

Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

TIPS FOR CELEBRATING YOUR PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE

- Design a “heritage banner” that incorporates images and symbols of your congregation’s past and its hopes for the future.
- Ask members for pictures from past church events. Use these to create a slide show, display, or narrated video.
- Borrow one of the traveling displays from the Presbyterian Historical Society for use at a church event. A list of displays and a reservation form is available at www.history.pcusa.org/synods/exhib.html.
- Record oral history interviews with long-time members of your congregation. Transcribe selected interviews and make a booklet of memories to distribute. This may be a project your youth group would enjoy as it draws the generations together.
- Host an auction to “rent” your pews. Renting pews was a common practice for raising money in American churches before the modern system of pledging. You could designate the money raised for a special cause.
- Have your church’s vital records microfilmed. The Presbyterian Historical Society has a brochure which outlines the important reasons for microfilming your records. You can also view this information online at www.history.pcusa.org/synods/mfilm1.html.
- Organize a cemetery tour to learn about some of the founding families of your church.
- Consult with your church musician or choir leader on the choice of a “heritage hymn” or anthem for your congregation. Or based on the history of your congregation, draft new lyrics for use with a favorite hymn.
- Write a series of historical minutes to be presented during worship services throughout the year. They can be about events or people in the life of the church.
- Use the church newsletter or bulletin to commemorate the anniversary of significant events in the church’s past.