A Distinguishing Sign

The Presbyterian Church (USA) logo, as seen to the left, was created thirty years ago, by the Malcolm Grear and Associates design studio in Rhode Island. It works well, and packs a lot of meaning into a simple design.

I’m pulling out the logo this January, with the idea that we may want to think about our church’s “brand” in the new year. According to the American Marketing Association dictionary, a brand is the "name, term, design, symbol, or any other feature that identifies one seller's product distinct from those of other sellers." What distinguishes us as Presbyterians?

A Beginning, at Branding…

Stick with me here. Presbyterians are known for our democratic form of church government, involving elders elected by the people to be their leaders. In New Testament Greek, the word “elder, leader, wise-one” is πρεσβύτερος (transliterated: presbuteros). So our structure is biblical, and even our denomination’s name is biblical. This may be good information, but it seems a little dry to qualify for effective branding.

Presbyterians are part of the “Reformed Tradition,” meaning that our theological and organizational bent was forged from the Protestant Reformation of the Christian Church in Northern Europe, and especially by those reformers who were influenced by the work of John Calvin, a French pastor affiliated with the Protestant cause in 16th century Geneva, Switzerland. Does being “Reformed,” and “Calvinist” make for effective branding, some 500 years later? Hmm…

Are We Branding Yet?

The vaunted theology of which we are so proud breaks down to a few critical points. Presbyterians believe: That sovereign God graciously and freely calls and chooses us to live lives of service and to receive salvation as a gift. 2. That we live in devoted relationship to God and to one another by keeping order in the church, (See “Branding our church” on page 3)
Associate Pastor

Where do our lives and the Holy Spirit connect?

To get a sense of the Holy Spirit and possibly some of the work that the Spirit does in our lives we must look to scripture. In the Old Testament we see the Hebrew word ruach as being translated as spirit, wind, or breath. In Genesis 1:2 we see the Spirit at work in the words “the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters...” The Spirit changed, transformed, brought order out of chaos and brings life. We see the Spirit giving life in Ezekiel 37:6 – “I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord.” We also see the Spirit giving life in Luke 1:35 – “The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be Holy. He will be called God’s Son.”

The Spirit was with us from the beginning of creation. It seems when reading through particular passages there are elements of creating, transforming, bringing life. We also have instances in the scriptures where the Spirit is involved in peoples lives such as gifts, wisdom, accomplishing God’s work in the world, bringing together communities, giving identity, etc........ When one begins to look closely at the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation there are instances of the Spirit constantly working and being present. How often do we think about the ways the Spirit might be working in our own lives? How often do we ask where the Spirit might be leading us and how the Spirit might be part of our lives? Sometimes it’s not easy to discern the Spirit in our lives especially when they are busy and chaotic so how might we then in a busy day listen, watch, and hear the Spirit.

Here are a few things to consider when discerning the work of the Spirit in one’s own life.

**Change** – How are you being changed for good in small ways?

**Transformation** – How has/is your life being transformed into something new?

**Life** – Where, how, and what do you partake in things that are life giving instead of life draining?

**Revelation** – What have you learned new about yourself and God?

**Questioning** – How do your questions evolve over time concerning life, God, and yourself?

**Others** – How have your interactions with others evolved over time and how do you see it continuing?

**Silence** – What do you hear in the silence?

**Noise** – What do you hear in the noise?

**Read** – What do you discover in scripture?

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Please look for the Children's Bulletin, which can be picked up with the regular bulletins. The hope is to provide guidance on what is happening in the service while leaving room for creative engagement.

**Website for Children's Ministry is**

[http://bgpreschildrensministry.wordpress.com/](http://bgpreschildrensministry.wordpress.com/)
Branding our church  (continued from page 1)

as outlined in God’s Word. 3. That we avoid ostentation, and seek to use God’s gifts as careful steward/caretakers of what we have been given. 4. That we have a healthy respect for the terrible power of sin, and that we try always to resist sin, while working for the transformation of our communities and selves, seeking justice and living in obedience to God’s Word in scripture. Reformed Theology is good stuff. Can it be tweaked into a brand?

Who Are We?

Are we: “the church near the downtown square with something for everyone?” Are we: “a light in the City?” How about: “An historic building, building a community of grace?” Our education program tries to emphasize “Finding God in every day.” We could say, “In our historic sanctuary, find a personal sanctuary.” We could paraphrase Nelson Mandela: “Not perfect, but, with God’s help, we’re trying.” The special kind of health and hope that faith brings is so rare in our world, what about: “You’ll never be the same!” On Sundays, we “Gather in the light and follow it into the world.” As a way of describing what we do, “Reaching, teaching, and sending” might work. Or, there is the old saw: “Reformed, always being reformed by the Word of God.”

It’ll Work, if We’ll Back It Up

In order to have a brand, we will all have to do whatever it takes to make what we say about ourselves stick. We have to be who we say we are. In David Muffett’s office there is a poster that has a silhouette of a light bulb and a salt shaker. It has the caption “Be these.” (Salt and light, get it?) It’s a worthy goal. I want our church to be even more special and distinctive. Can we do it?

I know we can.

Know you are loved,
Matthew
CHRISTMAS BREAK LOCK-IN There was a lock-in on Friday, December 20. We had 23 youth in attendance! Thanks to Fred Kemohan, Christian Croxton, & Angie Alexieff for assisting in leadership throughout the night! The youth and leaders also helped deliver the Angel Tree gifts on Saturday morning. This year we assisted 47 children in 20 families. Thank you to everyone who participated! You helped make all these families’ Christmas much brighter!

SKY HIGH SPORTS, in Nashville, was a fun place where 15 of us jumped, played dodge ball, & had a great time just hanging out on December 30th. We also made our traditional stop at Krispy Kreme Donuts – Yum!

2014 MONTREAT COLLEGE CONFERENCE David will be taking a small group of WKU students to Montreat, January 2-5, for the annual college conference. We will be staying with three other church college groups (32 total people) at Linger Longer Lodge (our house we stay in during the youth conference). The other groups are from Murray State University (MOTA) and two South Carolina college groups. The theme is “At the Well”. There will be over 1,000 in attendance at the conference.

2014 MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE will be July 12-19, 2014. Our group will once again be staying at Linger Longer Lodge. This trip is for rising 8th graders through graduated seniors. There are also opportunities for college students to participate in college work crew. Cost is $350. First deposits of $50 are due by February 1st. These will be refundable up to May 1st. Subsequent deposits of $100 are due April 1, May 1, & June 1. Scholarships are available to help with the cost. The theme is “Rooted & Reaching”.

2014 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP TO THE JERSEY SHORE: The Western Kentucky Presbytery is sponsoring this trip to Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church will host our volunteer village. We’ll be helping with Hurricane Sandy recovery. The dates are June 21-29, 2014. The cost is $300 per person. We will fund raise to help with the cost and scholarship money is available. All rising 8th graders through graduated seniors are welcome. There are only 28 youth spots available. Please encourage our youth to sign up! Non-refundable first deposits of $75 are due by February 1.

David will be away January 20 – February 3 on study leave. The first week he will attend the Big Ideas for Youth Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary. Top youth ministry professionals in the PC(USA), including Roger Nishioka & Michelle Thomas-Bush, will provide leadership. More info is available here: http://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong-courses-and-events. The second week he will complete his Princeton Theological Seminary - Certificate in Youth & Theology Program, at a Capstone Retreat in St. Simon’s Island, GA.

Sunday Youth Group meets every Sunday 5:30-8pm at the church. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us! (Dinner 6-6:30, activities/study topics 6:30-8:00.) Youth Group will not meet on December 29 or January 5.

Wednesday Night Youth Fellowship (Grades 8-12, 5:30-6:30pm) meets at Spencer’s Coffeehouse. We will not meet on December 25 or January 1. We’ll resume on January 8!

2013 was a year full of fun trips, overnights, and mission work for our Youth Ministry. We hope that 2014 will be even better! Thank you to all who made this an excellent year. We wish you a Happy New Year!

Our Youth Ministry is built on the five intentions of the Presbyterian Youth Ministry:
To call young people to be disciples of Jesus Christ.
To respond to the needs and the interests of young people.
To work together, youth and adults, in partnership.
To be connected to the whole church, community, and the world.
To include all young people, reaching out and inviting them to belong to the community of faith.

For more information on our Youth Ministry, contact David Muffett, Director of Youth Ministries at david.muffett@bgpres.org.
Congregational Care & Fellowship

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women’s Christmas Tea was a great success!

Despite the cold rainy weather wonderful women came to share the Christmas spirit and fellowship in the welcoming home of Ann Covington. Delicious goodies were prepared by the P.W. coordinating team and enjoyed by all. It was suggested that donations could be made to help fight hunger locally through the church’s food pantry and HOTEL Inc’s Manna Mart. Four bags of canned food were collected plus $800.00 was placed in the basket. We are all overwhelmed with the generosity shown by these most caring ladies.

A note to the congregation …

As we arrive at a New Year, the church desires to express sincerest appreciation to so many who in ways small and large do ministry. Especially do we appreciate officers, now retiring from their three-year term; volunteers, doing such gracious things as supplying the food pantry, washing cloths or towels; care-givers, meeting each Tuesday to pray for and to supply food in time of illness or death; leaders, arranging Bible study or trips or baking; staff, going above and beyond job-description work to make this church vital and strong. In no way can we ever express enough the joy that comes from being Christ-like in witness.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the following members and friends of this church who have recently lost loved ones:

Dena Hill in the death of her brother, Joseph Simmons
Charlotte Prow in the death of her husband, Tom Prow
Ray Elms in the death of his father
The Family of Elise Lieb
The following is mostly quoted from PBS Newshour, the Rundown blog dated August 8, 2013. This is a good way to start the year, empower your own independence!!!!

Most seniors believe that will stay healthy and happy longer if they stay put, but that requires a fairly accessible (one story) home. If you can get help with transportation to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping and social outings that is a bonus.

But there are some things you can have done at your home that make a big difference in terms of continued independence.

Low-Vision keyboard to help with your computer. If you don't have a computer get something like one. Technology is the wave of the future and is an invaluable connector to family and friends. Hire a high school student, or ask one at the church to help get you started. Maybe all you need is an iPad or a smart phone. Just the basics will help. One person mentioned he has his dad email him a joke everyday by 10am, that way he knows he is ok. I keep check on a good friend by playing Words with Friends. If he is not playing, I am worrying and checking.

Get motion sensor lighting inside the house to help you see when you get up at night.

A partial bed rail can help make it easier to get in and out of bed.

Zipper pulls to help improve your ability to dress yourself.

Safety strips in your bath tub or shower to prevent falls.

Tub or shower bars for help getting in and out or just standing in the shower.

Get rid of throw rugs or have them firmly anchored with tape or rubberized under pad.

Stay safe and have a happy new year!

Donna Hill

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Sunday School Beginning January 5

**Parenting in the 21st Century** - Studying and discussing 10 Principles for Spiritual Parenting: Nurturing Your Child's Soul - Rm 202

**Floyd Hays Ellis Class** - Studies and discusses The Present Word. Contact Person is Charles Reid. Rm 201

**Christian Thought** - Discussing The Holy Land - Conference Room

**Jan 12th - Feb 23rd The Bible**: What is it? How does it work? Led by Emily Potter in Rm 207
Water Team Repairs Jungle School System

In late August John Gramling received an urgent call from Ana, director of the Jungle School near Flores, Guatemala, requesting help in repairing their recently installed water system. Because their new system operator was not familiar with the maintenance of the system filters, both sets of three filters left with them in March of 2011 had failed. As there is no supplier for filters in Guatemala, John decided that we should make a quick trip to Flores with two sets of new filters, troubleshoot the system, retrain the operator or operators, and make sure our operating partners were trained to handle future problems on their own.

Upon arrival at the Jungle School, we were greeted with smiles, hugs and tears for Mr. John and Mr. Kelly. The water team had arrived to get their clean water flowing again.

Our first order of business was to sit down with our partners, Asies, Antonio, and Elis to discuss what happened to cause the shutdown. Once we had all agreed on what was needed, we went to work. John gave instruction directly from the water system manual while our partners did all the work: cleaning the raw and clean water tanks, shocking the system with chlorine, and installing new filters. Then it was time to run a new batch of clean water. And clean it was and great it did taste. The long three days were well worth the time and effort to see smiles of appreciation on the faces of the staff and children for the clean water.

None of the above would have been even remotely possible without the support of the mission committee, the deacons, the elders and each and every member of the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church. Even though you could not be at the Jungle School physically, your spirits were there with John and Kelly at the Jungle School. And the good people of the school send their most sincere thank you’s and prayers to our church.

Clean water for all God’s children,
John and Kelly
**HOTEL INC**

There will be a volunteer training session January 11, 11am-2pm, at HOTEL INC. This training will be for anyone who's interested in volunteering with Transitional Housing, Manna Mart, Homeless Outreach, the front office, the Drop-In Center, or in teaching any kind of classes for our clients. The training and volunteer roles are all listed at [www.hotelincbg.com](http://www.hotelincbg.com). You don't have to sign-up for a volunteer role at the training, but this is an opportunity for interested volunteers to be more informed about the HOTEL INC programs.

**Transitional Housing needs**

**HOTEL INC** requests the following items in preparation for a new client who will move into transitional housing this February. Your donations are appreciated and can be left under the lower level church steps. Please clearly mark your donations "HOTEL" so they get to the right place.

Questions...contact Liza Ahrendt at [lizaahrendt@yahoo.com](mailto:lizaahrendt@yahoo.com).

Items needed are:

- Can opener
- Kitchen rugs (2)
- Tall trash can
- Tall trash bags (1 pack)
- Broom
- Dustpan
- Mop
- Napkins (1 pack)
- Paper towels (1 pack)
- Drying rack
- Dish washing sponge (2)
- Chip clips (2)
- Scissors (1)
- Sandwich bags (1 box)
- Quart bags (1 box)
- Gallon bags (1 box)
- Oven mitts (1 pair)
- Cutlery tray
- Notepad
- Pens
- Mixing bowls (2)
- Colander
- Hand mixer
- Plastic drink pitcher
- Ice trays (2)
- Dryer sheets (1 box)
- Laundry detergent (1 gallon)

Any surplus items will be stockpiled for the next client.

**Contemplative Prayer Group**

A group of church members meets each Friday at 10:30am at the church to participate in the practice of contemplative prayer. All are welcome to come and join this group.

**TPC Art Gallery News**

The 6th Annual Artworks, Inc. exhibit will continue through January 16th, 2014 in the fellowship hall, so if you haven't dropped by yet, don't miss the opportunity to see this wonderful display.

Beginning January 17th, the fellowship hall will be displaying art work from our own talented church members including drawings, paintings, mixed medium, photography, and needlework. This exhibit is open to church members and affiliates of all ages. See page 9 for more details and entry information.
A CALL TO ALL CREATIVE MEMBERS AND CHURCH AFFILIATES
Announcing our 2014 In-Church Art Exhibit Jan. 17 –Mar. 20

All ages 1 to 100 welcome!

Media: 2-D Drawing, Painting, Photography, Needlework – 3-D ONLY if wired and ready to hang on wall.

Specifications:
1. No larger than 4’ by 4’, no smaller than 8” by 10”.
2. Must be framed or mounted with wire in back for hanging, NO sawtooth hangers!
3. If entering more than 2 pieces, supply a list in order of preference in case there is not room for all.

Requirements:
1. To enter: e-mail or mail the following information to pegeddy@bellsouth.net or Peg Truman 2945 Smallhouse Rd. #609, Bowling Green, KY, 42104 by Tues. Jan. 14, 2014:
   a. Name, phone #, and/or e-mail address
   b. Title of piece(s) and order of preference to be hung
   c. Price of piece(s) or NFS (Not For Sale)
   d. Medium used
2. Attach a 3 x 5 card to the back of each piece entered and include:
   a. Name (and age if under 18)
   b. Phone # and/or e-mail address
   c. Title of piece
   d. Sale price or NFS
3. Deliver your work to the church Thursday January 10, 4-6 PM

Dates to remember:

Tuesday January 14, 2014 - Deadline to enter
Thursday January 16, 2014 - Deliver work to church between 4 and 6 PM
Thursday March 20, 2014 - Pick up works between 8:30 AM and 4 PM
December 17, 2013 Property Ministry Report

Things have been going smoothly at the church the past month. The biggest current issue being addressed is moisture seeping through the outside brick wall, and/or the window frames of the upstairs classrooms and stairway, causing paint to bubble up on the inside walls. I spoke with Terry Simon from Simon Masonry about the issue. This week he is renting a 2-story mechanical lift that will give him the ability to properly inspect the outside brick wall and window areas to determine where the moisture is entering the building. As soon as Mr. Simon determines the source he will repair and seal problem areas. At that point Terry Hatler Construction will peel off the bubbled paint and repaint the inside walls.

We are still in the process of replacing the Heat & Air (HAVC) control system that was damaged by the September lightning strike. When completed the building will be more energy efficient.

Below is a copy of an email from David Muffett regarding issues addressed the past month.

From: David Muffett [mailto:david.muffett@bgpres.org]
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 2:25 PM
To: Bobby Rabold
Subject: Property info for report

Bobby,

Below is a list of significant repairs/replacements that occurred in the church over the past month:

1. Stained/damaged ceiling tiles have been replace throughout the church.

2. Hale roofing repair two roof leaks noticed after the last heavy rain.

3. The new video camera has been installed in the sanctuary balcony though it is not recording properly. I am exploring new tech companies since I am displeased with ISTT’s service.

4. The new overall HVAC control system is still in the installation stage. Chad with Lyons Servicing is hoping to have it completed by year end.

David B. Muffett
Director of Youth Ministries/Property Administration
270.202.2776 cell
www.bgpres.org

The Property Ministry members, Nancy English, David Faxon, Doug Humphrey, Tom Moody, Bob Hunt, Larry Warden, David Muffett, Richard Barefoot, and Bobby Rabold would like to express their appreciation to the church congregation for their support. Submitted by: Bobby Rabold, Chairman, Property Ministry Committee.
If you have not already done so, please be sure to complete your 2013 pledge!
Tai Chi Class

Not only is it important to nourish our souls, but also our bodies. Sam Smith leads a Tai Chi Class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. The cost of the class is $40 a month and is paid directly

Simple Gifts Update

More than 165 gifts have been offered and 3-4 dozen have been received. Many more are in the process of being completed. The response of givers and receivers has been overwhelmingly positive. Remember, this is an ongoing process. If you have a gift to give, or want to receive a gift, please call Ann Rudolph, Susan Thomison, or Steve Todd.

Lectionary Readings Are Available

Daily devotions and lectionary are available at the presbytery website: www.pcusa.org/lectionary. You may use the next day/previous day links near the top of the page to change the date of the lectionary.

Media Information

Headsets for the hearing impaired are available on Sundays and may be obtained from an usher prior to worship. If, on Sunday you have a fussy baby or are coughing, etc., the worship service may be viewed from the parlor via television (across the hall from the Sanctuary). If you would like to see the worship service online, please visit

Library

Just a reminder, you can go to the church’s web page http://www.bgpres.org/#/welcome. Click on Resources, then library and find all books that are in the library. by subject or title. Also, you can go to Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/groups/46551471379/ CLICK on Files, and find the same information. Or you can email arfranpe@msn.com, and he will look it up for you and/or send you a PDF file if you wish.
Scripture to Consider

As We Welcome a New Year

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2nd Corinthians 5:17

Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” Lamentations 3:22-24

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. Ecclesiastes 3:11

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:4

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21:5

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16
January Birthdays

January 1
Nathan Moore
Nolan Moore
Allison Willian

January 4
Robert Dickey, Jr.
Harvey Johnston
Mark Schafer

January 5
Christine Burkeen
Emily Perkins

January 6
Brittany Maslowski

January 7
Debbie Trickey

January 8
Les Pfahl
Margaret Stein
John Whitaker
Jane Wilkinson

January 11
D. A. Faxon
Jennie Lou Hagans
Tom Moody
Ann Rudolph
Corrie Vos

January 12
Jim Stites

January 13
Tricia Just
Julia Roberts
Mary Lee Kelley

January 14
Benjamin Crocker
Mary Lee Kelley

January 15
Page Beard
Paul Clark
Judy Gerhardt

January 16
Duffy Hayes
Sarah Maurer

January 17
Madalene Chandler
Chris Davenport
Ralph Maxson

January 18
Mame Stone
Verna Williams

January 19
Callen Christopher
David Rabold
Calvin Small

January 20
Margaret Bruner
William Moore

January 22
Jim Stickles

January 27
Charlotte Garvin

January 28
Benjamin Davenport

January 30
Evan Goad
Joe McFarland
Katie Thomison

January 31
Stone Begley
Nick Johnson
John Van Ness
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<td>9:30am TaiChi</td>
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**January Calendar of Events**
Wednesday, January 15th, is the deadline for the February 2014 newsletter. Send your information to sheilareeves@reevesfirst.com

Full Color Newsletters are available online at www.bgpres.org

The Presbyterian Church
Bowling Green, Kentucky
(270)843-4707
www.bgpres.org

The Presbyterian Church Staff

Dr. Matthew W. Covington
Pastor

Rev. Kara Hildebrandt
Associate Pastor

Thomas N. Moody
Organist, Pastoral Assistant

Wayne Pope
Choir Director

David Muffett
Director of Youth Ministries / Property Administration

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Treasurer

Cheryl Gregory
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Director, Preschool Learning Center

Cedric Whitney
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Michael Spencer
Sunday Sexton

Sheila Reeves
Newsletter Editor

“Our reason for being is to manifest the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed so that disciples are made by means of inspiring and engaging worship, relevant and reliable education, compassionate and caring fellowship, meaningful and magnanimous outreach, to the glory of God.”