

### **Rally Day September 11<sup>th</sup>**

For this year's Rally Day our theme will be "Growing in Faith." In worship we will hear from the various Classes we offer on Sunday mornings. During our catered Bar-B-Que Lunch we will hear from the other ministries of our church.. As Carrie Martin has been sharing we will also have a "Silent Auction." If you have new or gently used items or can secure special gifts from businesses you know or are a part of, please contact us and let us know. I'm planning to offer your choice of a "House Concert" or a "House Sermon"-personalized on your favorite scripture! Proceeds from the Silent Auction will help us replenish our Christian Education supplies for the year and also benefit the Diana Gray Child Care Center that is sponsored by Church Women United.

### **Table Tennis Tournament Sunday, September 25th**

Mike Wilson issued a challenge to the Christian Education Committee to help hold a Table Tennis Tournament. The Committee has taken up the challenge and would like to see how much interest there is in holding one on Sunday afternoon, September 25. We think it would be a great Fellowship Activity for all ages and could possibly be one that might draw people from our Community to come and visit our church. We will advertise it along with our Silent Auction for our Rally Day on September 11<sup>th</sup>. It will be my last day before my Knee Replacement surgery, so if I blow out my knee in the tournament I can get a new one the next day. If you are interested tell me or Mike Wilson or email me at [jimgill@baytownpres.org](mailto:jimgill@baytownpres.org). We have a Table Tennis Table in our youth room if you want to find a partner and start practicing now.

### **Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 1st**

On Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Witness and Outreach Committee will sponsor a Blessing of the Animals event on our church grounds. We hope to observe this along with other churches in town in honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. We want to host it this year in conjunction with our Baytown Animal Food Pantry and ask those who come to bring donations for our Food For The Furry Program. Because I will still be recovering from my knee surgery I have asked our Pastor Emeritus, the Rev. Dr. Richard Kleiman, who is a veteran of these proceedings, to come and be our official "Blesser." If you have a Pop Up Awning you could provide so we can have some shade, let us know. We are still working on the details but I hope you and your pets will save the date and plan to be a part of this outreach to our community.

### **Kirking of the Tartans Sunday, October 30th**

On Sunday October 30, the Worship, Music and Spiritual Development Committee is going to sponsor a "Kirking of the Tartans," or "Blessing of the Tartans" as a part of our morning worship service.

This is a tradition in Presbyterian Churches that dates back to July 25, 1745, when the young Prince Charles Edward Stewart returned from exile in France and landed at Lochnanaugh in Scotland where he began to enlist the Highland Clans for an unsuccessful attempt to dethrone George II of England and to restore the Scottish throne to the Royal House of Stewart.

Following this defeat, to subdue the vanquished Highlanders, the Act of Proscription was passed that banned the wearing of any sign of the Tartan, forbade any speaking in Gaelic, outlawed Scottish music, dancing, or the playing of the pipes. The Scottish Highlanders subsequently hid pieces of tartan under their clothing and brought them to church for a secret blessing or *kirkin'* at a particular point in the service by the minister.

During the 36 years following the Disarming Act of 1746 when the Hanovarian English government strictly enforced this ban, during the Sunday service Highlanders would touch the hidden cloth when the minister gave the benediction, thus rededicating themselves to God and their Scottish heritage.

The Kirkin' o' the Tartans service was created or "revived" during World War II by Reverend Peter Marshall, perhaps best known by the biographical book and film [A Man Called Peter](#) — who was originally from southwest Scotland and at one time pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. In 1947, he served as Chaplain of the U.S. Senate.

In order to encourage Scottish-Americans to sign up to fight on behalf of Great Britain, Peter Marshall recreated the Kirkin' o' the Tartans ceremony to try to instill pride among Scottish-Americans in their Scottish homeland. The ceremony was at that time held in Presbyterian churches of Scottish heritage across the US.

We at Faith want to hold this service in hopes of reaching those in Baytown who are of Scottish heritage who might be in search of a church home. We are in the planning stages of this special celebration so contact me if you are interested in helping with this celebration.