The Church on the Hill

# The Presbyter

Celebrating 100 Years

1912 - 2012



First Presbyterian Church

November 2014

Clarks Summit, PA



# All-church recital featuring the musical ensembles at First Presbyterian Church Sunday, November 23, 2014 4:00 pm

This concert will highlight all the musical ensembles at the church along with vocal and instrumental soloists. Oboist Tom Heinze is the featured guest artist, joining the Adult Choir on two different settings of Psalm 23 and performing with Bill Carter on two gentle jazz duets for oboe and rambunctious piano by composer Paul McCandless.

The Bell Choir will accompany the Adult Choir on an arrangement of "Go Tell It on the Mountain" as well as play a few selections on their own. No concert would be complete without a few selections from our award-winning Teen Choir!

The Chapel Choir under the direction of Kay Ten Eyck will be telling stories- one about the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal and the other based on the parable of the Wise Man and the Foolish Man.

The concert will also include solos by sopranos Susan Kelly and Jessica Hitchcock and a piano-organ duet with Bev Bright and Kay Ten Eyck.

Don't miss this musical feast!

This event is open to the public and free of charge, so don't hesitate to invite your friends. For more information call the church office at 570-586-6306 or visit www.fpccs.org.





Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday,

November 2nd

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# Notes from the Session Meeting on October 14, 2014 Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

- Dr. Barbara Smith, Presbytery Executive Director updated Session on the happenings in the Presbytery at the October meeting. She explained their commissioning twenty-five pulpit ruling elders that have recently completed training and the changes in the churches in our district.
- Session had the first reading of the 2015 budget as prepared by the Finance Committee.
- Briar Woodley, Chair of the Fellowship Committee would like church members to pickup their directories as soon as possible. They can be found on a table in Fellowship Hall.



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

#### **REVENUE**

Budget	\$ 292,500
Actual Received	246,793
Difference	\$ (45,707)
	=======

#### **EXPENSES**

	=======
Difference	\$ (32,134)
Actual Expenses	<u>271,841</u>
Budget	\$ 303,975

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (25,048)

## PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 236,250
Received	208,459
Difference	\$ (23,791)

Per Capita Update 2014 Total Received to date - \$3,717

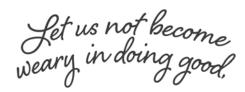
#### The Presbyter deadline for The December issue is November 14, 2014

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

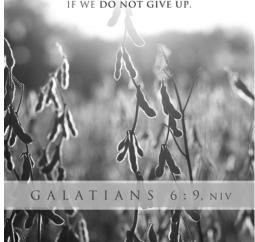
All visitors are welcome to worship with us. **Worship services will be held at 10:00 a.m.** Child care is available all morning. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

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



FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.





# From the Pastor

William G. Carter

The confirmation class began discussing the topic, "What do we believe?" It was a livelier conversation than I expected. Our bright students could readily offer some of the basics: there is God, Jesus is God's Son, the world is a mess and God sends Jesus to rescue it. But then one more topic surfaced: there is an unseen spiritual world that is often out of sight.

Perhaps we had Halloween on our minds, with witches, goblins, and ghosts ready to appear on our doorsteps and in our imaginations. But it was an insightful observation on their part. Whether it is the hint of paranormal activity on a cable TV show or the Nicene Creed's line about "all things seen and unseen," every once in a while, it's good to remember that there is more going on in the spiritual realm than we may realize.

Some speak of guardian angels, even to the extent that they have them named and explained. Others shudder at the Dark Side, convinced there are forces of evil that are making every effort to do them in. I remain open to both possibilities, although I confess my lack of interest in matters deemed spooky or esoteric. For me, there is one God, supreme and powerful and good. No demon can hold a candle to God.

I like how C.S. Lewis put it in his foreword to *The Screwtape Letters*, a collection of imaginative epistles between a demonic tempter and his understudy:

The proper question is whether I believe in devils. I do. That is to say, I believe in angels, and I believe that some of these, by the abuse of their will, have become enemies to God and, as a corollary, to us. These we may call devils. They do not differ in nature from good angels, but their nature is depraved. Devil is the opposite of angel only as Bad Man is the opposite of Good Man. Satan, the leader or dictator of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael.

I believe this not in the sense that it is part of my creed, but in the sense that it is one of my opinions. My religion would not be in ruins if this opinion were shown to be false. Till that happens – and proofs of a negative are hard to come by – I shall retain it.

Throughout biblical history, angels occasionally pop up – far more than demons - although they do not appear in every Bible book or even with regularity. What is clear is that God rules above every realm. There are erratic and destructive forces in the world, whatever their origin or rebellion. But God creates all things good and aims to rescue all things that go bad. Scripture is crystal clear on this point.

God rules. It's a great promise as our days grow shorter and the evening shadows lengthen. And we sing about it every week! I think I'll have another handful of candy corn.

See you on Sunday,

Rev. Bill

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### THE WAY

The <u>W</u>ednesday <u>A</u>dults and <u>Y</u>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

## SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday, November 26 - W.A.Y. classes do not meet due to Thanksgiving.

Wednesday, December 3 - "Symbols of Christmas" Join us as we meet together as a church to celebrate the season of Advent. Event will start at 6:00pm.

**Spark (Newborn - 3 year old)** enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery with teachers Grace Farrell, Myrna Diven and our Sunday caregivers. In November, our Spark students will hear about the stories of Naaman being healed (2 Kings:5-19), Queen Esther (Esther 2:5-18; 3:1-6; 8:1-17) and Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6:1-28).

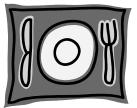
**Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5)** are divided into two age groups and experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. October 29 and November 5: *David the Boy* (1 Samuel 16:1-23; 17:1-58; 2 Samuel 5:1-12). God used the gifts of the boy David to accomplish God's purposes. As we read the stories of David, we see how God created David with the gifts needed to become a great king. November 12 and 19: *Elijah* (1 Kings 17:1-16; 19:8-13). Elijah was a prophet who trusted in God even when all things seemed impossible. God cared for and provided for Elijah.

We Believe: The Story of God's Faithfulness (Grades 6-8) Room 209 with Jana Schillinger and Andy Kepler. 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. In November students will be looking at The Passover and Israel's Escape from Egypt (Exodus 7:8-15:21), God's Covenant with Moses (Exodus 15:22-24) and the Israelites Entering the Promised Land (Numbers 11-14; 18-24; 32; Deuteronomy 34).

**PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12; college age adults)** Room 111 with Charlie Pinches and Darlene Scappatura. Throughout the fall, this class will be using PresbyYouth's curriculum: *Prophets and Exile*. In this unit, students will hear the stories of Elijah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah as they explore a variety of spiritual practices to help hear God's voice and get to know the prophets of God who preached repentance to the people. In November, students finish this unit by learning the stories of Daniel (Daniel 1:1-21; 3:1-30; 5:1-31; 6:1-28), Ezra and Nehemiah (Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31; Ezra 3) and Ruth and Jonah (Matthew 1:1-16; books of Ruth and Jonah).

<u>Talking About God Stuff (TAGS)</u> Room 206. October 15-29: *Modern Parables*. The parables Jesus taught to his followers revealed God's truth by using examples from their lives as farmers, fishermen and shepherds. Even today, we are able to relate to these parables and see God's truth in them. But have you ever wondered what these parables might look like in today's world? *Modern Parables* draws out the truth's of Jesus' parables, placing them into today's context and revealing a way for our faith to influence every aspect of our lives.

**Faith and Life**, Room 210. October 15-29: *Called To Life*. Have you ever wondered what God is calling you to do in your life? Have you ever questioned how to discern God's voice? Join us in the journey of discovering how God works in our lives, who He is calling us to be and how He wants us to speak His truth to those around us.



#### **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.

Reservations slips can be found in the church office, in the kitchen, or in pews.

# **Holiday Cookie Exchange**

Ready...set...BAKE! Nothing says the holidays like a batch of freshly baked Christmas cookies. Add some variety to your cookie jar by joining us on **Sunday, December 7th at 2:00PM** in Fellowship Hall for a cookie exchange. We'll have hot cider as we sample the baked goods, chat, share recipes, and of course -- swap cookies! Want to join us? Please bring 6 dozen cookies and a few copies of your recipe to share. Happy baking!





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# **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: Vacant

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.

Our Christmas Pajama Drive will be kicking off in November. We are again working with The Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency providing PJ's for approximately 90 children in Head Start Centers. All the girls will be a size 5 and the boys are size 6. The pajamas, wrapped along with the attached tag need to be returned to the church by December 7th. Please do not buy anything extra, or attach to the package.

Look for our Christmas tree in the narthex!

Christian Education and Growth Committee



# **New Library Books!**

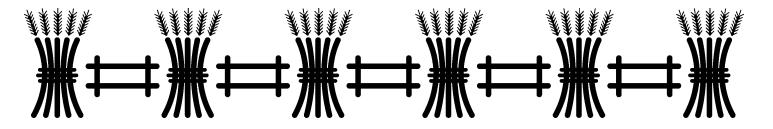
Have you looked at the bookshelves downstairs or in the library lately? If so, you may have noticed several new children's books on the shelves! Among the exciting new additions are board books by Susie Poole based on Psalms and Ecclesiastes, older reader books that take kids on adventures through Israel and the life of David and several other books retelling the stories of Abraham, Joshua and Elijah! Be sure to take a look and see what else is there!

# **Thanksgiving Offering**

On Sunday, November 23rd, our Thanksgiving Offering will be received. There are special envelopes in your boxes, or a pew envelope can be used for this purpose.

Our Thanksgiving Offering is given to the Norton Fund and is used to assist our members facing a time of transition in their lives.

The fund has helped many over the years. Please consider a contribution on November 23rd.





A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our fall State Hospital Luncheon from helping with the food, cooking on the grill, running the dishwasher, setting the tables, and for the musical entertainment from our Bell Choir. So many socks were donated that our guests were able to leave with 5 pairs each. Everyone is always welcome to join us. If you are not sure what this entails please call Janet Dobson, 570-563-1887 who would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Our next scheduled luncheon is April 7th, 2015.

Presbyterian Women

To all the wonderful people at First Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for all of the beautiful cards, notes and the poster of messages that you sent to me for my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. You certainly gave to be an outpouring of love and made my birthday extra special.

Tinka Zenke





During my recent bereavement, the members of First Presbyterian Church stepped up to the plate and reached out to me with cards, calls and a beautiful celebration of my sister, Lucille's life, conducted by Pastor Bill.

We released white balloons skyward and sat down to a lovely meal served by Jana Schillinger and her staff.

I am forever grateful to this church and its congregation.

Gayle H. Hamilton

My deepest gratitude and thanks to you all for your expressions of sympathy, prayers and out pouring of love following Dave's death. A special thank you to Pastor Carter, Sue Kelly, Kay Ten Eyck and the choir for presenting a comforting and meaningful memorial service and to Jo Conklin for coordinating the luncheon following Dave's service. Many thanks to the ladies of the church for preparing and serving a wonderful meal to all the guests, and to John Conklin for his efforts in setting up all the necessary areas around the church. What a huge blessing and generous gift to our family from all of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you for your comfort and love.

Jeanne Comly and Family

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We will be meeting a week early due to Thanksgiving on November 20th at nancy London's home. Come join us for a discussion of The Cellist of Saraievo by Steven Galloway. In a city under siege, four people whose lives have been upended are ultimately reminded of what it is to be human. From his window, a musician sees twenty-two of his friends and neighbors waiting in a breadline. Then, in a flash, they are killed by a mortar attack. In an act of defiance, the man picks up his cello and decides to play at the site of the shelling for twentytwo days, honoring their memory. Elsewhere, a young man leaves home to collect drinking water for his family and, in the face of danger, must weigh the value of generosity against selfish survivalism. A third man, older, sets off in search of bread and distraction and instead runs into a long-ago friend who reminds him of the city he thought he had lost, and the man he once was. As both men are drawn into the orbit of cello music, a fourth character—a young woman, a sniper-holds the fate of the cellist in her hands. As she protects him with her life, her own army prepares to challenge the kind of person she has become.

The holidays are fast approaching and many people find this a difficult time of year. The stress of planning events, expenses, expectations and so on can leave you feeling overwhelmed. Perhaps this is the first year you have faced the holidays without a



loved one. If you are not looking forward to the holidays and would like someone to talk confidentially with to help you find some of God's grace to help you through the difficult times, contact one of our Stephen Leaders, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, or Rev. Bill Carter. We will be happy to hook you up with one of our Stephen Ministers to walk with you as you face the coming weeks.

# Mission and Justice Committee News

#### **Alternative Gift Market**

Our annual Alternative Gift Market will be held on Sunday, December 7 after worship during the fellowship hour. Participants will be SERRV, Presbyterian Coffee, Ugandan Pygmy Ministry, Verve Vertu, Appalachian Service Project and Heifer International. Come enjoy refreshments and shop for creative, meaningful gifts that will bring joy to both the receiver and the giver as we help others in need.

#### The WAY Class

On Wednesday, December 3, immediately after supper (at 6:00) during the WAY, Mission and Justice will provide a brief educational presentation on why we as Christians are called to Mission and why the Alternative Gift Market exists. The evening will continue with Advent activities.

# First Presbyterian Re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation for 2014

To be certified as an Earth Care Congregation, churches complete projects in four areas: worship, education, facilities and outreach. These activities can range from the simple - Presbyter ecojustice articles - to the more involved, such as our Adopt-a-Highway program or environmentally conscious building renovations. Each activity is assigned a point value; churches must earn 100 points to be certified as an Earth Care Congregation for one year. After a year, churches complete new projects to get recertified.

## **Adopt a Highway**

Next Adopt-a-Highway clean-up is schedule for Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM. We meet in the parking lot of the Clarks Summit Methodist Church across from the library. All are welcome. Contact Donna Porter for additional information- 585-4006.

# Proposed Earth Care Table Talks

We are planning to have our next Table Talk during Coffee Hour after the worship service on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Our guest will be Jerry Stiles, the Manager of the Lackawanna County Conservation District. LCCD strives to provide for the conservation of soil and water resources through the control and prevention of soil erosion and conservation, restoration and planning of the county's watersheds.



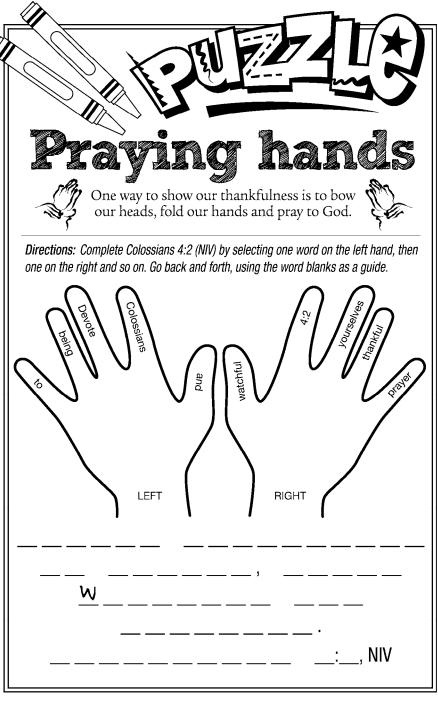
Make this Thanksgiving decoration and keepsake as a reminder of God's many blessings.

# What you need:

- Acrylic paints
- Paint brush
- White cardstock (8" x 11")
- Baby wipes or wet paper towels
- 8" x 11" frame (available at dollar stores)
- Black permanent marker
- Bowls or paper plates

# What you do:

- 1. Paint your palm, fingers, wrist and a portion of your arm with brown paint.
- 2. With the white cardstock placed vertically, press down your painted hand and arm. The print should resemble a tree trunk and branches.
- 3. Clean your hand and arm with baby wipes or wet paper towels.
- 4. Dip your fingertips into different-colored paints and press them onto the paper to make leaves. (It's autumn, so leaves can be falling!)
- 5. When paint is dry, write "thankful" down the trunk with permanent marker.
  Also write your name and the year in the corner.
- 6. Frame and display your decoration.



Answer: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2, MIV

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# **Joys and Sorrows**



The Sympathy of the Congregation is extended to:

Bill Thorburn at the loss of this sister, Mary Snyder;

The family of Dave Comly who entered the church triumphant September 28, 2014;

and to Gayle Hamilton on the passing of her sister, Lucille Heckman.



Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

Chris (Spangler) & Richard Jeske who exchanged wedding vows on July 4, 2014, with Rev. Carter officiating.

Bradley Scheuer & Katie Damon who were married on October 4, 2014 in Virginia.



# Lectionary Readings

November 2, 2014 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 3: 7-17; Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37 1 Thess. 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12

November 9, 2013 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78: 1-7 1 Thess. 4: 13-18; Matthew 25: 1-13

November 16, 2014 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Judg. 4: 1-7; Ps. 123; 1 Thess. 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30

November 23, 2014 Christ the King

Ezek. 34: 11-16, 20-24: Psalm 100 Eph. 1: 15-23; Matthew 25: 31-46

November 30, 2014 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isa. 64: 1-9; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 1 Cor. 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37



I have not heard from people interested in sharing Thanksgiving this year. It looks like my family may be able to get together for the first time in many years at my sister's home in Massachusetts so I am cancelling plans for a local Thanksgiving dinner. I hope you all have a very wonderful day and watch for announcements next year. Thank you for your interest and support for the past several years. *Judy Cutler* 



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536 Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Permit No. 30 P A I D Clarks Summit PA

# DATED MATERIAL Return Service Requested





Order Your Poinsettias Now Price is \$8 per plant.

Deadline: November 30

Name:					
Phone number:					
Number of Flowers @ \$8.00 each Total Amount Enclosed					
I will pick up my flowers Please give to a shut-in					
Dedication: In honor of/In memory of					

Please drop off at church office or in collection basket

# November 2014

# Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 2014         S       M       T       W       T       F       S         1       2       3       4         5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       18       14       15       16       17       18       19       20         19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31					1	
2 10:00 AM Morning Worship 10:20 AM Joyful Noise 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	3 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers 7:00 PM Mission & Justice AHS Trip Meeting	4 10:00 AM PW Executive Board	5 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 6:16 PM Light supper 5:30 PM Chape/Teen Ch 6:15 PM The W.A.Y. 7:15 PM Adult Choir 8:30 PM Bell Choir	6 30 AM Mens' Breakfast 5 00 PM Counselling Support Group 5 30 PM Staff Meeting 7,00 PM Building & Grounds 7,00 PM Christian Education	7	8 9:00 AM Adopt-A-High- way Cleanup
9 10.00 AM Morning Worship 10.20 AM Joyful Noise 11:15 AM Table Talk 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	10 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers 5:30 PM AACC 6:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts	11 10:00 AM MBK Quilts 7:00 PM Session	930 AM LDT & 1PM LP COM 1000 AM Prayer & Share 5.15 PM Light supper 5.30 PM Chapel/Teen Ch 6.15 PM The WAY. 7.15 PM Adult Choir 8.30 PM Bell Choir	5:00 PM Counseling Support Group	14 Presbyter Deadline	15
16 10:00 AM Morning Worship 10:20 AM Joyful Noise 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	17 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers	18 PW Circles: 10AM, 1:30PM & 7PM	19 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:15 PM Light supper 5:30 PM Chapel/Teen Ch 6:15 PM The WAY. 7:15 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Bell Choir	8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 6:30 PM Fellowship 7:00 PM FPC Book Group	21	22 7:00 PM Recital
23 10 00 AM Morning Worship 10 20 AM Joyful Noise 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 4 00 PM All Church Recital, with reception following in Fellowship Hall	24 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers	25 10:00 AM MBK Quilts 7:00 PM Deacons	9.00 AM Presbyter 10.00 AM Prayer & Share 5:30 PM Chapel/Teen Ch 8:30 PM Bell Choir	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30 10:00 AM Morning Worship 10:20 AM Joyful Noise						