



**The Annual Report
of the
Congregation
of
First Presbyterian Church
Of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania
For the year ending
December 31, 2016**

**First Presbyterian Church
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
February 5, 2017
11:45 a.m.

Call to Order for the Congregational Meeting

Opening Prayer

Minutes of the Congregation and Corporation Meeting of February 7, 2016

Statistical Report

Reports of Pastor, Staff, and Committees

Report of the Nominating Committee

Report of Church Treasurer for 2016

Action on Reports

Preview 2017 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 2016

Robert Dygert
Melissa Hardy
Janice Liddic

Paul Ford
Lois Jones
Lois Stoeckel

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Agenda	3
Statistical Report	4
Table of Contents	4
Report of Pastor	5
Report of Director of Music	6
Reports of Committees and Activity Groups:	
Budget and Finance	7
Building and Grounds	7
Christian Education	8
Deacons, including financials	9
Fellowship and Evangelism	11
Mission and Justice	12
Presbyterian Women, including financials	13
Worship, Music and The Arts	14
Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship	15
Memorial Fund	15
Support Groups: AA, OA, Weight Watchers	16

2016 Financial Statement / 2017 Proposed Budget Green Page

2016 Statistical Report

Total Church Membership as of December 31, 2015	549 + 3 affiliates
Additions:	
Received by Profession of Faith	
Received by Reaffirmation of Faith	2
Received through Certificate of Transfer	3
Reinstatement	1
Losses:	
Certificate of Transfer	3
Removed from Roles	8
Death	<u>6</u>
Total Church Membership as of December 31, 2016	538 + 3 affiliates
Baptisms - 3	Funerals - 6
	Marriages - 2
Average Sunday Morning Attendance	2016 - 141
	2015 - 154

2016 Pastor's Report

William G. Carter

In one of his books, Eugene Peterson says this about the grace of God: "Grace is an insubstantial, invisible reality that permeates all that we are, think, speak and do. But we are not used to this. We are not used to living by the invisibles." (*Practicing Resurrection*, p. 94) Rarely have I heard someone describe my work so accurately.

I work with "the invisibles." When we announce that God forgives our sins, where is the evidence? When a hymn declares that Christ is king and rules over all, how can we be so sure? When we pray, how do we know Somebody is listening? When the Spirit speaks through scripture, can any of us hear? Is our community of Christians governed by love and energized by mercy? Ah, these are some of "the invisibles." They are the currency of Christian leadership.

To prepare this brief report each year, I spend some time surveying the calendar for the past twelve months. It is a worthy exercise to review lunch appointments, hospital visits, committee meetings, and even sermon titles. But the real work of a pastor is tracing the often-hidden work of God's Spirit among us. I get to ask, "What's really going on around here? What might God be doing?" A good pastor prays for such things, encourages them, and celebrates them even if they aren't obvious.

Have I lost you yet? I'm simply saying there is more to the Christian life than knowing the pastor composed forty-six sermons, made about three hundred personal visits, and wrote over a thousand e-mails. Beneath the mere statistics is the life-giving Good News of how the Spirit of the Risen Christ is at work among our body of believers. The evidence is inscribed through the pages of this packet of reports. There really is so much more going on than a mere listing of activities and financial accounts. God is here.

It is a holy blessing to live among you, proclaiming the love of God as best I'm able. Whether it's leading a Bible study or celebrating one of your life events, I am energized by the friendship we share. When fresh ideas bubble up and someone offers to take them forward, I celebrate your commitment. When the wider community is served by volunteer expressions of love and concern, I am in awe. There is no need to single out any specific moment or event. This is an amazing congregation. I'll leave it at that.

This season of my life is very rich. After nearly fifteen years on our presbytery's Committee on Ministry, I'm moving onto a new Lackawanna enterprise called the "Congregational Innovation Team." It won't be hard to picture us as spiritual mad scientists, boiling test tubes and cooking up fresh ways to live out the Gospel. I have also enjoyed my first year as a member of the denomination's CREDO faculty, working with mid-career clergy to discover how they can remain vitally alive in every aspect of their work. It's work that gives me great joy. And having led 25 annual jazz communion services here, I spent a week of study leave at the University of the Pacific, poking around the voluminous archives of my old friend Brubeck. You will hear the fruits of that research soon.

Thank you for another great year. It is a joy to be in ministry with you.

William G. Carter, pastor

2016 Music Director's Report

Frank Jones

Our music programs are doing quite well. The Chapel Choir, directed by Kay Ten Eyck, has grown considerably throughout the year. There are about 15 students in the ensemble. They meet from 5:30-6:15 in the choir room. Chapel Choir sang at one service per month. Their singing and program time has been utilized quite well with assistance from Judy Cutler and Connie Weiss. They continue to have growing numbers into the new year.

The Adult Choir has been meeting regularly on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:30. They have been singing varied repertoire. Several new members of the church have joined the choir. Frank is continuing to seek out new members to join our choir. The choir has received a lot of compliments from the congregation and continues to strive towards musical excellence.

Bell Choir has been meeting on Wednesdays from 8:30-9:30 in the fellowship hall of the church. Dick Cochrane is the director of the bells. They, too, have been playing once a month at a service. The bells have had great numbers with some great anthems and benedictions at each service.

The Adult Choir and Bell Choir traveled to Allied Services this past September for the "Worship Through Service" program. The choir sang several pieces and the bells rang several pieces. The program had good attendance. We look forward to more outreach programs in the future.

All three ensembles were involved with the All Church Concert held in November. The program also featured a combined choir with Our Lady of Snows, under the direction of Dana Cerminaro. The program was well received by both choir members and choir attendees. Msgr. Quinn, from Our Lady of Snows, joined Bill Carter on the piano.

Frank is looking forward to more time with the church and the music ensembles of the church. We are consistently looking for more people to share in the music making of the church. Music is an integral part of the service.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Jones

Director of Music

Budget and Finance Report

Heather M. Acker

The First Presbyterian Church completed 2016 with Revenue \$22,128 in excess of Expenses. The approved 2016 Budget was a small surplus budget of \$995. **Congratulations to all for this exceptional performance!**

During the first 11 months of 2016, Pledge Income (Account #101) ran 7% **behind** budget. However, a very strong December reversed this and our pledge income ended 3% **over** the full year budget. Our total income was \$10,825 over budget.

Thanks to Committees, expenses for the year were under budget by \$11,355.

The Church was able to end the year with all of their obligations current thanks to these positive results.

The Session and the Budget and Finance Committee extend a sincere “thank you” to our congregation for your financial gifts and your many volunteer hours that strengthened the mission of our Church.

We extend a sincere thank you to our Treasurer, Wayne Griffiths; Nancy Owens, Administrator; and Dave Argust, our Accountant, who kept our Committee on target.

Respectfully submitted: Heather M Acker, Chair

Committee Members: Wayne Griffiths (Treasurer),
Patti Delaney, John Rich,
Dave Naeher and Margaret Reese

Building and Grounds Report for 2016

Frank Garnecki

In addition to the routine maintenance and repairs, (ie: cleaning windows, bathrooms, rugs, furniture, floors & stairways, pew repairs, garbage disposal, clearing parking lot debris, tree & bush pruning etc.) and the usual leaking, creaking, and squeaking issues we also:

- Installed new counter tops in Kitchen
- Added night lighting in the side parking lot
- Replaced hot water heater and circulating pump
- Repaired non-working radiators
- Fixed ceiling leak and damage in room 108

- Added a First Aid Kit and replenished existing kits
- Did minor repairs and porch painting for a homebound neighbor
- Assessed roof damage and approved repairs to be done in 2017
- Had sanctuary sound system cleaned and repaired
- Opened church to ALANON

Special thanks to Wayne Griffiths for assisting with the check vouchers.

A note of appreciation to John Conklin, for being on top of our building issues and getting things done quickly and correctly. We are grateful for his capable and dedicated service.

Christian Education and Growth Committee

Nancy Dennen

Committee Members: Jay Clymer, Nancy Dennen, Janet Dobson, Tyler Kusma, Char Lyon, Linda Schuller

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries: Jana Schillinger

The goal of the Christian Education committee is to support the spiritual growth of our congregation through education. The members of our committee work year-long to offer different educational opportunities to both our adults and children. The results of the committee's hard work have been successful only due to the significant part volunteers play in our programs. We are so grateful to the WAY teachers, meal preparers, VBS volunteers, chaperones, decorators and all others that have given their time and talents.

In the fall of 2016 Jana Schillinger was hired as Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries. Jana's collaboration with the CE committee has provided the guidance and support needed to grow and strengthen our educational programs.

Education is offered from 6:15-7:10, preceded by dinner and surrounded by choir rehearsals.

Classes include:

- nursery (Spark)
- age 4-grade 5 (Power Express)
- grades 6-8 (We Believe)
- high school+ (PresbyYouth)
- adults (TAGS and Faith & Life)

A confirmation class began in October to interested youth in 7th grade and above. The classes take place on Sundays after worship and are taught by Jana, Rev. Carter and a volunteer.

From July 11-15, Vacation Bible School was held for approximately 60 children each day. Our theme this year was Deep Sea Discovery. We learned that God knows, hears, strengthens, loves, and sends us – and that he is with us wherever we go! Thanks again to all who helped to make this a great experience for the children.

Some of the highlights of our year include:

- The Holy Week program which included making traditional Holy Week symbols after a lunch of soups and desserts
- Youth events included movies, games, bowling, iron chef and a scavenger hunt
- 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
- A pajama drive was held during Advent with more than 70 pairs of pajamas collected for children of Scranton Head Start
- An advent event in December was celebrated by making holiday crafts after enjoying a pot luck lunch after worship

Board of Deacons Annual Report **Gwynne Gilbert, co-chair**

The mission of the Deacons is to provide support to those church members who have a temporary need. Accomplishing this mission is achieved through the dedication and work of the members of 10 committees throughout the year:

Cards and Letters	Independent / Assisted Living
College Packages	Journey through Grief
Emergency Home Repair	Meals
Fellowship	Sunshine Ministry
Food Pantry	Time of Loss

In addition, the responsibility of ushering at each service is fulfilled.

Donations to local organizations are given after much thought and consideration. This year, a donation was given to My Brothers' Keepers Quilts. More will be determined at our January 2017 meeting.

Two additional projects were undertaken in 2016. They were:

- Participation in "Worship through Service Day" on September 25. Our project was to collect, organize and deliver new and gently used books to St. Francis Commons, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Ronald McDonald House, Catherine McAuley Center, and St. Joe's Center, all in Scranton, and Bedford Towers in Clarks Summit.

- Preparation of a calendar of special dates for members of our congregation. The calendar is being assembled noting special dates of church members, e.g. birthdays and anniversaries. Any member who has chosen to participate will have their dates included in the Presbyter and on Rev. Carter's weekly blog.

Member Care by Deacons 2016

Sara Ann Hosier

There are 28 people on our list for calls, visits, flowers for Easter, and flowers for Christmas. Everyone on this list has someone in the church who keeps in touch, calls, and delivers flowers for him/her. Beverly Bright orders Easter flowers and poinsettias for us to deliver at those special times.

Each month a report is made to the Deacons concerning those on the list. My two helpers are Anne Deremer and Gayle Hamilton.

Board of Deacons Financial Report 2016

Marsha Parrish, Treasurer, Board of Deacons

Cash balance 1/1/2016	\$ 2,371.06
-----------------------	-------------

Deposits

Donations and Offerings	\$ 6,324.95
-------------------------	-------------

Disbursements

Care Notes	\$ 124.00
------------	-----------

Flowers, Fruit Baskets, etc.	\$ 577.97
------------------------------	-----------

College Box Supplies	\$ 399.17
----------------------	-----------

Gift Cards for Emergency Needs	\$ 1,550.00
--------------------------------	-------------

Worship Service Day Supplies	\$ 56.63
------------------------------	----------

Cabinets for Fellowship Hall	\$ 611.38
------------------------------	-----------

Contributions:

Food & Supplies for AME Shelter	\$ 198.62
---------------------------------	-----------

Abington Ecumenical Ministerium – Food Pantry	\$ 500.00
---	-----------

Patel Children Donation	\$ 200.00
-------------------------	-----------

<u>My Brother's Keeper Quilts</u>	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
-----------------------------------	------------------

Total Disbursements	\$ 4,717.77
---------------------	-------------

Cash Balance 12/31/2016	\$ <u>3,978.24</u>
-------------------------	--------------------

Fellowship and Evangelism Committee

Adrienne Horger, Co-Chair

The Fellowship Committee provides opportunities for church members and visitors to spend time together to get to know each other and develop friendships founded in Christ's love. We provide a weekly coffee time September through early June following Sunday worship. The committee is also responsible for making sure that there are greeters signed up for each Sunday. The committee organized three pot luck lunches this year: one at the Annual Meeting in February, one in April, and one in December. In the summer the committee scheduled a weekend at Camp Lackawanna which included a picnic after worship on Sunday. The committee arranged for attendance at the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders Faith Day in April. For the Worship Through Service Day in September the committee organized 14 individuals who painted several rooms at the United Cerebral Palsy of Northeast Pennsylvania facility on Center Street in Clarks Summit.

All these activities would not be possible without the dedicated hard work of the whole committee including Judy Cutler, Anne Deremer, Barbara Wadsworth, Deb Traettino, Jana Schillinger, Mick Wirth, Betty Keen, Gail Van Horn, and Karen White. A special thank you to Karen whose organizational skills insure that the fellowship hour runs smoothly each week.

Mission and Justice Committee

Diane Scheuer

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 each Friday, and collecting clothing for distribution to those in need; providing dinners on Sundays and supplies for breakfast to Bethel AME's Cold Weather Shelter, as well as providing encouragement to other churches to become more involved with shelter needs; mobilizing highway cleanup teams to participate in the Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program four times a year.

We continue to financially support those in need both here and abroad. Locally, the committee supports the work of the Catherine McAuley Center, Women's Resource Center, SCOLA, Children's Advocacy Center, UNC Post Foster Care Program, Infant Care Program at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Countryside Conservancy, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA), Spring Hills Foundation, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, and Williamson Jacques, our

Haitian scholarship student attending Keystone College, with auxiliary expenses, such as health care.

Internationally, we support the Central Europe Mission of Burkhard Paetzold. He works out of Germany to the whole of central Europe. He has long worked with the Roma people and has now added attention to the Refugee problem. His newsletters can be found on the Presbyterian Mission Agency website.

We also support the Rev. Leith Fujii, Reaching the Pygmies Ministry in Uganda, Doctors Without Borders, Groundswell International for the Nasonje Women's Micro-credit Program in Haiti, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) this year for Gulf flooding.

We lead our church to participate denominationally through our four Special Offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy.) 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 the Spring Hills Foundation and a talk on global warming.

The Voluntary Action Center in Scranton creates "Care Bags" to be donated to social service agencies that support the homeless in our community. We contribute 500 travel-size hand sanitizers annually for the bags which are distributed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

We were instrumental in the organization and implementation of a day of community service titled Worship Through Service in September. The project allowed each member of the congregation to participate in a service project of individual choice.

Through the Alternative Gift Market held this year in November, we advocated for, and supported the artisans, trades people, mission workers, and farmers of Appalachian Service Project (ASP), Reaching the Pygmies Ministry, Heifer International, SERRV, Verve Vertu, and PCUSA Coffee Project, our ongoing program sponsored by the Schillinger family.

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 Barbara Decker, Melba Fialko, Meg Hatch, Fred Lyon, Phil Muntzel, Nancy London, Robin Pinches, Dave Porter, Donna Porter, and Brian Schillinger for their ongoing commitment and willingness to work for justice and peace in our world.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Lee Wirth, Moderator

The year 2016 began with a Board Meeting. We revised our booklet and made the necessary changes and corrections.

Our officers remain basically the same: Lee Wirth – Moderator; Lorraine Daniels – Vice Moderator; Barbara Pittman – Secretary; Doris Dempsey/Bonnie Plantholt – Treasurer.

On the first Tuesday in April and October we invited a group of twenty-five men and women from the Clarks Summit State Hospital. They had lunch, entertainment and fun. Janet Dobson is our Action Committee person. We provided new socks for our guests to take back with them.

The second and fourth Tuesday, excluding July and August, we were busy making sleeping bags for the homeless (My Brother's Keeper Quilts). We made between 50-60 sleeping bags. They are distributed in New York City, Philadelphia and, yes, in Scranton.

We participated in the World Day of Prayer in March. We also contributed to the mission of the larger church through our Thank, Least Coin and Birthday Offerings.

We met here at our church in September for Relate, Relax, and Renew. We had a covered dish meal and a short synopsis of our study for the coming year "*Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes.*"

We have three circles of Bible Study. The times are 10:00 am, 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm. These meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. All women of the church are invited to join a group.

Happy 2017 to everyone.

Presbyterian Women Treasurer's Report

Doris Dempsey and Bonnie Plantholt

Balance 1/1/2016	\$ 1,143.01
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 2,718.45</u>
	\$ 3,861.46
Total Disbursements	\$ 2,186.18
Balance 12/31/2016	<u>\$ 1,675.28</u>

Worship, Music and the Arts Report

Nancy Post

The Worship, Music and the Arts Committee is responsible for planning meaningful worship and music experiences for our congregation and visitors.

The “behind the scenes” work involves discussion and planning at monthly meetings, an annual “retreat” when the committee plans the entire church year’s services and recruiting volunteers for a multitude of roles.

The quote “it takes a village” has been oft repeated but in our case it might be said that “it takes a church” – a church of responsive, dynamic members - to answer the call to do the work of the church and glorify God. Volunteers are an important part of our worship and music program and we would be remiss not to mention:

- Dozens of liturgists and readers
- Numerous guest musicians
- Advent wreath lighters
- 53 singers and ringers
- 50 Communion servers
- “Subs” in our church nursery
- Chapel choir “assistants”
- Dick Cochrane, our Bell Choir Director
- Our Arts Series Committee under the able leadership of John Weiss

Highlights of this past year have included:

- Formation of Communion Teams
- Introduction of reflective time during the postlude
- Advent Blog
- Three Octave Bell Choir
- Chapel Choir’s Superior rating at Music in the Parks
- New Chapel Choir stoles lovingly made by Jeanne Comly and given in memory of her husband, Dave
- Making music for patients at Allied’s Transitional Rehab Unit as part of Worship through Service Day
- Arts at First Presbyterian with performances by Jennifer Cowgill and Sophie Till, musicians from First Presbyterian and Our Lady of Snows at the All Church Recital, Excelsior Cornet Band, Electric City Swing, Swing Street Jazztet, Juggler Rob Smith and young musicians and artists who contribute their talents during the Ice Festival.

Thank you to committee members: Richard Cochrane, Connie and John Weiss, Betsy Ellis, Grace Farrell, Gayle Hamilton, Rev. Carter, Director of Music Frank Jones and Organist/Chapel Choir Director Kay Ten Eyck.

Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship

Janet Dobson

This Scholarship is set-up to recognize a graduating High School member of our church who plans to further their education.

Monies from the loose plate offering from the Christmas Eve services are deposited into this account plus any other so designated contributions.

There was no winner for 2016 as no applications were received.

Memorial Fund Annual Report 2016

Barbara Brown

Memorials were given in memory of:

Lucille Heckman

Robert Dygert

Glenn W. Carter

Isabella Stewart

Paul Ford

Johanna Conklin

Irene Reid

Lois Stoeckel

Lois Jones

Contributions for the year 2016 totaled \$5,230. The breakdown for Dedicated Memorials is as follows:

Music Fund - \$1,295

Board of Deacons' Fund - \$2,055

Seasonal Farmworkers' Mission Fund - \$605

The balance of the funds which are not dedicated, \$1,275, is deposited in the Restricted fund account 2017.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous

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.

Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book Group meets on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and is open to anyone with a desire to stop drinking.

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 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.

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