtyard entrance door area, so make sure the undermining of the soil hasn't jeopardized our church building. Luckily, our insurance should cover most of the damage and repairs we will face.

We are planning the replacement of our Risograph, which prints our bulletins and newsletters. It is a workhorse of a machine, but it has seen its better days. Modern technology allows us to consider a multi-function copier/printer that should be able to handle all our printing needs, and not cost us significantly more money than our current multiple machines, plus reduce our maintenance headaches. More to come on this later.

We hope to upgrade the front sanctuary spotlights to fluorescent bulbs over the next month, and fix them so they shine on the proper places. This upgrade means years between difficult bulb changeouts and also reduced electric bills. After we accomplish this, most of our church will be using energy efficient fluorescent bulbs, helping us feel better about being more friendly to our environment.

