

The Church on the Hill

Celebrating 100 Years 1912 - 2012



First Presbyterian Church

May 2015

Clarks Summit, PA



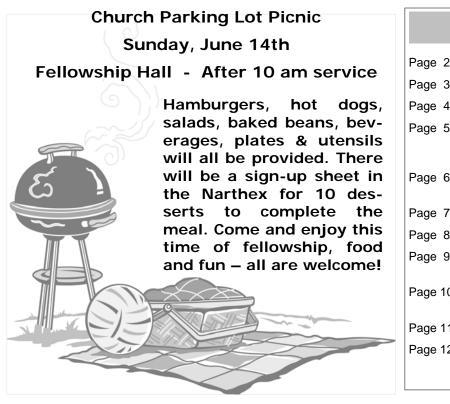


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The Presbyter

Notes from the Session Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

1. Session is working on a new church logo.

2. Spring Cleanup at the church is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd from 8 to 11. There is a need for help inside and outside of the church.

Lilly Endowment Grant update

In October of 2012 the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit received a \$43,455 grant from the Lilly Endowment. This grant was from October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014 and enabled Rev. Carter to have a sabbatical in the summer of 2013 with clergy expenses paid and also for our congregation to engage a pulpit supply pastor while he was away. This grant also provided monies for our congregation to have renewal activities while he was absent. This included our sabbatical dinner in September of 2013. Thanks to all who were part of that event because the evening was memorable.

All of the program and financial reports requested by the Foundation were to be completed by March 31, 2015 and have been submitted as requested.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION
FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING March 31, 2015

<u>REVENUE</u>

Budget Actual Received Difference	\$ 98,675 <u>94,277</u> \$ (4,398) =======					
EXPENSES						
Budget Actual Expenses Difference	\$ 102,939 _ <u>100,183</u> \$ (2,756) =======					
BUDGET VARIANCE	\$ (1,642)					
PLEDGE INCOME						
Budget Received Difference	\$ 80,000 <u>76,642</u> \$ (3,358)					
Per Capita Update: Total Received in 2015	\$ 2,725					
Per Capita assessment for 2015 is \$30 per member						

The Presbyter deadline for The June issue is May 15, 2015

<u>The Presbyter</u> is a monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us. Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Child care is available. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

If you do not attend a church in this area, we invite you to any and all of the events, programs, and worship services described in this newsletter. Please call the church office to arrange child care. Our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Church Office	(570) 586-6306
Fax	(570) 587-3784
Web Page	www.fpccs.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Director Educational Ministry	Tina Ide
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
Editor	Lindsey Hardy
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright
Director of Adult & Teen Choir	rs Susan Kelly
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin





From the Pastor

William G. Carter

I have a cousin who has gotten into photography in a big way. A math professor at Clarion University, John has taken to wandering in the woods with a big Nikon lens. The results are fantastic. He has images of waterfalls in motion, mug shots of devious squirrels, flowers emerging from a long winter's nap, and this good looking character who paddled his way down a nearby stream...

John prints an annual calendar of his photography, and it has become one of my wife's favorite Christmas gifts. In fact, she is so taken by his pictures of elk that we have decided to spend a few days this fall in Benezette, PA (AKA "Elk Central") and ask John to give us a guided tour.



Here's the thing: John is a math professor, but he goes out into nature to have his soul restored. There is something more in his life than the tasks that pay his family's bills. A lifelong Methodist, he knows all about the "the green pastures and still waters" that promise to replenish our spirits and ground us in God's creative grace.

For him, photography has become a spiritual practice. The camera allows him the privilege of touching beauty without tampering with it. He can observe the world's wildness through a zoom lens and reflect on the fierceness of God's creation. He can watch a mother black bear play with her cubs, see the river clogged by an ice jam, or see the patience of the wood drake who paddled along in no particular hurry. All of these observations instruct him. Devotional gazing, I call it.

There is a wisdom tradition in Scripture, most obvious in the book of Proverbs and the letter of James, where lessons are taught through nature. For instance, "Go to the ant, O lazybones, and learn its ways" (Proverbs 6:6), or "Can the spring gush forth both fresh and brackish water?" (James 3:11). Likewise, Jesus drew lessons from what he saw outside, observing wandering sheep, generous farmers, and unexpected crops. We can learn about God and God's world by going outside, sitting to watch for a while, and reflecting on what we see.

That's my invitation to you after a long thaw. Take a wise look at the world that is our home, and then join us on Sunday morning so we can make sense out of what we see.

See you on Sunday,

Rev. Bill

P.S. – You can see my cousin's photography at www.johnmcculloughphotography.com. He would enjoy sharing with you what he sees.

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The Presbyter



THE WAY

The \underline{W} ednesday \underline{A} dults and \underline{Y} outh Christian Education

"I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

Supper, 5:15 * Gathering Time, 6:10 * Classes for all ages, 6:15

Wednesday, May 27 - Last W.A.Y. for this year!

Spark (Newborn - 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery with teachers Myrna Diven and our Sunday caregivers. We finish the year with stories about Peter Healing A Man (Acts 3:1-16), Lydia (Acts 16:9-15), Paul and Silas (Acts 16:16-40) and Paul and the Philippians (Philippians 1:1-14).

Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5) Are divided into two ages groups and experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. May 6 and 13: 3 Women of Faith (Acts 16:11-15, 40; Acts 18:1-4; Acts 9:36-42). These wise and courageous women of faith showed their love for God and Jesus through their faith and service. These women are examples of faith to us. May 20 and 27: Timothy, Eunice and Lois (the books of 1 and 2 Timothy). Timothy learned about the Christian faith from his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. Paul taught Timothy that although he was young, God could use him to teach the good news about Jesus Christ.

We Believe: The Story of God's Faithfulness (Grades 6-8) Room 209 with Jana Schillinger. Using We Believe: The Story of God's Faithfulness, our Middle School Class will spend the year digging deeper into the Old Testament, learning and experiencing how God revealed himself to the Hebrew people. The year concludes with a look at Isaiah and King Hezekiah (Isaiah 6; 2 Kings 19-20), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-19; 7:1-15; 26; 28; 32; 36; 37-38), Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1-3; 33; 37), and Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 1-2; 7-10; Nehemiah 1-2; 4-9; 2 Chronicles 36:15-23).

PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12; college age adults) Room 111 with Charlie Pinches and Darlene Scappatura. PresbyYouth's Resurrection and Revelation unit challenges students to dig deeper in their understanding of the resurrection and examines the book of Revelation as statement of faith. This unit ends by studying Revelation's Seven Churches (Revelation 2-3), Judgment on the City (Revelation 7; Revelation 13), View On Worship (Revelation 7:9-17) and The New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation 21-22).

Talking About God Stuff (T.A.G.S.) Room 206. May 6 and 13: *Surprised By Hope*. This study looks at what the Bible teaches about heaven, the resurrection, and the church's mission. Based on the work of scholar N.T. Wright, we will explore what the Bible says about the world to come and the world that is. On May 20, we will take a look at the current riots in Baltimore, and then wrap up the season on May 27.

The Faith and Life class will meet in Room 210. In May, we will explore a five-part series on The Presbyterian Rhythm, based on fresh materials called "Theocademy." The themes are "A People of Grace," "Wicked Bad," "Who Do You Say That I Am?," "Update your Faith System," and "Blessed to be a Blessing." Come and join us for lively conversation!



Wednesday Supper Reservations

Light Supper is served before The Way classes from 5:15-6:10 for those with reservations.

Suggested donation: \$3 per person.

Please return reservation slips no later than **Monday**. Slips can be placed in the **basket near the phone in the kitchen** or in the **offering plate**. You may also **call the church office** to make reservations.





Join us on Sunday, May 17 as we honor those people who have given their time, energy and talent to support the many educational ministries of our church.



Chapel Choir Notes

"The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than children." Cheryl Lavender

The Chapel Choir is looking forward to Mother's Day, May 10th. We will sing, play instruments, and lead worship as to you, not chosen. When you arrive programs/scholarships.html liturgists. Through our participation in worship we have grown in our understanding of God, in confidence in ourselves and our ability to lead, and as musicians using the talents that have been given to us.

We have a "first" to celebrate this year. Saturday, May 30th, we will attend Music in the Parks! Though the Teen Choir has participated for several years, this is our first year as a choir to participate in this program. In the morning we will sing for a panel of judges, spend the afternoon at Hershey Park, then find out the results of the competition before returning home. We are looking forward to the challenge of singing in a new space for people who have never heard us sing. The Chapel Choir will continue to rehearse through May 27th so that we'll be ready!

As Director, I would like to express my thanks to the church for their support of this important program. I would also like to thank the parents, Connie Weiss, Diane Cole, Kate Gildewell, Dick Cochrane, Frank Garnecki, Tim Pfleiderer, Bill Carter and Susan Kelly for their support and help.

Kay Ten Eyck, Director



This year we have the joy of celebrating three amazing students who have gone through confirmation.

Since September, these students have spent their Sunday afternoons learning more about who they are in The Christian Education and Growth Christ and what it means to belong to the church.

you can join us in honoring them!

"T" Time

Did you know?

you arrive at a new job is the assigning of an email. Most of the time, this is an easy task and one which is given at a church, that task is often a little more complicated, especially if there was someone in your position previ-For safety and ease of use, ously. churches tend to use the position you are in. So what's a church to do with a new person taking over a previous position? They get creative.

When I first arrived here among you, we got right to work on this creative process. Down the list we went with all the position variations and out the window they all went for a variety of reasons. We were back to square one. But then it struck us, what is it we hope Christian Education accomplishes? Well, that's easy. Our desire is for the people of this church to learn Please call the Church at 570-586about God, faith, and the Bible through education AND for them to grow in their faith as a result of what they learned. The purpose of Christian Our Church wants to compliment you Education here at First Pres. is for on your most recent accomplishment people to learn and grow.

With this in mind, the email learnand- Congratulations and blessings upon grow@fpccs.org was born. It is an each of you. email which speaks clearly to what we hope education is.



Robert London Scholarship Fund

Committee is pleased to award scholarships to any child, teen or young Be sure to mark your calendars so adult who wishes to go to a church camp, church leadership conference, church national event, or other Christian Education event. The amount given to each student is considered on the fact that music can make beautiful One of the first things to happen when an individual basis. Applications can be picked up in the church office and are also available from the FPC web site at http://www.fpccs.org/church-



Calling all 2015 graduates! High School, College, Post Grad May 31st Graduate Recognition Sunday

6306 or email www.fpccs.org if you are a graduate or have a graduate in your family.

on a job well done!

Christian Education Committee

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:				
Independent & Assisted Living:	Sara Ann Hosier	587-0371		
Emergency Needs:	Jo Conklin	563-0211		
Time of Loss:	Lee Wirth	587-3767		
Emergency Home Repair/				
Maintenance:	John Conklin	563-0211		

Please let the Board of Deacons Care Team Coordinators or the church office know if anyone is in need of care.

We're here to care for FPC members and friends and we count on all of you to let us know when help is needed. This is our ministry and our Christian privilege to care for you.



Last month I started to tell you about the three types of people that are needed in the Stephen Ministry program. I began with the Stephen Leaders who are the starting point for the ministry. This month I will move on to the Stephen Ministers who are the heart of the pro-Stephen Ministers are laygram. people (Christian men and women), trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. They undergo 50 hours of training with the Stephen Leaders to learn how to provide this care. Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 11,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

If you are interested in more information, contact your Stephen Leaders, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, and Rev. Bill Carter.



May is movie month. We will meet at 7:00 at Marie Cochrane's home on May 21st to watch the movie Wild. We will also be looking at books for the next year and setting up where to meet each month. Come join us for a fun evening.



Earth Care Task Force Table Talk

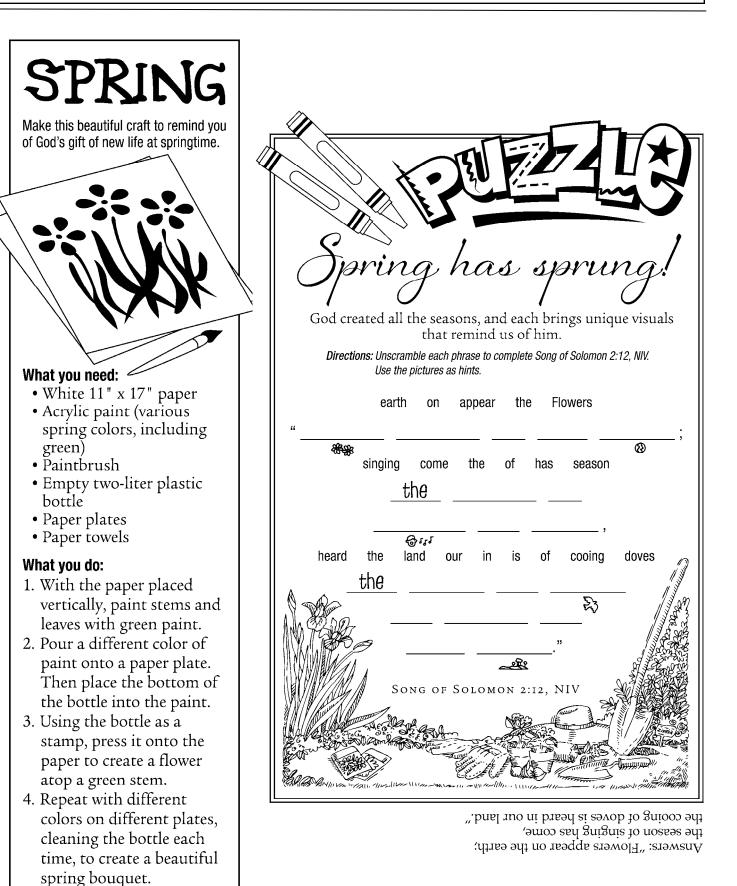
The Earth Care Task Force has arranged to have Bill Kern of the Countryside Conservancy <u>http://</u><u>www.countrysideconservancy.org/</u> give a "table talk" on Sunday May 3 at 11:15am. There will be a light lunch and after the talk (around 12:00) we plan to carpool to and hike their recently opened Trolley Trail. Questions can be directed to Meg Hatch, <u>mihatch13@yahoo.com</u>.





Every year our church collects a special offering for Pentecost that goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to benefit children and youth. Children and youth are the heart of the annual Pentecost offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people through Young Adult Volunteers and Ministries for Youth.

The offering also addresses the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by our congregation to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. The Mission and Justice Committee has designated the Northeast Suicide Prevention Initiative (NSPI) as the recipient of this year's portion of our offering. The mission of NSPI is to prevent suicides in our community by advocacy, collaboration, and education. NSPI is a volunteer organization that meets monthly to coordinate formal clinical and community suicide prevention trainings and survivor activities.



Mission and Justice Committee News

We Have Missionaries?!?

First Presbyterian Church, through its Mission and Justice Committee, sends financial support to three PCUSA missionaries. Here is a brief introduction to them. Further information can be found at presbyterianmission.org

Rev. Leith and Carol Fujii, serving at the invitation of the Church of Christ in Thailand since 1998, witness daily to Christ's loving message in a country in which Christians make up less than 1% of the population. Leith is an instructor in theology and evangelism at the Bangkok Institute of Theology (BIT). He also assists with a program for lay theological training. Carol teaches English to the entering class at BIT and is also involved in outreach ministries with Thai congregations. They say their purpose in Thailand is "to fulfill God's kingdom purposes and plans, and to glorify God with all that we are and all that we have been entrusted, and to share his joyous life with others so that they too can know life in its fullness in Christ." Due to the increased security from the political turmoil (martial law) in Thailand, there are no current letters posted on Mission Connections. For older letters and a video of the Fujii's work, contact Mission Connections. The 2015 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study, p. 235, has an entry on Rev. and Mrs. Fujii's ministry.

Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Searles has been a mission worker in Romania since 2013, previously serving in Poland. Liz currently serves as an advisor to New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children (NOROC) Foundation and children/youth worker. NOROC, which means "God bless" or "good luck" in Romanian, was organized in 1997 to serve "the least of these." NOROC seeks to address root causes of poverty and stigmatization by offering orphaned children in the state institutions of Romania opportunities for education, life skills development, job training, and physical, spiritual, emotional and psychological nurture, including treatment for trauma and stress. NOROC requested a mission co-worker to assist its activities and programs for orphans and those leaving the orphanage system. Liz Searles was called to fill this position and is serving as an advisor to NOROC Foundation and children/youth worker. She advocates for children's rights, develops and supports programs, and works directly with institutionalized orphans, at-risk children and women. NOROC's goal is to help them gain access and inclusion in society, adequately care for themselves, and be contributing members of their communities. Current letters from Dr. Searles can be found at the above web site. The 2015 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study, p. 320, has an entry on her ministry.

Please keep Rev. and Mrs. Fujii and Dr. Searles in your prayers as they "walk the walk" of Christian witness on a daily basis.

THE HAITIANS ARE COMING, THE HAITIANS ARE COMING

Watch and listen for future information on the tour itinerary for 20 Haitian friends and guests who will be in our area from September 2nd to 14th, pending many planning and visa challenges for the group. All of these ambassadors for Haiti are friends of our church, having been affected by our visits and funding support. We hope to host them at First Presbyterian Church on September 12 and 13 for their play and musical performances. The group is made up of approximately five "seasoned" adults including their cook, Madame Antoine, 14 young adults, and 4 elementary-school-aged children. They will be hosted with lodging at the Hull family's Spring Hill Farm thanks to Susan Constantine's graciousness. All other logistics are being developed. They will be traveling to us from Western Massachusetts venues and then be traveling on to other venues down the east coast.

Contact David Porter with ideas and interest in helping to develop this itinerary.





Get your bikes ready! Join Dick & Marie Cochrane on June 6 to ride the 26-Mile Lehigh Gorge Trail from White Haven to historic Jim Thorpe. (It's all downhill!) We'll have a late lunch in Jim Thorpe, and shuttle back to White Haven with Pocono Whitewater Outfitters. Non-riders are encouraged to join us for lunch in Jim Thorpe.





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Joys and Sorrows



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jan Pugliese and her family on the passing of her husband, Louis.



Congratulations and best wishes to:

- Bethany and Robert McCann on the birth of their son, Robert on January 6th. This is the first grandchild for JoAnne Shepherd.
- Julianne and TC Owens on the birth of Henry Nicholas Owens on March 20th. He is Nancy Owens' first grandson.

Lectionary Readings

May 3, 2015

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 10

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 17

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 24

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



Thank you to everyone who helped with our April Spring luncheon with our guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital. Food, fellowship and entertainment by Frank Garnecki was enjoyed by all. See you at our next luncheon on October 6th.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Presbyter

TRERIAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Solution Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested







April 2015

April is Food Pantry Month. Please help fill the pantry shelves

with non-perishable food.

Monthly Planner

			niniy rian			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	F S M 6 7	May 2015 <u>T W T F S</u> <u>1 2</u> 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30 7	Wednesday 1 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:15 PM Light supper 6:00 PM The Way: Walk Thru Holy Week 7:15 PM Adult Choir 8:30 PM Bell Choir	2 8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service	3 12:00 PM -1:00 PM Good Friday Service Church Office closes at noon.	Saturday 4 10:00 AM AACC in FH 11
8:30 AM Easter Early service 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Joyful Noise Easter Sunday	12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers 7:00 PM Mission & Justice AH trip mtg ■ Church Office is closed.	10:00 AM PW Executive Board 12:00 PM PW State Hospital Party	9:30 AM LDT & 1PM LP COM 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:15 PM Light supper 5:30 PM Chapel Ch 5:30 PM Teen Choir 6:15 PM The W.A.Y. 7:15 PM Adult Choir 8:30 PM Bell Choir	5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 7:00 PM Building & Grounds 7:00 PM Christian Education	Reservations are due for SWB RailRiders Game	1:00 PM Camp Lackawanna Work Day
12 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Joyful Noise 11:30 AM Confirmation 4:00 PM Jazz Vespers - Healing Service	13 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts	14 10:00 AM MBK Quilts 7:00 PM Session Committee Chairs	15 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:15 PM Light supper 5:30 PM Chapel Ch 6:15 PM The W.A.Y. 7:15 PM Adult Choir 8:30 PM Bell Choir	16 8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 5:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Fellowship	17 Presbyter Deadline	18 APA recital
19 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Joyful Noise 11:30 AM Confirmation 4:00 PM FPC Arts Series: Duo Montagnard (Sax & Guitar concert)	20 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers	21 PW Circles: 10AM, 1:30PM & 7PM	22 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:15 PM Light supper 5:30 PM Chapel Ch 6:15 PM The W.A.Y. 7:15 PM Adult Choir 8:30 PM Bell Choir	23 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 7:00 PM FPC Book Group	24 7:05 PM SWB Baseball game	25
26 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Joyful Noise 11:30 AM Confirmation	27 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers	28 10:00 AM MBK Quilts 7:00 PM Deacons	29 9:00 AM Presbyter 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:15 PM Light supper 5:30 PM Chapel Ch 6:15 PM The W.A.Y. 7:15 PM Adult Choir 8:30 PM Bell Choir	30 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group		