

First Presbyterian Church  
515 Court St.  
Portsmouth, VA 23704-3605

Pastor:  
Rev. Kerry Knox Westerwick

# FIRST PRES

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June, 2011

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## KERRY-GRAM

*"Summer time and the living is easy. Catfish are jumpin' and the cotton is high." ("Summer Time," by George Gershwin and DuBose Heyward)*

A significant part of my work day is now spent with ear buds in my ears listening to Pandora Internet Radio. It's the best invention I've discovered this year. Friends, I can create my own radio stations based on songs or artists I enjoy. This morning's bright sunshine and clear blue skies made me think of "Summer Time." Now, "Billie Holiday" is on the newest Pandora station singing, "Your daddy's rich and your mama's good looking..."

Summer time is the best. The days are long, the nights are warm, and the breeze is sweet with magnolia. I love it, I feel like napping in the hammock and watching the world go by, making fresh peach ice cream and going on a picnic. Man, do I enjoy summer!

I pray the same for the members of this church – to enjoy summer time as God intended, as the season of the year when God gives us "... every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food" [Genesis 1:29]. God provides abundantly for each season of the year and an integral part of his provision is time to enjoy them. So enjoy, for God delights in our pleasure.

Still, don't forget the church. Don't forget your home. The ministry of our Lord will continue without abatement. The prayers of the Spirit will lift ceaselessly. The provision of the Father shall not stop. Neither shall we. Devote yourselves to prayer and mission. Provide for all the saints and contribute to the church. Feed the hungry, heal the sick, comfort the grieving. God provides to these through you. Just because it's summertime and the living is easy, don't forget the church.

Summer blessings!



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On Pentecost Sunday, June 12, we will welcome new member **Jen Singer** by Profession of Faith. We will also celebrate the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. This means we will reaffirm our baptismal vows. In addition, Pastor Kerry will use water from the font and sprinkle the congregation, using a sprig of rosemary for remembrance. The practice is entirely Reformed and Presbyterian, yet may seem peculiar to our community.

The liturgical renewal that is spreading throughout the Presbyterian Church seeks to reclaim ancient practices of the church. Using water and word are just two of those practices. The living water that Christ provides refreshes, cleanses, and renews. On Pentecost, as we rejoice in the birth of the church, witness its growth and welcome a new member, we pray the Spirit infuse us with a renewed sense of what it means to live the baptized life.

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## PASTOR ON STUDY LEAVE

Pastor Kerry will be on study leave from June 20 – July 3. Preaching in her absence are Elder Linda Smith of Simonsdale Presbyterian Church (6/26) and the Rev. Brett Baddorf of Old Dominion Baptist Campus Ministry (7/3).

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**FAITH IS NOT JUST KNOWING  
THAT GOD CAN...  
IT IS BELIEVING THAT HE WILL**

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### MEALS ON WHEELS

First Presbyterian, Portsmouth helps provide this important mission to our community. It requires a few hours each month. Meals are delivered by volunteers from our church family on the third Thursday. The food and the visits mean a lot to the recipients of the meals, as some of them don't get any other outside contact. The ones who deliver the meals can attest that it means a lot to them, as well. The Meals on Wheels program is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.

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### GIVE/GET A RIDE

This program exists for members who need a ride or who are available to give a ride.

IF YOU NEED A RIDE, whether it's to the church, or to a medical appointment, please call the church office, or call Agnes McFadden at 399-3190.

They will need 2 days' advance notice to make arrangements.

IF YOU CAN GIVE A RIDE TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS ONE, please call to let the ministry organizers know of your willingness and availability.

ALSO, PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY and all those who participate in it.

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### FALL FESTIVAL OF LEARNING



This fall, we will have a Festival of Learning. Exact dates and times will be advertised as the event gets closer, but now is your opportunity to provide input as to

subjects and speakers. Suggestions from the congregation are welcome.

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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NURSERY

We need volunteers to attend to our littlest disciples. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Laura McRary at 484-7607.

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### LEARNING THE PRACTICE OF WORSHIP

Children 7 years old and above are encouraged to remain in worship for the entire service. The development of young people as Christians includes active experience and familiarity, as well as participation in the worship service. They learn the practice of worship and become familiar and comfortable with the worship experience. Thus, they and the church benefit from their presence. Children 6 and younger will continue to be welcome in the nursery.



*Worship*

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### ATTENDANCE AT EARLY SERVICE

Attendance at the early service, "A Moment Apart," has fallen in recent weeks. To help the pastor and Worship Ministry discern what, if any, changes to make, please consider the following questions and send your responses to [preacherkerry@gmail.com](mailto:preacherkerry@gmail.com) or drop them off at the office.

- If you regularly attend the early service, what *specifically* would help make this service meaningful for you?
- If you do not typically attend, what *specifically* would inspire you to come?

Thanks!

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### BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

The Monday noon Bible Study is on leave until July 11. We will return to our informal study of Joshua.

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SUMMER CONCERT SERIES RETURNS



The ever popular summer series of evening musical events begins Wednesday, June 29. Supper in the Fellowship Hall starts at 6:00 pm. There is a small charge for dinner and reservations are requested to ensure there is enough food. Cost is \$5.

**Summer Concerts**

Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. in our courtyard, and are free and open to the public. On the schedule for this summer are:

- June 29 ..... Tidewater Pipes and Drums
- July 13..... Two for Fun
- July 27..... String Ties
- August 10 ..... Top Hat
- August 24 ..... Sporting Molly

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**Communion Note: Since Pastor Kerry will be on study leave July 3, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the following Sunday, July 10.**

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DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER

Articles or information to be published in the newsletter must be submitted to the Editor by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. Submissions should be sent to Lane Pittman:

Postal Mail: 614 Chandler Harper Drive  
 Portsmouth, VA 23701  
 Email: [slp4149@aol.com](mailto:slp4149@aol.com)  
 Phone: 757-405-3554

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MAY ATTENDANCE and OFFERINGS

Date	Total Attendance [Worship & SS]
5/1	75
5/8	65
5/15	81
5/22	77
5/29	71
Total attendance for May:	369
Total offerings for May:	\$19,262.26
Monthly needs:	\$18,000.00

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REMINDER FROM THE SHEPHERD COMMITTEE

Paul Butler would like to remind you that if are serving as a Shepherd and plan to be out of town – or otherwise unavailable for more than a couple of days, you should please contact him by phone at 393-1398, or by e-mail at [butler.alicepaul@verizon.net](mailto:butler.alicepaul@verizon.net). This way, your Lambs can be contacted, should the Shepherd list be activated.

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NEWS from the CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRY

Adrienne Knight and Trudy Webb have agreed to be co-coordinators of Vacation Bible School this summer. We will not be holding VBS jointly with St. John's Episcopal at their facility, as we have done for the last few years. We have decided to try something different this year, so watch the newsletter and bulletins for more information as plans develop.

**Pastor Kerry Westerwick** presented a very interesting program after Wednesday dinner on May 11 about the sacrament of baptism. A session on communion entitled "Bread for the World" will be presented after an upcoming Wednesday dinner. Watch the bulletin for the date.

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**MUSING: COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY:**

A COMMITTEE IS a group of folks who volunteer to devote time and energy to accomplish certain agreed-upon plans and projects and services within defined program areas on behalf of Christ's church.

A MINISTRY IS a group of folks who volunteer to devote time and energy to accomplish certain agreed-upon plans and projects and services within defined program areas on behalf of Christ's church.

ON ONE LEVEL, 'ministry' and 'committee' are two different names for the same thing. A committee may have a number of ministries it serves, oversees, and budgets for. Likewise, a ministry team may have a number of projects and program areas it is responsible for. Under the ministry structure, the group and some of the projects may have different names, but the work of the church still gets done. The oversight of the Session is still there; and congregation members still can volunteer for and be involved with work they have interest in and for which they have gifts. So – if there's no real difference – why change?

BUT, IS THERE no difference, really? There is a difference, although it's a subtle one – but one that's still important. As I see it – as I have seen it for a number of years – the difference is in the reason we belonged to a particular committee in the past, and the reason a relatively small number of people have been shouldering a relatively large proportion of the responsibility for the church's work. I have experienced first-hand how difficult it is to try to get a slate of officers, or even put together a nominating committee.

THERE ARE THOSE folks who readily accept a nomination for office or allow themselves to be chosen for other duties, but don't bother to come to the meetings. There are those who – more honestly – immediately decline to be considered because they are unwilling to make the commitment or know they can't live up to the commitment, for whatever reasons.

THEN THERE ARE those faithful few who always say yes to any request to take on more responsibility. The congregation tends to call on and depend on the same willing folks over and over. In many cases we do so even past the point at which these blessed few feel "burned out" and they take on the work with a sense of resignation that,

if they don't do it, it won't get done. Some even express this resignation; but – God bless them – they do the work anyway.

THIS IS NOT meant as a dismissal or a criticism of those people who have served – and continue to serve – on church committees. Anyone who chooses to see it that way either has not read this article thoughtfully or has deliberately chosen to misinterpret what has been said here. First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, would be in dire straits, indeed – and might not even be here – if it weren't for the hard work and dedication of these wonderful folks. But we need to "give them a break" and take some of the burden off their shoulders.

COMMITMENT AND COMMITTEE come from the same root word. The original word is of old Anglo-French origin, and meant "someone to whom a thing is given to keep." In the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was expanded to mean a group of such people. Perhaps we should be mindful of that and see those who serve a committee or a ministry as having been entrusted – commissioned, if you will – to keep a certain portion of what Christ calls on us to do as his church.

THE CHURCH'S WORK and the Lord's work are the same thing; it must be done joyfully, not with resignation. It should be viewed as a calling and a privilege – a ministry. We shelter, feed, and comfort the needy or homeless because it is a service we have been called to – not because somebody in the church has taken it on. We teach young people the ways of Christ and we lead the study of his word because it is an honor to do so – not because the Sunday School Superintendent begged us to or we're the only ones who said yes. We organize or assist in worship because it is a privilege to do so – not because "somebody has to do it." We look after the financial health or the physical property of the church because good stewardship of resources enables the work of the church – not because these things must be done.

ON ONE LEVEL, it doesn't matter what we call it. What matters is joyful ministry and service from the heart, as opposed to tired, resigned willingness to serve. That is the difference; and that is the reason we have been called upon to re-think the ministry we perform.

Lane Pittman

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUP

Diane & David Turner are the coordinators of the Youth Group in our church. There are two age groups: one for 7 to 9 years; one for 10 to 17. The older group might need to be divided further for some gatherings, depending on future growth of that group. Volunteers are needed and will be sought among anyone who would enjoy spending time with young people.

A set curriculum and a calendar of yearly events are planned. The groups will be named and goals will be established in consultation with the youth.

The plan for meetings is as follows:

Both groups meet at the church once a month, starting at 7pm on Friday, June 10.

The first hour will include ice-breaker games, food, and fellowship, followed by Biblical lesson

At 8:30pm, the younger group will leave, and

The older group will stay at the church for further activities.

The youth groups will be involved in outreach programs such as:

Collecting canned goods for the church food closet

Helping at Oasis

Grounds maintenance around the church

Visitation of shut-ins

Church dinner preparation

Other programs will be added as time goes on.

Our youth will be encouraged to bring friends to all events, unless announced otherwise.

**Fellowship**

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The Hospitality Hour on June 11 will be hosted by the "It's Not Your Mother's Sunday School Class." Please bring something to share.

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

9	Doris Leitner
10	Matthew McRary
12	Pete Brown
14	Trudy Webb
15	Chris Joyner
16	Bobby Lawrence
17	Gabrielle Furman
20	Diane Fletcher
25	Mason Winkler
26	Mackenzie Taylor
28	Barbara Livingston
29	Nan Jennings
	Liz James

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**The Presbyterian Outlook** is a magazine published by the Church for the Church. Group discounts are available for one-year subscriptions. The cost is \$44.95 per year *if* 3 or more households subscribe. Call the church office or Pastor Kerry if you are interested in subscribing.

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NOTES

- EIGHTEEN POUNDS of Notions for the Needy were delivered last week to PARC. Collection baskets are located in the Friendship Class and in the Court St. entrance to the education building. Remember to save those samples, hotel notions, and small gifts that might be useful.
- PW gathered for their Spring Gathering and Birthday Celebration on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. A budget was adopted, new officers introduced, and members who have passed away in the last year were remembered. [A gift will be given to the Friendship Garden, in memory of Elizabeth Stephenson, Mary Rice, and Cathran Harrell.] A lovely luncheon followed, consisting of salads, breads, and tea with a birthday cake in honor of **Polly Moore**, who is 95

[Pres. Wmn., cont'd]

- Also, as part of the PW luncheon program, **Barbara Newman and Diane Chay of Green Acres PW** led the group in a "trip to Kinshasa". Barbara and Diane went with the PEVA delegation to the Congo last summer. They had the opportunity to meet with sister churches and learn of the work being done by PW there. They presented a video and music, which were exciting to see and hear. We saw some of those who had visited our church two years ago as part of the delegation here.
- **Barbara and Diane wore dresses made by the women of the Kinshasa church, using pedal sewing machines given by Bayside Presbyterian.** The women in Kinshasa use pedal sewing machines to make clothing for sale because what electricity there is may not always be available. In honor of Barbara and Diane, a gift was given to the PW Children's Feeding Program. [Through this project, children are fed 3 days a week. The goal is to have feeding centers within walking distance of all children in the wide-spread city of Kinshasa.]
- Five new clear plastic pitchers (pretty in spite of being plastic) are now in use in the kitchen. These are a gift of PW.



## Presbyterian Women

**Circles 1 (let by Agnes McFadden) and 2 (led by Clara Spanos)** will meet in early June for their last meeting of the year, resuming in September. The Bible Study for 2011-2012 will be the Beatitudes.

**PW takes a Thank Offering in the Circles each fall.** The PCUSA/PW-identified recipient of last fall's offering was a grant to support establishing an after-school program for girls in the Kananga area, which will focus on English and computer skills. A \$32,724 grant has been approved for this program to operate over two academic years. Each year forty high school girls will receive 135 hours of instruction in computer and 135 hours of instruction in English. The hope is that these skills will both improve the girls' employment prospects and encourage families to view their daughters' education as a good investment.

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### CHURCH SCHEDULE for JUNE 2011

Sunday, June 5	9am	A Moment Apart
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship (Communion)
Monday, June 6	1215	Bible Study
Wednesday, June 8	7pm	Choir
Sunday, June 12		PENTECOST SUNDAY
	9am	A Moment Apart
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Monday, June 13	1215	Bible Study
Wednesday, June 15	7pm	Choir
Sunday, June 19		TRINITY SUNDAY
	9am	A Moment Apart
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Monday, June 20 –		
Sunday, July 3		Pastor Kerry on Study Leave
Wednesday, June 22	7pm	Choir
Sunday, June 26	9am	A Moment Apart
	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship
Wednesday, June 29	6 pm	Dinner
	7pm	1st Summer Concert

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### MINISTRIES OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

#### CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY:



This ministry encompasses Shepherds led by Paul Butler; Wed. Night Dinners, led by Linda Hackworth; Breakfasts, led by Barbara Bond; Welcome Ministry led by Kendall Rhodes;

[Ministries, cont'd.]

and other "fellowship" events (such as the church picnic), led by Claudia. We are pretty well-organized, but can always use volunteers. If you would like to host a Wednesday night dinner, please contact Linda Hackworth. With the summer concert series, we will try to host a dinner prior to each one, if volunteers are available. Otherwise, the dinners are usually once a month. Kendall would like someone to prepare and present "Welcome Bags" to visitors on Sundays when she is away.

#### WORSHIP MINISTRY:

The Worship Ministry is still asking for feedback about the early service. Plans are being discussed for two special services: a service of healing and wholeness, and a reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. Plans also are being made for Pentecost, June 12, 2011, and Trinity Sunday, June 19, 2011.

The Worship Ministry will be discussing re-introducing the Friendship Register/Book ("Who's Who in the Pew"); the inclusion of the name of **Rev. George Oehler**, recent intentional interim pastor, on the Minister's Plaque at the front of the church; development of a wedding packet that would include policies, guidelines and fee schedules; and introduction of a children's service in 2012, possibly for the Sunday following Easter Sunday.

#### SHEPHERD MINISTRY:

The shepherds try to stay informed about births, serious illnesses, deaths, and other significant events in the lives of members, but they might miss something. If you know of such information that might have been missed, please let your Shepherd know. Also, Shepherds please note that if you plan to be unavailable for more than a couple of days – out of town, etc., please contact Paul Butler and let him know, so your Lambs can be contacted, should the Shepherd list be activated. A full listing of Shepherds and Lambs will be re-printed in next month's newsletter.

*(Occasionally reports from the different church ministries will be published in the newsletter. Below the reader will find the first such reports. More reports will appear in the next issue. - Editor)*

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#### OASIS

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink....I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.*  
*Matthew 25: 35, 40*



Serving breakfast at Oasis has been an important and successful ministry of First Presbyterian Church for many years. The need continues, and the opportunity for service is ever before us. We hope that all of the groups who so willingly helped in 2010 will be able to continue this ministry in 2011.

The proposed schedule for 2011 is shown below, along with the guidelines for serving.

The Oasis Social Ministry is now located at **800 Williamsburg Avenue**. Parking is in the Social Services lot closest to the Oasis building. If there are any questions or problems, please feel free to contact me at (H) 399-1658 or (C) 418-0764. I am willing to help or provide a casserole when needed. Thank you all for your faithful service during 2010 in preparing and serving breakfast to the needy and hungry people of Portsmouth. Your willingness to help is much appreciated.

In Christian Love,  
Anne Porter

#### OASIS BREAKFAST SCHEDULE FOR 2011

[remaining mos.]

June 20	Friendship Class
July 18	Open Ends Class
August 15	Young Adult Class and Youth
September 19	Diaconate
October 17	Friendship Class
November 21	Session
December 19	Service Ministry

**GUIDELINES for OASIS:**

Plan to serve about 85 to 100 people unless you are notified otherwise. Volunteers usually provide the casseroles or whatever else is being served as the main course. Someone needs to shop for the items listed (i.e., juice, milk, coffee, cereal, sugar, fruit). Whoever does the shopping needs to keep the receipt and present it to Mary Myers to be reimbursed out of the Operation Attack account. On your day of serving at Oasis, please follow this timeline closely:

**6:00 AM** - arrive at Oasis location. Marty Cloudsley, the regular Oasis volunteer on Mondays, will be there to let us in. He'll start the coffee.

**6:00 to 7:00 AM** Some of the group begins to prepare or warm up the food. Put salt, pepper, sugar, and creamer on the table with the coffee urn. Set out bowls on the bar and fill with dry cereal. Oasis provides cereal but we bring some in ourselves. Set out cups on the bar and fill them with juice. Pour milk into two pitchers and place pitchers on the table with the coffee urn. Also, place two pitchers of water on the same table.

If sweet rolls are available, serve them on the table next to the coffee table. Put napkins and plastic forks and spoons on the serving bar. Knives are not provided. If butter is needed with what is being served, place one serving of butter on the individual plates.

A little before 7:00, begin to prepare the plates with whatever food that has been brought. Place prepared plates on the counter. People will form a line to pick up their cereal, juice and plates.

**7:00 AM** Marty will open the doors at 7:00 and will give a meal ticket to each person as he/she enters. Collect the tickets as people come to pick up their food.

As soon as a few folks have been served and seated, lead them in a short blessing. Be sure that everyone has been served before seconds are announced. If available, seconds are served around 7:45.

**7:15 to 8:20** You need to wash up as you go. Pots, pans, pitchers, etc. used must be washed up before you leave. We bring our own paper products now, which are available in the Operation Attack closet.

Return condiments and unused cereal to their places.

Take back to the church any unused paper products or Shedd's Spread which we provided.

Marty takes out the trash.

**Who Supplies What****Oasis will supply:**

Sugar, creamer, salt & pepper  
Cereal  
Sweet rolls, if available  
Coffee

**We will supply:**

Juice (SunnyD'light, 5gal.)  
Milk (1% or 2% - 5 gal.)  
Breakfast foods incl. fruit  
Coffee (1 13 oz./ larger)  
Cereal-Sweetened (several lg. bags)  
Sugar (5 lbs.)  
Paper products –  
100 bowls, 100 divided plates, 100 8 oz cps (use same cup for coffee and juice)

*Please remember this ministry in your prayers.*

**THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!**

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**PRAYER for the NATION**

**[Attributed to Billy Graham]**

Heavenly Father,

We come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know your word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it a lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed the unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and Set Us Free.

Amen