



"The Presence of God!"

by Dr. Foster C. Dryden, Jr.

Our Father, the One in the heavens.... Matthew 6.9

When we pray The Lord's Prayer we are use to saying "Our Father, in **heaven....**" After years of hearing and saying it this way, it has come to mean "Our Father, who is **far away!**" Indeed, praying to a God in heaven does suggest a sense of remoteness, certainly not a God involved in the affairs of this world, let alone my life. The actual Greek reveals that Jesus said, *Our Father, the One in the **heaven[s]!***

The plural for heaven makes a big difference in the meaning of the text! The ancient worldview understood the creation to be a series of domes over domes. The first heaven was the atmosphere around us! The second heaven was the skies above us! The third heaven was the place where we think souls rest for eternity in God's!

When Jesus taught us to pray to *Our Father, the One in the heaven[s]*, He was teaching that God's Presence is in every place: the atmosphere around us, the skies above us, and the place where souls rest eternally with Christ. Rather than being a God Who is remote, the God revealed in Jesus Christ is as close as the air we breathe through the power of the Holy Spirit!

This article is a reprint from the May-June 2016 ViewPoint.



**Pray the Word!
Practice the Word!
Proclaim the Word!**

Yet, I don't know of a translation into English that captures this reality. Even scholars are limited in their efforts by the worldview they bring to the texts!

Even so, Jesus did not teach something new! The Psalmist prayed:

Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your Presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there Your Hand shall lead me, and Your Right Hand shall hold me fast.

(139.7-10)

No question that God is transcendent, but this was not what Jesus was teaching when He taught His disciples The Lord's Prayer. He wanted them and us to know of God's intimate love for them, *Our Father*, and His immanence and availability to them and us, *the One in the heaven[s]!* When you pray this great prayer, remember it begins, *Our Father, the One in the heavens*, the One Who is as close to us as the air we breathe!

In Christ's love,
Bud

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**WELCOME
BACK!**

Bud's Sabbatical ends on September 17th and he will return to Worship and preaching on **Sunday, September 23rd.**



Prayers please

The gift of prayer enables us to join with one another in consecrating our world, our lives, and our minis-

tries to God.

Please lift in prayer:

Morgan, Sloane, Joanie, Melissa, Jerry, Jim, Cindy, Vickie, Kathy, Phillip, Michael, Sarah, Veronica, Madonna, shut-ins, the homeless, elderly, youth, the hungry, our nation, CCC, Presbytery of Philadelphia, General Assembly.



October 20

8:30 a.m. at Bud's House



Church Mouse

September 14 & 15

October 12 & 13

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.



Membership Directory

The new Membership Directory is available. Copies are on the window sill outside of the Chapel or, you can contact the church office to get your copy!

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Resumes September 9th



The Life Center Meal is coming up on Saturday, September 29, 2018.

Vero Saylee will be leading the cooking team in preparing Liberian Chicken

and Rice. A great opportunity for cross-cultural sharing of cooking skills. Join the saints in the kitchen!

Watch for further details.



Seekers Class 4:

This class is open to all who are interested. Class starts on September 9th, after Worship Service. Eric Myers will teach this class.

"The Magnificent Story: Uncovering a Gospel of Beauty, Goodness, and Truth":

This class is open to all those who have been through Seekers and want to continue growing their spiritual life. Class begins on September 23rd, after Worship Service. This class will be taught by Chawezi Mwantembe.

"What are You Seeking?": This class is offered to "seekers" in our community and starts on September 20th.



Presbytery-wide Equipping Event

Saturday October 13, 2018

9:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Presbytery of Philadelphia

Carmel Presbyterian Church
100 Edge Hill Road
Glenside, PA 19038

This gathering is open to all our churches, ministry leaders, and local partners.

Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Shane Berg, Executive Vice-President of Princeton Seminary, will reflect on the changing needs of leadership for a changing church. 8 Workshops will also be facilitated by local leaders among us as we strengthen the collective witness of the local church!

More details:

www.presbyphl.org/events/fall-fest/

Celebrating the Lives of Women

Calling all "mature" women (50 +)!!!!

Celebrating the lives of women: women's health luncheon. **September 16th from noon to 3 pm.** Hosted by Sheila Cummings, MSN, APN, and University of Pennsylvania nursing students. Come join this free event that honors and celebrates the lives of mature women. Enjoy lunch, good company, education on various health topics, and screenings. Be prepared to be interviewed by a nursing student who will guide you through a life-affirming review and give you a chance to tell your story. Be a part of these bright young people's education and journey to becoming nurses while you share your own journey and wisdom with the next generation. To register please call Sheila Cummings 484-620-1877 and leave a message. If you want to prepare food also leave a message indicating what you can make (not required!) Please invite friends, family, and neighbors!

**Session Corner – “New Beginnings”**

Fall is considered by most as a time of new beginnings and it's no different here at Christ's Community Church.

Bud is returning from his Sabbatical Leave spiritually renewed. New Seekers classes are beginning including Seekers 4, The Magnificent Story, What are you Seeking? The Children's Ministry is resuming. Congregants with Session Elders are going to the Apprentice Gathering in Wichita, Kansas eager to explore what being a follower of Jesus truly looks like and one Elder is embarking on the path to become a preacher. We as a congregation are on a “Journey in the Wilderness” waiting to be spiritually renewed and hear God's call for us to move out into our community to bring the Good News to our neighbors.

There is so much renewed zeal to get things moving, which is good. But friends, our excitement and zeal will end in naught if we do not seek God's wisdom to guide us. Let us give glory to His name for New Beginnings and ask that He prepares us for the challenges we'll meet along the way. In our excitement, let us praise God for being with us thus far, for giving us joy unspeakable, for His mighty power at work in us, transforming and renewing our minds, let us pray without ceasing.

May we step into the days ahead with faith to meet any eventualities knowing that God is our leader. Remember Proverbs 3: 5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. But in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths”.

Pray without Ceasing! Give Glory to his Holy name!

Bea

Thank You – Rev. Rob Eyre

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching (1 Timothy 5:17).

We extend our deepest appreciation to Rob Eyre for holding the fort while Bud was on Sabbatical Leave.

Rob has a busy schedule with his full-time job but he remained true to his commitment as Bud's stand-in. Some were nervous initially because it seemed a huge undertaking, but Rob embraced it with a humble, enthusiastic and approachable personality. His sermons are inspirational (even if very long sometimes).

In his first sermon Rob invited Christ's Community Church (CCC) to walk with him on a 16-week Spiritual Wilderness journey. It was a real blessing to have embarked on this journey. Rob, through his sermons, reminded us that Christ was always with us even if we feel lost, confused, or alone just like the disciples; and we, just like the disciples, have to learn to wait and listen for the Spirit to tell us the next course of action. He entwined his messages with life experiences, opening our hearts to the message of God's love.

What a joy to be reminded that God's love is not for Jews alone. You are a true blessing. You are worthy of double honor, Rev. Rob Eyre.

We pray that the good Lord will continue to use you as a channel in spreading the message of His Kingdom. Thank you and may God richly bless you and your entire family.

Clerk of Session – Bea Feddy



We wish to express our gratitude to the many folks of Christ's Community Church who so lovingly helped Hiroko during the months of her illness. We fear that if we mention specific people we will forget someone, so we will be general. You wonderful people know who you are!



Thanks:

To those who prayed for her, her doctors, and her family.

To those who visited her at the hospital, the Penn Hospice and the Little Sisters Home; who brought food and flowers and who sent cards.

To the Women who made it possible for her sister Keiko to come from Japan for a last visit.

To those who helped her move some of her things to Little Sisters, and those who have helped clear and clean her apartment.

To those who helped plan the service of celebration; Bud for his kind and thoughtful words; Loretta and Debbie for the inspirational music; those who organized the reception following the service and attended to the many details; those who brought food and flowers; those who set up and cleaned up.

To those who have supported, prayed for and who will continue to support Morgan as we try to care for him as Hiroko would have wanted.

And to the many people outside of our church family who supported and loved Hiroko; nurses Joe and Andlie; the pro bono attorneys; the caregivers at the Penn Hospice and Little Sisters; cousins Gigi and Marie; the HMS school community; local Japanese women; Hiroko's friends and family in Japan.

Eloise Smyrl and Debbie Falk



**Princess Alert Dance Crew
Lansdowne 4th of July Parade
"Most Creativity—Small Group" Prize**

Congratulations!



"A Year with Frog and Toad"

In August, Darlington Yeah played a purple lizard in the Upper Darby Summer Stage musical production of "A Year with Frog and Toad." The story is about two friends, the cheerful and popular Frog, and the rather grumpy Toad. The friendship endures and weathers all seasons, and the year is full of adventure.

From the Summer Stage website: "Every summer over 700 students work with a team of professional directors, choreographers, musicians, and technicians to produce six hour-long shows. The students are taught how to engage young theater-goers, sharing their talent with the young audience members."

"For forty-three seasons this invaluable program has become the gold-standard for youth theater programs, and has been empowering young people and entertaining families."

We are proud to see Darlington participating in such a worthwhile summer activity. He thoroughly enjoyed himself, and says he wants to be in two productions next summer!



Labor Day Events

Modern-day Viking ship to drop anchor in Philadelphia over Labor Day weekend

The Norwegian Viking Ship, **Draken Harald Hårfagre** is the largest operating Viking ship in the world. It will arrive in Philadelphia on Friday, Aug. 31, and stay for a total of seven days. The Viking ship will be docked outside Independence Seaport Museum.

Waterfront visitors will be able to take a deck tour, as well as check out a free photo and video exhibit.

Friday, Aug. 31, through Thursday, Sept. 6
\$7-\$35 tour tickets

Outside Independence Seaport Museum
211 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19106



Labor Day Weekend
US Army Band Downrange
Concert and Fireworks
Saturday **SEPTEMBER 1ST**
Concert **8PM** Fireworks **9:30PM**
Great Plaza
Penn's Landing
Delaware River WATERFRONT Corporation



To know Christ and make Him known!

Christ's Community Church
at the Riverview Avenue
Community Center

Riverview Avenue Community Center
337 Riverview Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Phone: 610-259-2696
Fax: 610-259-5103
E-mail: ccc@rcn.com
Website: www.cchurch.co

Sunday worship

9:30 a.m.
Informal Worship Service
Nursery available

Fellowship Time
11:00 a.m.
Youth & Adult Bible Studies
11:00a.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 3 William Hamilton
- 6 May Foster
- 7 Kim Rankin
- 15 Melissa Price
- 23 Wayne Crawford
- Darlington Yeah



- 24 Peter Falk
- 26 Linda Martin

OCTOBER

- 2 Aaron Geh
- 5 Stephen Flomo
- 10 Wesley Cummings
- 11 Dave Choate
- 15 Tracy Johnson
- 16 Katie Engell
- 18 Jannie Sirkin
- 22 Sheila Cummings
- 27 Sayce Falk

September/October Calendar

Weekly/Monthly Meetings

Sunday	9:30 a.m., Informal Worship in the Chapel 11:00 a.m., "The Magnificent Story" Class 11:00 a.m., Seekers Class 4
Monday	9:30 a.m., Al-Anon in the Parlor 5:30 p.m., Drexel Hill Raiders
Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Al-Anon in the Parlor
Wednesday	7:00 p.m., NA in Fellowship Hall
Thursday	7:00 p.m., Community Seekers Class

September

September 2, Sunday	Loretta on Vacation <i>Sean McDonald sitting in</i>
September 3, Monday	Labor Day—Office Closed
September 4, Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet
September 9, Sunday	Loretta Returns Sunday School Resumes
September 14 and 15	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
September 16, Sunday	September Birthday Celebration Women's Health Luncheon Bud Returns from Sabbatical
September 18, Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet
September 23, Sunday	4:00 p.m., Session Meet
September 28, Friday	5:30 p.m., Drexel Hill Raiders
September 29, Saturday	Life Center Meal

October

October 2, Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet
October 12 and 13	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
October 14, Sunday	4:00 p.m., Session Meet
October 15, Monday	November/December Viewpoint Deadline
October 16, Tuesday	World Food Day 7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet
October 20, Saturday	8:30 a.m., Men's Group Meet at Bud's House
October 21, Sunday	October Birthday Celebration
October 22—28	Bud's Study Leave
October 26, Friday	5:30 p.m., Drexel Hill Raiders
October 30, Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet

The Viewpoint is a publication of
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Dr. Foster C. Dryden, Jr., pastor;
The Rev. Robert Eyre, associate pastor for
missional outreach;
Linda Evans, editor

Remember

- November 4: Daylight Saving Time Ends
- November 6: Election Day
- November 18: Ecclesiastical Meeting

