

**The Annual Report
Of the
Congregation
Of
First Presbyterian Church
Of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania
For the year ending
December 31, 2014**

**First Presbyterian Church
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
February 1, 2015
11:45 a.m.**

Call to Order for the Congregational Meeting

Opening Worship

Minutes of the Congregation and Corporation Meeting of February 2, 2014

Statistical Report

Reports of Pastor, Staff, and Committees

Report of the Nominating Committee

Report of Church Treasurer for 2014

Action on Reports

Preview 2015 Budget

Adjournment of Congregational Meeting

Call to Order for Corporation Meeting

Action on the Congregational Meeting

Adjournment of Corporation Meeting

Closing Prayer and Benediction

CHURCH MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIED DURING 2014

Pam Carrington

Ruth Post

Priscilla Sproul

Dave Comly

Isaac Sponaugle

Rollin Williams

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 2014 Financial Statement / 2015 Proposed Budget	 Green Pages		
 2014 Statistical Report			
 Total Church Membership as of December 31, 2013	 543		
Additions:			
Received by Profession of Faith	0		
Received by Reaffirmation of Faith	6		
Received through Certificate of Transfer	4		
Reinstatement	0		
 Losses:			
Certificate of Transfer	5		
Removed	0		
Death	<u>6</u>		
 Total Church Membership as of December 31, 2014	 542		
 Baptisms - 4	 Funerals - 9	 Marriages - 2	
 Average Sunday Morning Attendance	2014 – 153	2013 - 167	2012 - 179

Pastor's Report

William G. Carter

It is a blessing to serve a vital and lively church. If you drop by our facility, on most days of the week you will hear a steady “buzz” of activity. God continues to be generous to us, sending energetic and thoughtful people who do the work of Jesus Christ in the real world. We are not a secret enclave hidden from sight, but a living faith community shining God’s Light on the hill. We live, not by hype and high energy drinks, but by the root of the word “enthusiasm” –literally “en theos,” in God, who enfleshes us as the body of Christ. It is a deep privilege to be your pastor.

These are odd times for the North American church. There is great indifference to the things of God, and we are witnessing the passing of a generation that built institutions and supported them. For any church to thrive, it must *return to its roots as a movement*, and claim who we are as a Spirit-filled community. It is an awkward shift for Presbyterians, conditioned as we are by generations of structure, tradition, and order. For us the transition is slow and steady, like steering an ocean liner.

Yet our church stays on the move. The evidence is seen in how we are increasingly doing our Gospel work together: non-essential meetings are trimmed, committees are simplified, a focus on action rather than deliberation, bringing fresh approaches to old routines, building friendships with one another, and persisting in the essentials: prayer, praise, hearing God speak in scripture, doing charitable action, and relating to all in need.

Can we be a movement of people who follow Christ? Sure. It’s well underway. Christian community begins with people connecting to other people, especially in a suburb of anonymous neighbors. Clarks Summit can be a lonely town, and our fellowship is the context for living out the Good News of Jesus. If God grants that our numbers grow, that kind of growth comes by inviting the people we know to join us. It’s that simple. How are you doing in that regard?

As a pastor, I hear God’s continuing call to thicken the spiritual life of our community, to add depth and substance to the life we share. It is long-term work, not flash and dazzle. Recently I reflected on my pastoral priorities as a pastor. Here is my current list of values:

- To preach what is honest and real
- To praise the Holy Unseen so we might name it when it appears
- To pursue direct experiences of Christ’s power and mercy
- To push us toward what is life-giving, rather than deadly and diminishing
- To lead us in loving whomever God sends to us
- To welcome the quiet gifts of Sabbath as we renew ourselves for the rest of the week
- To ground our activism in prayer

Intriguing moments took place in 2014. A weekly hour of silence on Wednesdays in Lent gathered two or three people who hungered for it, so we will do it again. Yale Divinity School nurtured my interest in offering jazz-based healing services, and our saints are finding it helpful. Preparing for a steady teaching load here has consistently filled my tank. A week of spiritual leave took me to consider the life-giving power of singing with Bobby McFerrin, so I took elder Judy Cutler with me. Along the way, there have been numerous God-reconciling moments, particularly in the funerals, baptisms, and worship services of which I was a part. It has been a very rich year.

Thank you for the time and treasure that you devote to the work of God in the Church on the Hill. You are making a holy difference, and I deeply appreciate it.

Director of Educational Ministries

Tina Ide

The end of any year brings a time for us to reflect upon the past several months and evaluate what has been. Moments like these tend to elicit a multitude of thoughts, feelings and emotions. As I look back on what we as a church have shared this last year, what comes to mind is “it has been quite a year.” Vacation Bible School children learned how God has created them each to be unique, our youth dug into the parables of Jesus, adults pondered over Paul’s letter to the Philippians, we joined together as a community for a variety of seasonal events and so much more. The whole of what we do is completely dependent upon the willing, energetic volunteers like you. A huge thank you to all of you who support Christian Education whether it is through prayer, providing resources, teaching, encouraging, or inviting others.

Learning is a continual process. The more we learn, the more we grow. Even though growth can often be painful and challenging, it builds character and strength in every aspect of our lives. We read of this reality at the beginning of the book of James. Having now been with you all for over a year, I have learned so much more than I did even just a year ago. I have gained a greater understanding of the personal stories that have shaped you as a church and as individuals. I have greater awareness of what drives us as a church and how we accomplish our work. I also now have a better idea of how to encourage us to learn and grow in our journey of faith. This learning process has certainly come with its ups and downs but it has allowed me to grow in every way possible.

As I reflect upon what I have learned and what I hope we as a church learn, I am beginning to see that we are at a pivotal point of learning. It is a point where we must choose to respond to what we are learning and embrace growth. One of the first turning points for us comes as we enter the third year of our Wednesday W.A.Y. program. I hope you have been able to join us on a Wednesday evening and that the experience led you into deeper understanding of faith. When Christian Education set out to change its time from Sunday mornings to Wednesday evenings, it was determined that in its third year there would be an evaluation of whether to continue forward or make a change. In its first two years, we have learned a lot about what works and what doesn’t work for a Wednesday evening Christian Education program. As we have learned, we have grown and tweaked the program. Entering the third year, I was uncertain what it would bring. But then, I began hearing from a few families who are feeling the hunger pains of faith. They are craving the nourishment of God’s Word, God’s community and time with God in prayer. To satisfy these cravings, they are rediscovering their place in our faith family by joining us on Sundays and Wednesdays. It is overwhelmingly encouraging to see them among us and to hear their stories. These families are seeking family and community among us and their energy and excitement is contagious. At this time, we are still in the evaluation process of the W.A.Y. Whatever decisions are made, my hope is for this new surge of energy to help our Christian Education program grow.

At the start of this year, we made some changes to weekly youth group as a way to encourage students to join us on Sunday evenings. Unfortunately, even with these changes, we still did not gain the interest we hoped for. We did, however, see positive response from the students when it came to monthly events. After praying for direction on the future of the youth ministry, we learned that in order for this program to grow we needed to take a break. This fall we have been seeing a core of students in grades 4-6. With this core, we feel it is time to begin growing the youth ministry. Resuming in January there will be monthly events offered to students in grade 4 and older. Our goal is to begin providing these students with opportunities to connect with the church so that as they continue learning and growing in their faith they will become more actively involved and committed to the church. We are excited for what this opportunity brings.

A final area of growth is this year's confirmation class. Although the number of confirmands may be few, do not be deceived – their faith is big! On the weeks I teach, I am amazed by what our students know and believe. They are hungry to know more about their faith. They are all full of potential and I look forward to what God is and will continue to do in their lives.

So with all the exciting growth we have in front of us, I hope you are asking yourself, "what can I do to help move us from a learning stage into a growth stage?" The answer to that question is "a lot." Be present, be engaged, be excited and be ready for growth. When you see new or returning faces, be intentional about greeting them, learning about them and asking how we can help them. When you see our children and youth around, talk to them, ask them questions and learn more about them. Invite a friend or neighbor to church and tell them why you love your church. When volunteers are needed to teach, to lead, to pray or to donate, take a leap of faith and jump on in! It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a congregation to make growth possible. Growth comes from learning. Change comes from growth. Change comes from stepping out of our comfort zone and trying something you haven't done before or haven't done in a while. When you find yourself in the midst of the change, you might be amazed by what you learn.

Symbols of Christmas Intergenerational Event, December 2014

Youth Retreat with Covenant Church



Weird Animals Vacation Bible School 2014

Music Director's Report 2014

Susan Kelly

The music program at First Presbyterian Church remains strong due in large part to the extreme dedication of those who participate in the program. Singers are welcomed into the Chapel Choir from grades 1 through 6 (directed by Kay Ten Eyck and assisted by Connie Weiss and Kate Glidewell), into the Teen Choir from grades 7 through 12, and then into the adult choir (both directed by Susan Kelly and accompanied by Kay Ten Eyck). Ringers can participate in the Bell Choir, conducted by Dick Cochrane. Additionally, there are opportunities throughout the course of the church year for small instrumental ensembles to perform.

Aside from the normal rehearsals, services, and meetings, there were several additional activities to note:

- Music and Worship planning retreat in July at which services and activities were planned for September 2014-June 2015
- The Wednesday night schedule was again adapted so that the Teen and Chapel choirs now rehearse from 5:30PM-6:10PM, with pizza for both ensembles at 5PM.
- Along with Bill Carter and Connie Weiss, in June I attended the Yale Institute of Sacred Music Congregations Project, during which we worked on the planning of four Jazz Healing Services for the 2014-2015 year.
- Labor Day weekend Jazz Communion Service
- Hosting the Wilkes University Chamber Singers retreat on September 13th-14th
- Hosting numerous concerts in the Arts Series, including a very successful All-Church Recital in November (which included performances by the combined and separate Adult and Teen Choirs, the Chapel Choir, the Bell Choir, an organ/piano duet by Kay Ten Eyck and Bev Bright, and solos by Jessica Hitchcock, Jeff Leas, Kate Glidewell, and Susan Kelly).
- For the fifth year in a row, the Teen and Adult Choirs joined together to form an intergenerational choir for the 9PM service on Christmas Eve.

Special thanks go to all whose volunteerism and generosity of time make my life so much easier, especially John and Connie Weiss, Dick Cochrane, and the members of the Music and Worship Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelly

Budget and Finance Committee

Jim McLaughlin

The approved 2014 Budget was a deficit budget of \$15,300. We ended the year with a deficit of \$14,300. During most of the year, Pledge Income (Acct. #101) ran behind budget. But, thanks to the congregation the Church had strong receipts during November and December. However, pledge income was under budget for the year by \$5,551. For the first time in a number of years, it was necessary to draw \$16,230 on the Enhancement Fund (Acct. #115). The budgeted amount for Acct. #115 was \$23,500. Thanks to the committees, expenses for the year were under budget by \$15,554.

The Church was able to end the year with all of their obligations current.

The Session and the Finance Committee extends a sincere "Thank You" to our congregation for their financial support of the mission of the Church.

We extend to Patti Delaney, a sincere thank you for her service as our Treasurer and to Wayne Griffiths who has accepted our call to the Office of Treasurer. And also to Dave Argust, our Accountant, and to Nancy Owens, Administrator, who kept our Committee on target with current financial information which is "easier said than done"!

Respectfully Submitted: Jim McLaughlin, Chair

Finance Committee Members: Wayne Griffiths (Treasurer), Barbara Brown, Patti Delaney, Bill Lees, Margie Reese, John Rich and Linda Young.

FRANK J COOK
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ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Board of Session
First Presbyterian Church Of Clarks Summit

We have reviewed the accompanying balance sheet of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit as of December 31, 2013, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and change in fund balance for the year then ended, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

A review consists principally of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an examination in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole.

During the course of our financial review of your organization we performed various tests of monthly financial records and corresponding transactions as they related to the overall accounting and financial reporting system.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

The complete report is available
for review in the church office.



Building & Grounds 2014 Summary

Frank Garnecki

- Replaced harsh lighting in Sanctuary with 7 LED lights
- Completed reparations of the basement ceiling and the sinking floor in fellowship hall.
- Improved and increased storage space in basement.
- Had office radiator and roof leaks repaired.
- Added 2 marked handicapped parking spaces in rear lot.
- Erected a concave mirror at the blind corner of the entrance way to rear lot.
- Reinforced all pews at their weak spots.
- Revamped the Narthex, including a chat area and 3 new banners.
- Had session rug professionally cleaned.
- Held a Spring clean-up in May.
- Replaced a boiler water pump.
- Received quotes for new kitchen counter tops but temporarily pended the project due to cost concerns and other priorities.
- General & routine maintenance and/or repairs of all church systems.
- Increased focus on sound system after several malfunctions. Will explore our options in the new year.

Centennial Campaign Committee report

Brian Schillinger

The Centennial Campaign will be concluding in June of 2015. To date, \$93,105 has been received on pledges of \$106,151. The original goal of the campaign was \$150,000. As approved by Session, the total amount pledged was to be divided equally between projects overseen by the Building & Grounds Committee and the Mission & Justice Committee. Building & Grounds determined a need to replace windows in the building with energy efficient, easy to clean windows as well as replace the rug in Fellowship Hall with an easier to keep clean surface. The wall supporting the parking lot along Main Avenue was in danger of collapsing and needed to be repaired. The Mission & Justice Committee divided their projects between International and Local needs. Internationally, NaSonje was given a one-time gift while Groundswell International received funds in four payments of \$5000 each. A detailed report from Groundswell International is included in the Annual Report. Locally UNC's Post Foster Care program has received two payments of \$8500 with the final payment due in June.

The Building & Grounds projects have all been completed and expenditures made during 2013, as follows:

Replacement Windows	\$21,500
Parking Lot wall repairs	\$20,000
Fellowship Hall floor replacement	\$17,153

The Mission & Justice projects were spaced out over the three year period and expenditures made as follows:

NaSonje	\$ 5,500	2013
Groundswell International	\$20,000	Jan & Jun 2013, Jan & Jun 2014
United Neighborhood Center	\$25,500	Jun 2013, Jun 2014, Jun 2015

Both Buildings & Grounds and Mission & Justice reduced their initial project plans based on pledges received. At this time (Jan 2015) the church has received 88% of the pledged amount with many pledges having been fully paid. The committee thanks all who have contributed to the campaign and fulfilled their pledge. We are hopeful that all pledges will be fulfilled by June.

Christian Education and Growth Committee

Jana Schillinger

Each year, the Christian Education committee seeks "to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in such a way as to make a difference in people's lives." To that end, we are supported by a dedicated committee as well as many in the congregation at large -- WAY teachers, Joyful Noise! leaders, Vacation Bible School volunteers...if you have taught, chaperoned, prepared a meal, helped decorate, made phone calls, or otherwise supported our programs, we thank you sincerely. Special thanks are also given to Tina Ide, our Director of Educational Ministries, whose hard work and enthusiasm keep everything going.

We continued to offer Christian Education on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:10 as part of the WAY program, preceded by dinner and surrounded by choir rehearsals. Programs are offered to all, from newborn to adults. Beginning in the fall, classes were divided as follows:

- nursery (Sparks)
- age 4 – grade 1 (Power Xpress)
- grades 2-5 (Power Xpress)
- grades 6-8 (We Believe)
- high school+ (PresbyYouth)
- adults (TAGS and Faith & Life)

This year we are also offering confirmation to interested youth in 7th grade and above. The classes take place on Sundays after worship, and are taught by Tina Ide, Rev. Carter, and a volunteer.

Beginning in April, our *Joyful Noise!* program was offered to our young children age 4 through grade 2 during worship services. This program is intended to teach the children the basics of how we worship and give them an accessible worship experience through a Bible story, songs, and prayer.

From July 21-25, Vacation Bible School was held for approximately 60 children each day. Our theme this year was *Weird Animals, Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-kind*. We discovered that whether we feel different, afraid, left out, or even when we do wrong -- Jesus loves us. Thanks again to all who helped to make this a great experience for the children.

Some of the other highlights of our year include:

- The creation of the Robert London Scholarship, providing money for youth to attend camps, conferences, or national church events.
- Youth group retreat at Camp Lackawanna in conjunction with Covenant Presbyterian youth.
- Youth events included snow tubing, bowling, a photo scavenger hunt, and canoeing.
- A Seder meal was celebrated by approximately 65 adults and youth Wednesday, April 16.
- Recognition of our high school, college, and post-college graduates.
- Recognition of teachers who participated throughout the year.
- Birthday cards sent to all children and youth.

- Bibles were given to our third grade students as well as several older youth who had not received a Bible previously.
- A pajama drive was held during Advent to benefit the Head Start program; 91 pairs were collected, wrapped, and given.
- An intergenerational Advent event was held on December 3. Adults and youth enjoyed a meal together, wrapped PJs, and made Chrismons.
- Our 6:30 Christmas Eve service featured an interactive, sensory experience for young children.

Enhancement Committee

Jim McLaughlin

During 2014 the Committee received one Grant request. The Grant was reviewed and forwarded to the Session for approval. The approved Grant in the amount of \$6,000.00 was for expenses of a new “outreach program” for our Church.

Also, the Enhancement Fund made available, up to \$23,500.00 (Director of Educational Ministries) for the 2014 Budget.

During the year, funds were made available to meet commitments of the 2013 Capital Campaign (The Centennial Fund). As pledges are received, funds will be repaid to their respective fund accounts. All expenses were presented by the Committee(s) and approved by Session.

For the Committee: Jim McLaughlin, Chair; John Pittman, Deacons;

The Rev. William Carter, Head of Staff; Beverly Bright, at large and Heather Acker, at large.

Fellowship Committee

Briar Woodley, Moderator

The Fellowship Committee provides opportunities for the members of the congregation to engage and spend time with one another as well as welcoming others who visit our church. We believe that through these activities our church family becomes closer to one another and to God. We currently have 7 dedicated members offering their time and talents. More would always be welcome.

Two of our year-round activities are sponsoring Fellowship Hour between services and arranging for members of the congregation to serve as greeters, welcoming both members and visitors alike to each service. Special thanks are offered to Karen White, who oversees Fellowship Hour with the assistance of our other members, and to Gail Van Horn, who schedules greeters.

The Fellowship Committee also helps coordinate and welcome new members to our congregation, providing welcome packets, information regarding events and activities, and other support. For this we thank Mick Wirth, who continues to work with Rev. Carter to gather and distribute new member information.

In 2014, some of our other activities included the following:

- The Fellowship Committee provided set-up, coordination, and support for the annual Congregational Meeting held on February 2, 2014.
- On April 6, the Fellowship Committee hosted a church-wide potluck with more than 70 people.
- On July 27th, 29 members of the congregation gathered at the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders Stadium for Faith Day. Many thanks go out to Jo Conklin who helped to coordinate and publicize this event.
- The Fellowship Committee hosted a weekend in the Woods at Camp Lackawanna August 9th and 10th. Several people stayed overnight and enjoyed canoeing on the Lackawanna River on Saturday. About 70 people attended the church service at Spann Chapel Sunday morning and about 70 people enjoyed the picnic afterwards at the pavilion. Hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta and potato salads, baked beans, and drinks and dessert were provided by Fellowship Committee. Many thanks to all those who coordinated, set up, cooked for, served at, and cleaned up this event!
- The church directories arrived on October 2nd and were distributed to the congregation. Many thanks to the Fellowship Committee and Tyler Kusma for working so hard on this project!
- The Cookie Exchange took place on December 7th. Hot cider was served with samples of each type of cookie. There were 17 participants and everyone left with 5 dozen cookies each.

In 2015, we look forward to continuing our efforts to bring the congregation opportunities for fellowship in Christ and with one another.

Interpretation and Stewardship Report

Heather Acker

We are pleased to report that for 2015 we have 122 pledges totaling \$258,938. Thank you to everyone who pledged. This total included 9 new pledges totaling \$18,980. The net increase on the returning 113 pledges was \$6,892. The distribution is 50 increases, 50 remaining the same and 12 decreases.

However, 28 pledging units (households), with \$36,000 in pledges from last year have not yet returned pledge cards. As a result our total pledge income is decreased.

In 2014, our pledge income was \$309,449 representing an additional \$40,328 above the 2014 pledges. This additional 15% was necessary to achieve our budget.

Thank you for your continued generous support.

(See chart on next page.)

FPPC Comparison of 2015 pledges vs 2014 pledges:

Range of Pledge	Count	Pledges		
		2015	2014	Change
Over \$10,000	2	\$ 26,000	\$ 15,600	\$ 10,400
\$5,000-10,000	9	\$ 51,540	\$ 47,848	\$ 3,692
\$3,000-\$5,000	19	\$ 72,620	\$ 69,090	\$ 3,530
\$2,000-\$3,000	16	\$ 38,720	\$ 34,680	\$ 4,040
\$1,000-\$2,000	37	\$ 49,634	\$ 48,220	\$ 1,414
Up to \$1,000	39	\$ 20,424	\$ 17,628	\$ 2,796
Subtotal	122	\$ 258,938	\$ 233,066	\$ 25,872
\$3,000-\$5,000	2	\$ -	\$ 7,400	\$ (7,400)
\$2,000-\$3,000	4	\$ -	\$ 9,784	\$ (9,784)
\$1,000-\$2,000	12	\$ -	\$ 15,756	\$ (15,756)
Up to \$1,000	10	\$ -	\$ 3,115	\$ (3,115)
Subtotal	28	\$ -	\$ 36,055	\$ (36,055)
Total		\$ 258,938	\$ 269,121	\$ (3,360)

Mission and Justice Committee

Robin Pinches

The Mission and Justice Committee seeks to respond to the concerns of peace and justice locally and globally by providing church and community members opportunities to serve and support those in greatest need through volunteer and financial support, advocacy and education.

Volunteering opportunities for our congregation this year have included: our continued support at the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen by helping to prepare and serve a meal the last Tuesday of each month and collecting clothing for distribution to those in need; providing dinners on Sundays last winter and supplies for breakfast to Bethel AME's homeless shelter during the winter months; mobilizing highway cleanup teams to participate in the Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program four times a year. In addition, Melba Fialko continued to serve and work denominationally with disaster relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Dave Porter traveled to Haiti with a group including Pat Henneforth in May to create a documentary about the band "2 Rasins", their social justice music, their lives and communities, and how they cross over into the work First Presbyterian has supported over the years.

We continue to financially support those in need both here and abroad. Locally, the committee supports the work of the Catherine McCauley Center, St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen, Abington Ecumenical Ministerium Heating Program, United Neighborhood Center, SCOLA, Appalachian Service Project and the Infant care Program at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Our church continues to participate denominationally through the four Special Presbyterian Offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking and Christmas Joy) and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for Oklahoma tornado relief. Internationally, money was sent to the Rays of Hope School in Haiti,

Reaching the Pygmies in Uganda and PCUSA missionaries Rev. Leith Fuji in Thailand and Dr. Elizabeth Searles in Romania. We continue to honor our church's Centennial Capital Campaign commitment to United Neighborhood Center's Post Foster Care Program in Scranton which will be completed in June 2015. Our commitments to Groundswell International and the Nasonje Women's Micro-credit Program in Haiti, also made in honor of First Presbyterian's 100th birthday through the Centennial Capital Campaign have been completed. Please note the attached final report from Groundswell International that details what our support has done.

First Presbyterian has again been honored as an Earth Care Congregation by PCUSA. Throughout the year, the Earth Care Task Force has offered informative table talks from such groups as Lackawanna Valley River Association, Lackawanna County Conservation District, Catherine McCauley Center, and Abington School District. They continue to challenge us as Christians to be good stewards of the earth we have been given.

Through the Annual Alternative Gift Market held in December, we educated, advocated and supported the artisans, trades people, mission workers, and farmers of Appalachian Service Project (ASP), Reaching the Pygmies, Heifer International, SERRV, and PCUSA Coffee Project, our ongoing coffee program sponsored by the Schillinger family. We also offered ideas for earth friendly gift-wrapping.

This is a congregation that takes seriously the charge to love the poor and needy. Thank you for helping us care for God's people in our neighborhood and our world. Thank you also to committee members Melba Fialko, Linda Frangos, Meg Hatch, Fred Lyon, Phil Muntzel, Dave Porter, Donna Porter, Diane Scheuer and Brian Schillinger for their ongoing commitment and willingness to work for justice and peace in our world.



groundswell
international

FINAL REPORT TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GROUNDSWELL INTERNATIONAL

Communities Generating Prosperity and Sustainable Development in Rural Haiti

Organizational Information

Legal Name: Groundswell International with Partenariat pour le Développement Local
Organization Type: US 501(c)(3) nonprofit Tax ID #: 27-1493841 Year Founded: 2009
U.S. Address: Groundswell International, 1215 Kearney Street NE, Washington, DC 20017
Haiti Address: Partenariat pour le Développement Local, 6, Rue Baussan, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Contact Person: Steve Brescia, Director Email: sbrescia@groundswellinternational.org
Phone: (202) 832-9352 Website: www.groundswellinternational.org

The support Groundswell and PDL received from the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks

Summit allowed us to provide training and seed capital for loans to emerging savings and credit (S&C) cooperatives in Haiti. The affordable credit provided by these community-managed S&C groups is a key ingredient in generating greater prosperity and wellbeing in rural Haiti.

By the time of our August 2014 report, the Church's generosity had enabled Groundswell and PDL to develop S&C cooperatives that benefitted 260 women in three communal sections, l'Attalaye (100 women), Lalomas (83 women), and Lacedras (77 women), in the Saint Michel region of the Artibonite Department.

We are happy to inform you that since our last report, the S&C groups started with your support are still going strong, and a new S&C group was created in the community of Camathe. As of November 30, 2014, a total of 343 women had benefitted from loans made possible by the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit. The membership of the S&C groups during the last cycle can be seen in the table below.

Communal Section	# Participants at Time of August Report	# New Participants Since August Report	Total # Participants As of November 30, 2014
L'Attalaye	100	0	100
Lalomas	83	6	89
Lacedras	77	0	77
Camathe	0	77	77
Total	260	83	343

It is also worth noting that a total of 841 women are now benefitting from S&C groups in L'Attalaye, Lalomas, Lacedras, and Camathe. More than 40% (343) of these women were able to receive loans thanks to the Church, and the rest we reached with support from other donors.

We established three specific outcomes in our proposal, and we achieved them all¹:

Outcome 1: Six S&C cooperatives in the Saint Michel region improve their management capacity.

Progress: Through training provided by PDL, the four S&C cooperatives in L'Attalaye, Lalomas, Lacedras, and Camathe have improved their management capacity.

Outcome 2: \$24,000 worth of loans (\$4,000 for each of six coops) made to small-scale family farmers in the Saint Michel region, providing them with the resources they need to make investments to increase the productivity and profitability of their farms. Between 100 and 200 farmers will receive loans valued at less than \$500 before the end of the project.

Progress: \$16,000 worth of seed capital has been used to make loans to 343 female farmers that belong to four S&C cooperatives. The total beneficiaries surpassed even our optimistic initial estimate of 200 loan recipients. The rest of the grant money was used to provide training and program support.

Outcome 3: The farmers will repay the loans with interest agreed upon by members, so that the capital of each loan fund will grow during the three-year period, allowing the loan funds to continue to benefit more farmers in the future.

Progress: Participating farmers are repaying interest, which has allowed the four S&C cooperatives to make loans to dozens of additional farmers (beyond those reached with the original capital). On average, the initial number of participants is being increased by 15% annually (about 7.5 % every six months).

As we have stated in previous reports, women who receive loans typically invest in their farms or other income generating activities and/or in the health and education of their children. For example, during the last loan cycle, Antiola Dorvil used the 2,500 Haitian Gourdes (about \$54) she received from the L'Attalaye S&C group to start a small business selling cloths to people in nearby villages. Antiola uses the money she makes to buy food for her six children, and to pay the tuition of one child attending the technical agricultural school in Hinche.

Antiola is just one of the 343 women whose lives you have changed. In a very real way you are helping Groundswell and PDL generate lasting economic development in Haiti's rural areas, which is vital to the realization of our 10-year vision of a prosperous and sustainable Haitian countryside as the foundation for national development.

We truly appreciate the First Presbyterian Church's generosity. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

¹ The amount of the award decreased from \$30,000 to \$20,000, and, as a result, the initial objectives also decreased by one third. In other words, 4 S&Cs were created instead of 6, and \$16,000 in seed capital was invested instead of \$24,000. We surpassed the 200 estimated number of loan recipients even with the reduced budget.

Nominating Team 2014

Heather Acker and Steve Selige, Co-chairs

The following members indicated their willingness to serve as officers, and were elected as follows:

Elders, Class of 2017

Richard Cochrane
Judy Cutler
Donald Keen
Carole LaCoe
Diane Scheuer

Elder, Class of 2016

Jim McLaughlin

Elder, Class of 2015

Frank Garnecki

Deacons, Class of 2017

Anne Deremer
Meg Hatch
Betty Keen
Donna Kepler
Marsha Parrish
Jack Pittman
Laura Schillinger

Deacon, Class of 2015

Mary Parry

People in Ministry Committee

Heather Acker and Steve Selige, Co-chairs

Committee Members: Richard Broxton, Gwynne Gilbert, Janet Stansbury, Rev. William Carter, (ex-officio)

Church Staff:

In keeping with the "Safe Church Policy," 2 students are in place as nursery attendants, Sondra Lionetti and Katie Carlin, with a maximum of 4 working hours per week, per student. Nancy London has been asked to oversee them. Background checks were completed on all hires. Informal meetings were held by committee members with the Administrative Assistant and Sexton. Rev. Carter met with all employees for their Performance Review. Medical Insurance and Pension Plan for the Pastor increases 1.5% for 2015. The rate is now 36.5% of Effective Salary. The impact of all salaries and benefits were reviewed for the budget.

Salary increases were recommended as follows:

Pastor	1.5%	effective increase	2.37%
D.E.M.	1.5%	effective increase	2.84%
Admin. Asst.	2.0%	effective increase	2.06%
Other Staff	2.0%		

Personnel policy for staff was updated and approved by session in 2014.

Pastor's Annual Review:

Goals were reviewed. Achievement was mixed. The challenging goals of attracting young adults and reaching out to inactive members are a work in progress and need to be continued. Our D.E.M. continues to benefit from having a mentor to assist her. Session members completed the Performance Review for the Pastor. The ratings and comments were shared with him by the committee.

Committee Goals for 2015:

- Update job descriptions for Staff
- A new review system for the Pastor
- A 3-5 year strategic plan for the church with input from Session.

Recommendations to Session:

The committee would like to see one full time employee or volunteer be present at the church during normal office hours, 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday, including over the lunch hour.

Worship, Music and the Arts

Richard Cochrane

The Worship, Music and the Arts committee is responsible for those programs at First Presbyterian. The committee and staff work hard to plan meaningful and thoughtful worship experiences and other events that glorify the Lord and give our members and guests opportunities to grow spiritually and to honor God.

The committee members are: Olympia Cianfichi, Richard Cochrane (co-chair), Judy Cutler (co-chair), Bob Dygert, Betsy Ellis, Nancy Post, JoAnne Shepherd, Charlie Swisher, Connie Weiss, and John Weiss. Joining us are Rev. Carter, Kay Ten Eyck, and Sue Kelly. The committee welcomed Judy Cutler and Betsy Ellis as new members of the committee this year.

The staff and committee members gathered in June, as always, to plan the music and worship settings in accordance with the Lectionary and adjusted to meet the demands and needs of our congregation.

Highlights of the year included:

- A Mardi Gras service featuring the Presbybop Dixieland Sextet and our own Bourbon St. dancing Lyons.
- The annual Jazz Communion service on Labor Day weekend
- The Arts at First Presbyterian series
- A series of mending services, in a reflective jazz vespers format, offering the Lord's Supper, prayers for God's healing, and the opportunity to honor our loved ones by lighting a candle in their memory
- Our own Christmas Eve program of family, traditional, and jazz communion services. The 6:30 pm service's pageant was unique, in that was designed to offer all children a chance to participate regardless of age, skills, or practice.
- A brass group, organized by our own father-son team of Ron and Jeff Leas, in a Sunday afternoon concert.

This year's Art Series, chaired by John Weiss, provided a number of interesting performances.

- The year began in February with participation in the Clarks Summit Ice Festival featuring a performance by vocalist Erin Malloy, an art show organized by Elaine Tweedy, juggler Rob Smith, a Chili Café organized by the Men's Bible Study group, and a recital by students of the Abington Piano Academy.
- In March the Lyric Consort performed a St Patrick's Day concert, with Celtic folk songs, ballads, and musical novelties, with a dose of Irish humor thrown into the mix.
- Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet entertained in April, presenting a program of music for Earth Day and the return of spring. The concert included "Beyond Banff," a brand new suite inspired by the Canadian Rockies.
- The audience filled the sanctuary for an October concert featuring the Hickory Project, NEPA's top bluegrass band.
- This year's All Church Choir Concert in November included a great variety of solos and group selections, with oboist Tom Heinze and soprano Jessica Hitchcock as the featured guest artists. All of our musical ensembles participated in this performance.

We all look forward to continuing our service to the Church on the Hill.

Board of Deacons' Annual Report 2014

Ginny O'Brien, Moderator

Board of Deacons – Officers from June 2014 to June 2015

Moderator	Ginny O'Brien
Vice Moderator	Elaine Lavelle
Secretary	Shirley McLaughlin
Treasurer	Bill Farrell

Board of Deacons – Members

Class of 2015

Jake Cole
John Conklin
Sara Ann Hosier
Shirley McLaughlin
Mary Parry
Debbie Traettino
Tori Yankow

Class of 2016

Vi Dygert
Bill Farrell
Wayne Griffiths
Elaine Lavelle
Ginny O'Brien
Margaret Reese
Karen White

Class of 2017

Anne Deremer
Margret Hatch
Betty Keen
Donna Kepler
Marsha Parrish
Jack Pittman
Laura Schillinger

The Deacons serve the congregation through a series of Care Teams which function year-round and provide individual events throughout the year. The Care Teams and individual events have coordinators who oversee the activities of their committees. The Deacons meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

Care Teams and Coordinators

Time of Loss:

Lee Wirth served in this position until September. Now the Deacons share this committee. This team provides support to congregation members during bereavement. The Deacons arrange for one or more Deacons to be present at all funerals held in the church.

Journeying Through Grief: Alice Broxton/Margaret Reese

Alice Broxton served this position until June, then Margaret Reese continued it. Alice/Margaret sends a note to church members after a loss and follows up with a series of four books throughout the year dealing with grief management.

Independent Living/Assisted Living: Sara Ann Hosier

Sara Ann and her team keep in touch with members who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers or live at home but have limited independence/mobility. These contacts are maintained through regular visits, calls, and cards. Sara Ann also helps coordinate designated places or residents for the annual Christmas caroling.

Emergency Home Repair/Maintenance: John Conklin

John's team assists church members with emergency home repair or maintenance as needed.

Emergency Needs: Johanna Conklin

Jo Conklin has volunteered to serve in this position. Jo's team provides meals and company to congregation members and their families who experience hospitalization, serious illness, death in the

family, etc. Various members of the congregation have helped the Deacons meet these needs as well.

Stephen's Ministry: John Conklin

John keeps the Deacons up to date on various aspects of the Stephen's Ministry while maintaining confidentiality.

Cards and Letters: Vi Dygert

Vi Dygert sends out get well cards, sympathy and thinking of you cards to those who are hospitalized, sick at home, or grieving.

Although these teams function through the Deacons, other church members are more than welcome to (and do) join in their operation by suggesting names of members who need assistance or in actually helping meet the goals of the teams.

Other Activities:

Deacons usher at all church services. In addition to the specific activities of the Care Teams, Deacons provide prayers for church members and others, along with monetary support for worthwhile organizations and individuals in need. They also assist Reverend Carter to provide communion to people at a nursing home periodically.

Shirley McLaughlin coordinates Communion Services each month and as needed.

The Deacons also send out cards to visitors to the church (when addresses are available), thanking them for their visit and hoping to see them again.

Annual Events Sponsored by Deacons:

- Jazz Communion Coffee Hour – September
- Food Drives for AEM Food Pantry – October and April
- Christmas Caroling – December (coordinated through Sara Ann Hosier and Beverly Bright)
- Boxes for College Students – February
- Congregational Memorial Service and Reception – March

The Deacon's Treasury is supported by donations from the congregation by means of Deacon Offering Envelopes. The Deacon's Fund also receives the loose-plate offering on the first Sunday of February, March, April, May, October, November and December. Congregation members sometimes also make other donations. Any distribution of treasury funds is made by Motion and agreement of the Board Members, and such distributions can be found within the Deacons' Annual Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes.

Board of Deacons
2014 Annual Report

Cash balance 1/1/2014	\$1,203.18
<u>Deposits</u>	
Offerings	\$3,092.48
<u>Disbursements</u>	
"Journeying Through Grief" books & postage	\$492.31
Training materials and meals for inactive ministry	\$206.75
Flowers	\$117.79
College box supplies	\$590.95
Emergency meals	\$43.00
Grounds maintenance	\$100.00
Hotel costs for an individual in need	\$67.75
Cards, letters and postage	\$59.00
Contributions:	
Safety Net	\$250.00
Women's Resource Center	\$250.00
Friends of the Poor	\$250.00
Abington Ecumenical Ministerium - Food Pantry	\$500.00
Total Disbursements	\$2,927.55
Cash balance 12/31/2014	\$1,368.11

Prepared by William J. Farrell, Treasurer, Board of Deacons, 12/24/2014

Presbyterian Women

Lee Wirth, Moderator

In September we enjoyed "Relate, Relax, and Renew." This was held at Hull's Pond House. A review of the 2014-2015 Horizon's Bible Study, "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians" was presented by Rev. Rebecca Tanner. Our Least Coin Offering was dedicated. Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch and fellowship.

On the first Tuesday in April and October, Presbyterian Women invite a group of guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital for lunch. They enjoy a great meal, entertainment and fellowship. Everyone has a good time.

My Brother's Keeper Quilts (MBKQ) are made on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Marie Cochrane is our able leader.

We have Circle meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, excluding July and August. The Circles meet at 10:00 am, 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

In May, the Birthday Offering is dedicated. Through our Thank, Least Coin and Birthday Offerings, we contribute to the mission of the larger church.

We have had a good year. We thank God for all of our blessings. Come and join us.

Presbyterian Women Treasurer's Report 2014
Doris Dempsey, Treasurer

Balance 1/1/2014	\$1,682.19
Total Receipts	<u>1,765.77</u>
	3,447.96
Total Disbursement	<u>1,882.81</u>
Balance 12/31/2014	<u>\$1,565.15</u>

Paul R. Dobson Scholarship
Janet Dobson

The Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship was established in the fall of 2006 to recognize a graduating high school senior member of our church who plans to further his/her education. Monies from the loose plate collection from the Christmas Eve services are deposited into this fund, as well as any other contributions that are so designated. Completed applications are due in May and the winner is announced during Graduate Recognition Sunday. The 2014 winner was Kathleen Shedlock.

The committee consists of the Dobson Family and 2 members of the church.

Memorial Fund Annual Report 2014
Barbara Brown

Memorials were given in memory of:

Priscilla Sproul
Isaac Sponaugle
Lucille Heckman
Ruth Post
David Comly

Contributions for the year 2014 totaled \$3,320.

The following amounts, as requested by the donors, were deposited as follows:

\$400 to Funeral Fund account 2026
\$50 to Music account 2005

The balance of \$2,870 was deposited to the Memorial Fund account 2017.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition Three Group

The Tradition Three Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets seven days a week at 7:00 a.m. and is open to anyone with a desire to stop drinking.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober by following the twelve steps as put forth in the book Alcoholics Anonymous and to carry this message to alcoholics who still suffer.

We are grateful to the members of The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit for graciously allowing us the use of their facilities.

Overeaters Anonymous

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating.

We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members; we are self-supportive, through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. OA is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology or religious doctrine; we take no position on outside issues. Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive overeating and to carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

Weight Watchers of Eastern Pa., Inc.

Weight Watchers meets at your facility each Monday at 12:00 and 6:00 p.m.

While most of our membership is female, we welcome men and teenagers to join us. We pride ourselves not only on a fine weight reduction program, but also on the fact we encourage all around good nutrition, exercise and behavior change.

Our meetings are conducted by trained and skilled leaders. The format we use is a large group discussion format in a lively, upbeat, positive manner.

We feel we provide a service to the community in promoting a safe and sensible method of losing weight and good health.

AACC and APA

This church is also supporting education and personal growth by permitting the Abington Area Community Classroom, Art Class by Barry Singer, and the Abington Piano Academy to meet here.