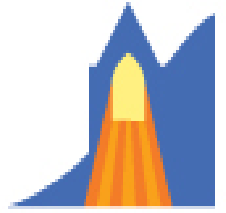


The Presbyter

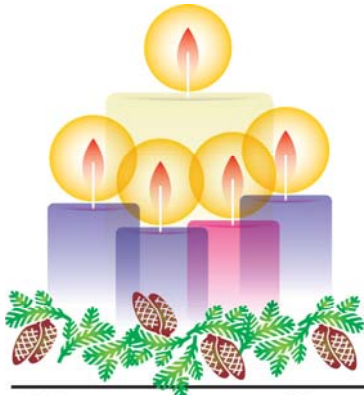
Celebrating
100 Years
1912 - 2012



First Presbyterian Church

December 2013

Clarks Summit, PA



Christmas Eve Services:

6:30 p.m. - This service is "child friendly." Children and young people will participate in the telling of the story with our Christmas Pageant.

9:00 p.m. - A service of Lessons and Carols. Our teen and adult choirs will lead the singing as the scriptures are read and the message is given.

11:00 p.m. - Our evening concludes with a special Jazz Communion. We will share the bread and cup and rejoice in the birth of the Savior, accompanied by the sounds of swinging shepherds.

Christmas Eve

On Sunday, December 29, there will be one service for the entire church family at 10:00 a.m.



December 15th will be a day of fellowship and good cheer with our church family.

At **3:00 p.m.** a Cookie Exchange will take place in Fellowship Hall. Add variety to your holiday cookie selection: bring 6 dozen freshly-baked cookies and trade them for cookies baked by someone else.

At **4:00 p.m.** the same day, we'll go caroling to the residences of some of our members, friends, and neighbors.



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YOUTH Events

Lastly, our Youth Group will celebrate with a Christmas Party. Check Page 5 for more details.

The Session voted to **temporarily change to one service on Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock AM** beginning on **Sunday, December 29, 2013** and continuing through **Sunday, March 30, 2014.**



YOUTH News

Changes to the youth ministry are coming. Please see page 5 for more information.



Notes from the Session Meeting on November 12, 2013

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

1. Session voted that there will be one service this winter starting on December 29, 2013 and ending Sunday, March, 30, 2014. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m.
2. Session voted to select a new Presbyterian Hymnal. It will replace our blue hymnal as well as the "Sing" hymnal.
3. Dick Maurer, Chair of Building and Grounds would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's Fall Clean-Up. Your help was very much appreciated.

The Presbyterian deadline for the January issue is December 13, 2013

The Presbyterian 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 at 9:00 and 10:55 a.m. from now thru December 22. (Beginning December 29, there will be one service at 10:00 a.m.** This schedule will continue until March 30, 2014.) 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.

Thank you to all who have indicated their support of our church by returning pledge cards for 2014. If you have not yet submitted your pledge for next year, we ask that you will give this topic prayerful consideration and submit your card to the church office soon.



Heather Acker, Stewardship Chairperson

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	Patricia Delaney
Editor	Lindsey Hardy
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright
Director of Adult & Teen Choirs	Susan Kelly
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin



An assistant is needed for the Arts Series who would focus particularly on the Ice Festival activities at the church on February 14-16, 2014. Many of the details will be handled ahead of time. Someone is needed on site to handle last minute details and to make sure things run smoothly. If you can help, please contact me at 570-586-0434 or at jaweiss@epix.net.

It's not too late to contribute to the 2013-14 Arts Series fund. We look forward to our spring events, which will include the Ice Festival activities and performances by the Lyric Consort and the Presbybop Quartet. We are thankful for our enthusiastic and supportive audiences, but unfortunately our free-will offerings do not usually cover the cost of the performances, and we need additional contributions to meet our expenses. If you can make a donation, please write a check to the church and put "Arts Series" in the memo block. Thank you to all who have already contributed and those who will be!

John Weiss, Chair

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2013

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 324,354
Actual Received	<u>293,150</u>
Difference	\$ (31,204)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 331,512
Actual Expenses	<u>298,038</u>
Difference	\$ (33,474)
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ 2,269

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 262,500
Received	<u>251,270</u>
Difference	\$ (11,230)

Per Capita Update 2013:
Total Received to date - \$4,070



From the Pastor

William G. Carter

As you can see from this issue of our newsletter, December is a rich and lively time for our congregation. Our theme for the month is "Welcome Home for Christmas!" I hope you will join for our worship services, take part in the fun and faith-building programs, and consider a specific way that you can share the light of Jesus Christ with the neighborhood and world.

So how can you share the light? There are lots of ways. Invite your neighbors and loved ones to come to worship with you, or to join you at our learning opportunities. Tell people about the good things that happen in and through our church. Do something for others that lets them know that God's Light is more powerful than darkness and despair. Join your voice with those who sing of Christ's power and presence in this gloomy world. It really does matter. Each one of us has a ministry of making Christmas real to the whole world, every single day of the year.

I also want to let you know about two things that your elders have been discussing.

Through the winter, we will worship at one service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. This is scheduled from December 29 through March 30. It is the Session's hope that the combined service will build fellowship and maintain a strong presence throughout the sporadic attendance during the winter. But we need your help! The statistics suggest that our combined attendance drops by 25-30 people whenever we shift from two services to one. So simply put, we need you to come.

We count on you. We are strongest when we are together. Our Worship, Music, and the Arts committee welcomes your feedback on this temporary change, as they seek to accommodate as many of our church members as possible. We want a worship schedule that welcomes everybody!

The Session voted unanimously to purchase the new Presbyterian hymnal, "Glory to God." This new collection of 853 songs will replace the blue hymnal (acquired in 1991) and the green songbook (bought in 2002). It includes the best songs of both volumes, introduces some great new pieces, and welcomes back favorite hymns like "It is Well with My Soul" and "Standing on the Promises."

We invite you to help us purchase the new hymnal, which will cost \$20 per book. Perhaps you have loved ones that you wish to honor or remember through the donation of these hymnals. We appreciate your generous gifts to provide for this long-term resource for worshiping God. All donations can be made to "First Presbyterian Church," marked for the hymnal, and delivered to our office.

This is a special time of the year. I will do all that I can to make this a spiritually rich season for you and your loved ones, in the grand hope that you will make it a special time for those around you. May the light of our Lord Jesus be with you.

With abundant love,
Rev. Bill



THE WAY

The Wednesday Aadults and Youth Christian Education

“I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE”

Supper, 5:45 * Gathering Time, 6:10 * Classes for all ages, 6:15

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **no Wednesday Evening Way classes on Wednesdays, December 25 and January 1** as a way to honor families and rejoice in time together.

Advent Evening - On Wednesday, December 4 we will host an evening for all ages focused on the season of Advent. Since part of the evening's activities will include a dedication of the pajamas received during the pajama drive, we encourage all people to **come wearing pajamas**. The evening begins at **5:45pm; supper is part of the program**. This event will be in place of regular Wednesday **WAY** classes. Since this is planned as a family event, we ask that children be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Spark (Newborns - 3 year olds) will enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery with teacher Linda Schuller and our caregivers Kaitlin Scappatura and Sondra Lionetti.

Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 6) are divided into three age groups and will be learning about how, during Advent, we wait and prepare to celebrate the birth of the promised Savior, Jesus.

We Believe: Faith Questions (Grades 7-8) meets in room 209 with Jana Schillinger and Katie Fischer. Using *We Believe: Faith Questions*, our Junior High Class will look at real questions related to God and the Bible.

Feasting on the Word (Grades 9-12) meets in room 111 with Charlie and Robin Pinches. Using *Feasting On The Word*, our Senior High Class will dig deeper in the Scriptures we read during Sunday morning worship.

*On December 11 and 18, all 3 Adult Education classes will be combined to create 1 Adult Education class.

Talking About God Stuff (TAGS) / Faith and Life / Contemporary Christian Living (CCL) - Room 206. December 11 and 18. “Finding Christ in Christmas” with Rev. Bill Carter. The bumper sticker urges, “Keep Christ in Christmas!” Rev. Carter believes Christ never left Christmas – but that we have to intentionally look for him until we find him ... and he finds us. In our adult education gathering, we will explore the Bible story, sing the carols, pray the prayers, light the candles, and talk together about the ways that this Christmas can be a holy celebration of God's coming in Jesus Christ. In the words of a new carol, “Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world forlorn. The Child of peace and sacrifice is waiting to be found.” All are welcome to join our search!

Wednesday Supper Reservations

Light Supper is served before The Way classes from 5:45-6:10 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.

"T" Time

Tina Ide, Director of Educational Ministries

December is an exciting and busy time in the life of the church and in your own personal lives. It is a time for us to remember the grace, beauty and significance of Christ's birth, a time for us to seek peace amid chaos and a time to find ways to impact the world around us. The Christian Education and Growth Committee has some opportunities for you during this season.

Advent Evening - Join us on December 4 for an evening focused on the season of Advent. This event is for all ages and begins at 5:45pm. More details can be found on page 4. Immediately before this event, the Mission and Justice Committee will be hosting an alternative gift market from 5:00-5:45. Come see some creative, alternative gifts you can give to others this Christmas.

Holiday Pajama Drive - Details on page 6.



Youth and parents, please note that in January we will be making some changes to the Sunday evening youth group. Starting January 5, youth group will only meet the **first** and **third** Sundays of the month. Additionally, there will be just one meeting time, 6:00-7:30pm, for all youth in grades 6-12.

On the **fourth Friday** of each month the youth ministry will host **Late Nights**. Late Nights will be an evening of fun for all youth grades 6-12. The time and details for these events will vary. Please be sure to check the Presbyter, weekly bulletin and youth mailings for details.

If you have any questions about these changes please contact Tina Ide, Director of Educational Ministries, 570-586-6306.

Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 15, from 6:00-8:00pm, Youth Leader Judy Cutler is opening her home to us for a little Christmas celebrating! Come on over for some good food, great games and lots of fun! Meet at Judy's Home, 205 S. Abington Rd., Clarks Green.

Winter Retreat

January 17-19 at Camp Lackawanna

I am very excited to share that we will be offering a youth retreat this January for all students grades 6-12. We will be partnering with the youth of Covenant Presbyterian Church for this event. There is no cost for the retreat. For permission slips and more details please see Tina Ide, Director of Educational Ministries.

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.



Not Just Another Story

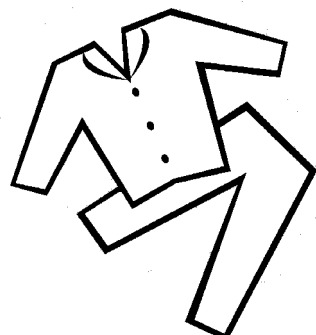


A series of six novels by Jan Karon, a former advertising executive have been placed in our church library. Thousands of readers have found a home in Mitford, the little town with a big heart.

Tim Kavanagh, an Episcopal rector, and his wife, Cynthia, an author of children's books, share wonderful experiences with the citizens of Mitford. Once you read Book 1, you will want to read all of them.

Thanks to Martha Ullmann, a friend of our church, who donated these novels.

Thanks to Jeanne and Dave Comly for a wonderful, meaningful collection of Berenstain Bears books. Enjoy the opportunity to read stories that give parents a chance to discuss issues with their children. The new books include The Berenstain Bears Storybook Bible, Treat others Kindly and Bear's Country Blessings.



HOLIDAY PAJAMA DRIVE

The Christian Education and Growth Committee is collecting pajamas for two local Head Start facilities. Tags with gender and size are on the tree in the narthex. Please have your wrapped pajamas with tag attached returned to the church by December 10th.

Many Thanks to everyone who helped support this project.

"Glory to God"

Session voted on November 13th to adopt the 2013 Presbyterian Hymnal "Glory to God" to replace the current 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal and the green Sing book. To quote from Mary Louise Bringle, President of the Hymn Society in the US and Canada and Chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song:

"Making new friends is much easier when we are confident that we may also keep the old. 'Glory to God' is a comprehensive collection of Hymns, Psalms and Spirituals which combines old favorites with contemporary offerings. We are confident that this collection of hymns and songs—shaped by the Biblical story of God's mighty acts in history—reflects the breadth and depth of Reformed theological tradition. We pray that 'Glory to God' will equip the church to sing of God's love and justice and always and everywhere to give thanks and praise to God".

Hymnals can be purchased to be used in the church as Memorials or to Honor someone by sending a check to the church for \$20. This would be a great way to remember someone at Christmas time! For more information about the hymnal, talk with John Weiss, Connie Weiss, Sue Kelly or Rev. Carter, who each have copies for your review. You can also visit the hymnal website at <http://www.presbyterianhymnal.org/>

Recycle!

In the Narthex you can find a red and green basket containing Advent devotional booklets. Feel free to take one home and if you have one from previous years place it in the basket for someone else to enjoy. In addition there are many online websites which offer daily devotions such as this resource from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary http://www.pts.edu/Devotional_1

Follow the directions on the site to have a daily Advent devotional delivered to your email account. Only your name and email address are required. You do not need to include your mailing address.

Another website, <http://www.d365.org/todaysdevotion/> offers music in addition to a Biblical passage, reflection material and a prayer. It can be used year round and is published daily. The Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Presbyterian Church is one of the sponsors of the site. For those of you with iPhones try 'Biblica Advent'.



STEPHEN MINISTRY



What is a Stephen Minister? Stephen Ministers are laypeople—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.

Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 11,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

Interested in becoming a Stephen Minister? Feel like you would like a Stephen Minister to walk with you through a difficult time in your life? Contact one of our Stephen Leaders, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, or Rev. Bill Carter for more information.

Mission and Justice Committee News

In response to a suggestion from Session for support of a Presbyterian mission worker, the Mission and Justice Committee is pleased to support Dr. Elizabeth Searles from Presbyterian World Mission for her work in Romania. Dr. Searles works with orphaned children in Romanian state institutions, with older women on subsistence pensions, and with Roma of all ages. This work seeks to address root causes of poverty, break human trafficking links, and bear witness to the unconditional love of Jesus Christ for all people. One thousand dollars will be contributed to Dr. Searles mission work this year.

This year 25% of our Peacemaking Offering will go to the Transitional Housing Program at the Catherine McCauley Center. The Transitional Housing Program enables homeless women with limited incomes to obtain safe, decent, affordable housing. It also offers life skills training, counseling, furniture, emergency food and clothing, and a host of other services for women in need. We will support this program with \$350.00 given by our congregation.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Join us as we explore ways to celebrate preparing for Christmas in a fairer, more peaceful way at the annual Alternative Gift Market.

Opportunities to view the displays and make purchases or contributions will be:

- Wednesday December 4, 5:00 PM, prior to The WAY Intergenerational Advent Gathering program and dinner,
 - and on Sunday December 8, 10AM to 12:30PM

Appalachian Service Project is a Christian home repair/building ministry through which volunteers and staff repair and build homes for low-income families in Central Appalachia.

Congregational Christmas Card Instead of mailing individual cards, this year wish a Merry Christmas to other church members via the Congregational Christmas Card. Not only will you be saving money, but helping the environment too. (Or maybe donate a portion of your savings to a worthy cause?)

Heifer International is a charitable organization that works to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities.

Presbyterian Coffee Project Purchase coffee through PCUSA's partner, Equal Exchange, a Fair Trade Organization that links congregations with small farmers and their families through Fair Trade.

Reaching the Pygmies Ministry Help support the Batwa Pygmies, displaced by the Ugandan government in favor of national reserves for the Mgahinga Gorillas, by donating funds for teachers, housing and medicines.

SERRV This year purchase gifts that make a difference - ethical Fair Trade gifts and crafts from a range of developing countries.

Sustainable Gift Wrap Does your stomach sink when you gather the mountain of Christmas wrappings and prepare to throw them out? Learn how to save money and the environment by using sustainable (and attractive) gift wrappings.

Verve Vertu Purchase artwork created by local persons with disabilities and special needs at the Deutsch Institute's Art Center.



PEACE Wreath

What you need:

- Paint (blue and green)
- Paint brush
- Embroidery hoop
- 24 wooden clothespins
- Scissors
- Craft foam (white, red and green)
- Glue
- 3 white feathers
- Floral wire (two pieces)



What you do:

1. Paint the hoop blue and the clothespins green. When dry, attach clothespins around the hoop.
2. Cut a dove shape (slightly wider than the hoop's diameter) out of white foam. Glue on feathers.
3. Pierce the beak with a scissors tip. Slide a piece of wire through the slit to make an olive branch.
4. From green foam, cut out two leaves. Attach them to each end of the wire.
5. From red foam, cut out the letters P E A C E. Glue them onto clothespins.
6. Place dove in center of hoop. Glue its head and tail to clothespins.
7. Attach wire to the back and hang up your wreath.

PUZZLE

A Child is Born

Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY NAME IS

gyhMti

dGo

MY NAME IS

lerWnofud

esnruooCl

MY NAME IS

vrelEnsitga

eahFrt

MY NAME IS

niPcre

aPcee

of

Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

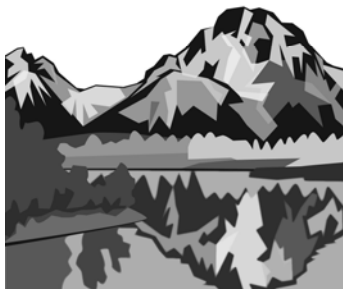
Joys and Sorrows



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Paul Horger and Louise Hawk and their families upon the recent loss of their brother, Theodore U. Horger.

How *beautiful* on the mountains
are the *feet* of the messenger
who brings *good news*,
the *good news* of
peace and salvation.

Isaiah 52:7, NLT



Lectionary Readings

December 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

December 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 29 - 1st Sunday after Christmas

(10:00AM Service begins)

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23



Recipes from A Sunday Dinner, September 8th, 2013, Carol Winn

Stuffed Mushrooms

2 pounds button mushrooms stemmed & cleaned (keeping stems)

1 Tablespoon butter

1 Tablespoon parsley

¼ cup finely chopped ham

Moisten with sour cream

2 Tablespoons breadcrumbs

Parmesan cheese

Directions:

Saute' chopped stems in melted butter till lightly brown. Add chopped ham and simmer for a minute. Remove from heat and drain the excess liquid. Add bread crumbs, parsley, and moisten with sour cream for desired texture. Fill mushrooms with mixture and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and melted butter.

Bake: 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes.



More recipes will follow in future issues of the *Presbyter!*

Recipes will also be posted on our web site www.fpccs.org

Paul and Adrienne Horger thank the members of First Presbyterian Church for all their acts of kindness during the sad time we lost our dear brother-in-law Elmer Hawk and our dear brother Theodore Horger.

To the Session and Staff of First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit,

Thank you for allowing me to use your beautiful church as the venue for my high school senior project fundraiser. The program was a success, raising funds for our local Soup Kitchen. I am grateful for your assistance in helping our friends in need.

Sincerely,
Mariah Hawley



Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain is looking for more "links". If you would like to be included in the prayer chain, receiving and making a call or two when there is a request, please call the church office (570-586-6306).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



We will be taking a break in December to give everyone some more time to enjoy the holidays. January will find us at Judy Cutler's home on January 23rd at 7:00. Join us as we discuss:

The Paris Wife by Paula McLain Paula McLain has taken on the task of writing a story most of us probably think we already know—that of a doomed starter wife. To make life more difficult, McLain proposes to tell us about Ernest Hemingway's first wife, Hadley Richardson, who is a twenty-eight-year-old Midwestern spinster when she marries the twenty-one-year-old unpublished, (but already cocksure) writer and runs off to Paris with him. The talent and joy of this novel is that McLain does a startling job of making us understand this as a great love story and seducing us into caring deeply, about both Ernest and Hadley, as their marriage eventually comes apart.

My Brothers Keeper Quilts

We are grateful to Edie Suydam for taking the helm of the MBK Quilts for the last several years. The quilts for the homeless continue to find their way to those in need.

However, it is time for Edie to take a break.

Is it your turn to manage the My Brothers' Keeper Quilts for our congregation? Please call Lee Wirth if you are interested in volunteering for this very mission-oriented activity.

