



Reverend Caroline Kelly



## Faith Story Spotlight June 2017

### Pictures of the Easter Egg Blessing Milestone Moment



Pastor Caroline tells the Easter story using Resurrection Eggs before the egg hunt.



Caring Conversations took place while eggs were colored. After blessing the eggs, parents and grandparents delivered them to members who are homebound.

### Meet the Reverend Caroline Kelly and her Faith Formation Team at First Presbyterian in Cumberland, MD



#### Milestones Ministry Resource Used:

The Youth and Children and the Adult Milestones Ministry manuals and Milestone Moments for the Home

#### Two stories about Milestones used recently:

##### Story #1: The Easter Egg Blessing for the Home

Ann Kellermeyer and Cindy Corley organized the Easter Egg Blessing. It took place in a private home. Here is what Ann had to say about it:

Twenty-five people gathered for a Blessing of Easter Eggs in Ann's backyard over breakfast. There were 11 children, ages 2-12, with friends, parents and grandparents enjoying a beautiful spring morning. After having a breakfast snack, the children colored eggs. While we were coloring we talked about memories folks had about coloring eggs and how Easter eggs remind us of the Easter



Easter Egg Blessing was done at the home of a member.

## Pictures of the Driver's License Milestone Event



Giftng during the Driver's License Milestone



Observing the Driver's License Milestone while enjoying Dinner and Caring Conversations at a local park with parents and youth who recently received their driver's license.

## Glossary of Milestones Ministry Resources

The resources at Milestones Ministry continue to grow.

Here is a brief description of each:

### Taking Faith Home:

This is an annual resource that

story.

The children then gathered on a rug in the yard as Pastor Caroline told the Easter Story with the prop of plastic eggs filled with symbols of Easter. Each child was given a different colored egg. As they were called upon to open their egg, Pastor Caroline talked with them about the symbol of Easter that was in the egg and how that symbol connected to the Easter story. When Caroline explained that Jesus had died but was still alive in our hearts, one girl replied, "That's why my heart is beating so fast!" Such a precious moment!

The children then had a "hunt" for plastic eggs. Inside each egg was a piece of candy and a Bible verse or saying such as "Jesus loves you".

After having a prayer to bless the eggs, the children packed small bags with a plastic egg and one of the eggs that they had colored. Each child and their parents or grandparents delivered a bag to a homebound member of the congregation.

The child's connection of her beating heart with the news that Jesus was alive within her captured the message of Easter for everyone there and gave us a concrete way to remember that Jesus is always with us.

### An invitation was sent to families and friends:

**Easter Egg Hunt and Blessing**



**April 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM**

---

A Milestones Ministry Moment  
for young children, grandchildren,  
their families and friends!

Activities includes breakfast, devotional, egg  
coloring, egg hunting, and a blessing for our eggs.

Please RSVP to Cindy

### Story #2: Getting a Driver's License

*Laura Fiscus and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Robby May, organized this Milestone event. It was held at a local park. Here is what Ann Kellermeyer had to say about it:*

The Youth Ministry Coordinator and a parent of a youth planned and coordinated this event. We met at a park pavilion for dinner and conversation. Three young men who have obtained their provisional licenses or plan to shortly met with parents and other members of our congregation over dinner. The youth dispersed then to different tables to talk with folks about their revelations after driving for a few years and the youth shared what their most difficult challenges were as well as something that they were looking forward to when they got their license.

We then listened to a Bible verse and discussed how it pertained to getting a driver's license. During the discussion at the table, we, the members of the congregation, got to know the young person at our table a little bit better as we shared experiences. We talked about the many ways that they could serve the community when

provides a different bulletin insert each week during the church year. This enables individuals and families to bring the Christian faith into the home and daily life by experiencing the Word of God through the Four Key Faith Practices that are also used in Milestones Ministry modules and Moments. Using Taking Faith Home with Milestones will help strengthen a congregation's lifelong faith formation ministry. [Click here.](#)

#### **Taking Faith Home Cards:**

The Taking Faith Home Cards are designed to allow individuals and families to nurture their faith at any time and place! Each card contains a variety of faith-building activities, allowing one to pick and choose what is most beneficial in your current setting. [Click here for more info.](#)

**Milestone Modules:** Each module includes a Four Key Faith Practices outline for three different settings: Cross+Generational, Home, and a Follow-Up. Also included are tips for leaders, an appendix with additional suggestions, and a Worship Blessing, and an appendix that includes ideas for outreach.

- **Child and Youth:** There are 18 that can be purchased individually or together in a manual. [Click here to see the titles.](#)
- **Adult :** There are 12 that can be purchased individually or together in a manual. [Click here to see the titles.](#)

**Milestone Moments for the Home:** There are 10 at this time and we add new ones regularly. These guides are a two-page design that can be used in a small group setting or the home. [Click here to see the titles.](#)

**Gifting Stones:** If you choose to use a stone as a visual reminder of the Milestone, a stone for gifting has been designed by our potter and artist, Dawn Deines-Christensen for each Milestone module. Other gifting suggestions are also given in each module appendix. [Click here for more information about the Gifting Stones.](#)

Consistency is a strength and our success lies in **The Four Key Faith Practices** listed below that are at the heart of everything we do:

they had the freedom to drive.

An updated, revised Driver's License Milestone Covenant was passed out to parents, youth and others attending. The Covenant will be discussed at home by the families. We will have a follow-up meeting to discuss how each family adapted the Covenant to fit their situation. It seems an excellent tool for families to discuss the repercussions of the licensing process.

As we closed with a prayer, blessing the youth and their families, key chains were given to the new drivers with flashlights attached to remind them that Jesus is lighting the way.

#### **An excerpt from the First Presbyterian newsletter:**

### **GETTING A DRIVER'S LICENSE: WHAT'S GOD GOT TO DO WITH IT?**



Join us for a potluck picnic supper and conversation about the connection between this important rite of passage and our relationship with God, as we gift and bless these soon-to-be licensed drivers.

*Many thanks to First Presbyterian for sharing these stories with us. We look forward to hearing more about your congregation and how you are nurturing faith lives for all ages. Not to mention the impact your faith formation ministry has as an outreach tool in the community.*

*Blessings in your ministry!*

First Presbyterian's website can be found at:  
<http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/>

# "Grow the church by growing people in faith."

Visit our website: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org) and like us on [Facebook](#) page and join us for conversations on our [Facebook group page](#).

Milestones Ministry,LLC Website - [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

David Anderson - [danderson@milestonesministry.org](mailto:danderson@milestonesministry.org)

Debbie Streicher - [dstreicher@milestonesministry.org](mailto:dstreicher@milestonesministry.org)

*The Milestones Ministry Mission is to provide congregations and households with resources and coaching services to nurture the Christian faith and reach out to others with the love of God in Christ.*

STAY CONNECTED

