



FOCUS ON: Growing Vital Churches

"We are in the midst of a new congregation emerging from within an older congregation." That's what the people of Reformed Church of the Ascension in Norristown see after completing the PSEC three-year Congregational Revitalization program.

The congregation feels rewarded by the hard work they've been doing to reinvigorate their church life. ". . . We are growing in the understanding that we desire to be a diverse group of people who are held together in faith. We are seeking to be less dogmatic and more open to diverse perspectives."



"Our church picnic became a part of VBS this year and we had more guests than members in attendance."

Clarifying their priorities as a community of faith has energized members' commitment to evangelism and service. ". . . We are much more excited about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We are connecting what we do with the Church's message. . . . We are more committed to outreach beyond ourselves."

Prayer and the other spiritual disciplines that are part of revitalization have led to several new approaches at Ascension Church. Members are learning how growth and change go together. "We have a great need for our newer people to step up to the plate and for our older members to let the newer ones lead."

Leadership for the PSEC Congregational Revitalization Program is possible because of the financial stewardship of church members throughout our Conference. Congregations' giving to Our Church's Wider Mission and generous gifts from individuals to Ensuring the Future reach into churches in every Association. Together we are Christ's church ministering to God's people.

EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For brochures, flyers, on-line registration and a full list of meetings and events visit www.psec.org
[Check Conference Calendar or Event Contacts for cancellation information](#)

March 1st—EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT (*March 31st DEADLINE*) to register for "How to Develop Tippers into Tithers" a PSEC Stewardship Workshop at St. Paul's UCC in Amityville on Sat., Apr. 10, 9 am to 2:30 pm. This year, for the first time, we are inviting a team (clergy and 3-7 lay leaders) from each church. By the conclusion of the workshop, each church will have its own comprehensive year-round stewardship plan ready to go. There is great value in training a team because there are multiple people to absorb the information, thereby creating more successful results at the congregational level. Visit www.psec.org to register on-line. To benefit more from the workshop, every church that attends needs to bring the church's pattern of giving for the last 3-5 years. For more information, email Rev. Geneva Butz at butz@psec.org. This workshop will fill up quickly, so register now to take advantage of the March 1st discount.



Sat., Mar. 20, 9:30 am to Noon "Sunday School—Where Are We Headed?" a workshop led by Mary Sicher at Zion's Red Church in Orwigsburg. Several faith formation resources - "The Way of the Child" and brand new "Faith Practices" - will be introduced. The excellent Pilgrim Press publication, "Faith Formation in Vital Congregations", specifically a chapter titled "Parents, et al" will be one of the foundations for our time together. The role that Grandparents and their spirituality can play in the faith formation of their grandchildren will also be a point of interest.

We would love to see a large turnout for this meaningful, very appropriate-to-the-times event. To register, please call the Zion's Red Church office at 570-366-1178. All are invited to attend.



PRAYER PARTNERS - Please pray for Bethel UCC and Pastor Bonnie Ortiz and their program to feed the homeless in center city and for their Tuesday Bible School. They are seeing God's faithfulness and blessing in both of these ministries.