The Church on the Hill

The Presbyter

January 2014

Celebrating
100 Years
1912 - 2012



Clarks Summit, PA

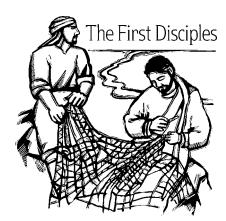
Ice Festival Activities-

Mark the weekend of February 14-16 on your calendar, because the church will participate again in the Clarks Summit Ice Festival. There will be an ice sculpture outside and a variety of activities inside. On Friday night at 6 pm, come hear the vocalist Erin Malloy, who will perform a selection of love songs in honor of Valentine's Day. On Saturday there is a full range of family fun activities, headlined by juggler Rob Smith, who has performed the past three years to packed houses. He returns to amaze everyone as he flawlessly juggles balls, clubs, fire torches, and rings, not to mention flying knives with razor-sharp accuracy. His show will take place in the sanctuary at 2 pm. Elaine Tweedy is organizing an exhibit of artwork

First Presbyterian Church

from local artists and FPC congregation members, which will be open on Friday evening, Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm, and on Sunday morning. In addition, students of the Abington Piano Academy and the Jessica Hitchcock Vocal Studio will entertain on Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. The ever-popular Chili Cafe will also be open on Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm if you are looking for a bite to eat. Head up to "The Church on the Hill" to join in the family fun!

"Calling all artists: Anyone interested in submitting art work to the First Presbyterian Art Show held during the Clarks Summit Ice Festival, February 14 - 16, 2014, please contact Elaine Tweedy through email (elainetweedy@gmail.com) or cell phone (570-575-1705). Art work submitted must be different than what was submitted last year, and would need to be dropped off on February 13th between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. at the church. Elaine is hoping for enthusiastic participation by church members. Over 150 people walked through last year's show. Since paperwork will need to be filled out in order to submit your work, it is important you contact Elaine by Friday, January 31st, in order to have your work included in the show. This year will also feature a separate juried photography show by the Northeast Photography Club."



Reminder that there will be one service on Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock AM continuing through Sunday, March 30, 2014.



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Notes from the Session Meeting on December 8, 2013
Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

Session passed the budget for the 2014 church year with recommendations given by the Finance Committee.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2013

REVENUE

\$ 356,790
318,510
\$ (38,280)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 364,663
Actual Expenses	331,643
Difference	\$ (33,020)

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ 5,260

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 288,750
Received	274,242
Difference	\$ (14.508)

Per Capita Update 2013:

Total Received to date - \$4,641

The Presbyter deadline for the February issue is January 17, 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. until

March 30, 2014. Child care is available all morning.

Communion is observed the first Sunday of every

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



CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As part of our Centennial Celebration, the centennial campaign was launched in honor of our founders to support both our building and our mission to others. The goal was \$150,000, to be divided equally between building and mission projects. To date we have pledges totaling approximately \$106,000 and the Centennial Campaign Committee thanks you for your support. Pledges were to be paid over a 3 year period beginning in June, 2012. At almost the 18 month mark, receipts on pledges are just over \$66,000. As of October 31, 2013, this is where we stand.

In light of not reaching goal, Building and Grounds eliminated one of their building projects for a total of \$56,890. Mission and Justice, based on initial pledge commitments of \$102,000, reduced their giving by cutting two programs in Haiti and the amount to UNC's Post Foster Care Program, for a total of \$51,000.

If all pledges are fully paid, we will end with a slight deficit which will have to be covered from other sources, unless we are able to increase pledged amounts. If you missed pledging to the Centennial Campaign, or would like to consider increasing the amount of your current pledge, please contact the church office to pledge or update.

On behalf of the Centennial campaign Committee, thank you for your past, current and future support.



From the Pastor

William G. Carter

The season is upon us. On any given day, our busy lives may be interrupted by terrible weather. We know this as denizens of the northeast. Winter trains us to be hardy and patient. These are essential traits of the spiritual life. To assist you, here is my list of "16 Things to Do on a Snow Day."

- 1. Start a good book, finish a good book, or fall asleep with a good book on your lap.
- 2. Make a pot of soup, cleaning out the vegetable drawer of the fridge.
- 3. Remember letters? Write a letter to somebody that you haven't seen.
- 4. Get about that promise to read the Bible more frequently. Start with Psalm 148 and dwell over verse eight.
- 5. Call a friend to say hello and get caught up on one another's lives.
- 6. Snow rhymes with "Slow." Don't do anything. And if you must, do it slowly. The weather demands it.
- 7. Shovel the walks. You have to do this sometime. But reward yourself with a delicious cup of hot chocolate.
- 8. Take a nap and get caught up on your rest. Go ahead. Nobody is looking.
- 9. Find one messy place in your home and tidy it. Not the whole place, just one place. Doesn't that feel good to bring order out of chaos?
- 10. Make a list of all the things you think you ought to be doing. Get a match and set that list on fire. Everything on the list is in God's hands, not yours.
- 11. Reflect on your busy-ness. Do you do a lot of things because you want to do them, have to do them, or feel obliged to do them? Are there three things that you can remove from your "ought to do" list?
- 12. Develop the skill of "spiritual gazing." Look at something or someone deeply. Take a long, loving look. As you look, thank God for what you see and for the ability to see. Ponder this object of your vision as the gift of an imaginative God.
- 13. Start a journal. Write down the stirrings of your inner life on paper. Tell your secrets to a notebook or tablet of paper. There is no benefit to keeping things bottled up inside.

14. Pray by filling in these blanks: "God, I a	am concerned about	Lord, I need help with
Spirit, I thank you	" Give yourself no less	s than five minutes per sentence.

- 15. Begin a to-do list for tending your soul. Put no more than four items on the list. The best way to begin is by answering the question, "What will make me well?"
- 16. Be still. Sit in a chair without moving. When you fidget, take a deep breath and keep sitting. Let all noisy thoughts blow through you. Keep still. Listen for God's Spirit. Sit there long enough to listen.

A good snow day is a day for cultivating the spiritual life. Sometimes we can take a snow day even if the weather is fine. Go ahead. Try it. Tell me how it goes.

In the warmth of Jesus Christ,

Rev. Bill

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THE WAY

The Wednesday Adults 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

Wednesday W.A.Y. program resumes January 8.

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 God called Daniel to be faithful and to stand up for God. The story of Daniel inspires us and helps us to learn more about what God calls us to be and do.

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

Senior High (Grades 9-12) meets in room 111 with Charlie Pinches.

<u>Talking About God Stuff (TAGS)</u> - meets in room 210. January 8-29. *Joy in a Prison Cell: A Study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. Led by Rev. Carter. The most affectionate of the apostle Paul's letters, Philippians reveals that joy is the heart of the Christian life. Rev. Carter and friends will explore this piece of ancient correspondence to see what it can teach us about our relationships with God and one another. All are welcome, and no prior experience of Bible study is needed!

Faith and Life - meets in the Narthex. January 8 and 15 *Who Is My Neighbor? Women in NEPA.* Led by Women of the McCauley Foundation. January 22 and 29 *Who Is My Neighbor? Race in America*. Led by Dr. Lia Palmiter. "So he asked Jesus, 'Who is my neighbor?'" To this, Jesus shared a parable exemplifying how we should treat all people as our neighbor despite where they are from, what they look like or the choices they make. Our world has now made intentional efforts to eliminate the lines which often divide people. Yet, there are many who still get left behind. During this 4 week series we will take a look at the neighbors who surround us, what their world is like and how we can be neighbors to these people.

<u>Contemporary Christian Living (CCL)</u> - For the month of January, this class will be combined with Rev.Carter's **TAGS** class. See above for class description.

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

As I write this, the snow from the weekend's storm is starting to melt away and the weather reports predicting another are storm coming soon. Having spent many winters in New England, I love snow. Freshly fallen snow delicately laying on trees and yards and streets paints a picture of and even of purity simplicity. **Snowstorms** tend to hold us captive and slow us down. Their ability to cancel or delay our plans forces us to remain flexible and open to whatever may come

which, in our busy culture, is quite t h e accomplishment. Despite our best efforts, best snow tires, best snow driving skills, snow tends to take control. We are left at the mercy of how much comes down and how quickly it comes. There isn't much that is able to slow us down, not even our own desire for a calm, relaxing day or week. In the midst of a storm that slows us down, we often become of what aware important and what has been missing from our lives. Somehow, all of this reminds me so much of how our relationship with Christ ought to be. Over the last month, we have

yet again heard the story of Christ's birth. It was simple, humble and in some ways pure. Born in a foreign town, placed in the animal's feeding trough to rest. Who knew that years later that same simple baby would make such a bold and powerful statement by dying on a cross? It is the story of this sacrifice which ought to captivate us, which ought to take hold of us and cause us to relinquish control of our lives. For by dying on the cross, Christ gave his whole self over so that we can live as forgiven people who give the whole of our lives back to him. It is here in giving our lives back to Christ

that we allow him to take control of our busy schedules. It is here that despite our best efforts, our best excuses, our best reservations we choose to belong to Christ's family not simply to be fed but to feed those around us. It is here that we become captive to what Christ wants our lives to be and not what we want our lives to be. With Christ in control, we must learn to remain flexible whatever and wherever He may take our lives. Will you allow Christ to captivate you? Will you allow him to be the snowstorm that slows you down and focuses you on what is important?



Starting January 5, youth group begins meeting only the first and third Sundays, as one group (grades 6-12), at a new time 6:00-7:30pm.

Youth Event - Iron Chef

Friday, January 31 6:30-8:00pm @ church

0.50-6.00pm @ charch

Come test your cooking skills and see if you could be the next Iron Chef!



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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: 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.



A special thank you to everyone who answered my call to participate as liturgists during worship this past

year. If you have never been asked, please get in touch with me. We would love to have your presence in the pulpit in 2014!

You can reach me at 570-878-2769 or npost329@gmail.com.

Nancy Post



World's Best Lasagna by John Chandler (allrecipes.com)

Additional Recipe on Page 10

1 pound sweet Italian sausage - Excellent sausage at Riccardo's Market in Dunmore

3/4 pound lean ground beef 1/2 cup minced onion

2 cloves of garlic crushed 1- 28 ounce crushed tomatoes- I used Cento brand

13 ounces of tomato puree- Cento 2- 6 ounces of tomato paste- Cento

½ cup water 2 Tablespoons sugar

1 ½ teaspoons dried basil ½ teaspoon fennel seed

1 teaspoon Italian seasoning ½ teaspoon salt

¹/₄ teaspoon pepper Either 2 Tablespoons fresh parsley or 1 Tablespoon dried parsley

10 to 12 lasagna noodles 16 ounces of ricotta cheese

1 egg Either 2 Tablespoons fresh parsley or 1 Tablespoon dried parsley

34 pound mozzarella cheese-grated or sliced 34 grated Parmesan cheese

Directions:

- 1. Cook sausage, ground beef, onion, and garlic over medium heat until well browned-drain off grease. Stir in crushed tomatoes, tomato puree, tomato sauce, and water. Season with sugar, basil, fennel seeds, Italian seasoning, salt, pepper, and 2 tablespoons fresh parsley or 1 dried. Simmer, covered, for about 1½ hours, stirring constantly or place in a crock pot lined with a Slow Cooker Liner for about two to three hours depending on the setting.
- 2. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Cook lasagna noodles in boiling water for 8 minutes. Drop in cold water and remove immediately. Drain on a towel.
- 3. In a mixing bowl, combine ricotta cheese with egg, 2 tablespoons fresh parsley or 1 dried.

To Assemble: spray a 9x13 baking dish with Pam or cooking spray. -Spread 2 1/2 cups or more of meat sauce in the bottom of dish and sprinkle with ¼ cup of Parmesan cheese. Arrange noodles lengthwise over meat sauce overlapping. Spread with one half (8 ounces) of the ricotta cheese mixture. Top with a third of the mozzarella cheese.

- Spread 2 ½ cups or more of the meat sauce over the mozzarella cheese and sprinkle with ¼ cup of Parmesan cheese. Arrange noodles lengthwise over meat sauce overlapping. Spread 8 ounces of ricotta cheese mixture. Top with a third of the mozzarella cheese. -Spread 2 1/2 cups or more of meat sauce over the mozzarella cheese. Top with mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Spray foil with cooking spray and cover dish.

Bake: 375 degrees for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake an additional 25 minutes. Cool 15 minutes before serving.

Mission and Justice Committee News

• Thank you to all who participated in the Alternative Gift Market. We collected over \$2,200 for the various ministries represented. We appreciate your continued support of the missions of the church.

- Please take time to read the thank you letter from United Neighborhood Centers that is posted in the
 glass case near Tina's office. This letter details the ways our Centennial Campaign money is being
 used to improve the lives of young people at risk. Thank you for helping us make this possible by your
 ongoing commitment to the campaign.
- Bethel A.M.E. has opened its seasonal shelter in the basement of the church building to serve men and women with nowhere else to go on cold nights. The shelter is in need of food donations and that is where we can all help. It is hoped that you will help provide a meal for the 18 men and women who will be lodging there throughout the winter. We will be coordinating the meal every other Sunday evening. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. It is our hope that 2 or three families will work together to prepare and deliver the meal. If you cannot deliver it, we will see it gets there! Your mission contributions recently provided coffee and tea supplies to the shelter. Please call Melba Fialko or Linda Frangos for details.
- We will be continuing our support to St. Francis Soup Kitchen in 2014. We will financially sponsor a
 dinner once a month and help out at the facility on the last Tuesday of each month for the new
 year. This is a change in the day that we will assist! Your gently used warm clothing can always be
 used. The box for items is located in fellowship hall.
- Both facilities need our help. This is a crucial time of need in our community. The Times-Tribune newspaper's recent headline of "NEPA's Hunger Soaring" will attest to that. As Christians, we are called to help serve!
- The Earth Care Task Force invites you to a "Table Talk" after the worship service on Sunday, Jan. 26. Grab a drink and/or goodie then wander to the back of fellowship hall about 11:15. Meg Hatch will lead a discussion about environmental justice issues including environmental racism in the U.S.



The Stephen Ministry team hopes you all had a very blessed Christmas and are looking forward to a peaceful New Year. We continue to be ready to help you walk through any difficulties that may come up in your life and would be happy to share Christ's love and compassion with you. If you would like someone to share confidential discussions with, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, or Rev. Bill Carter for more information.

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

JO ANNE SHEPHERD

Background Scripture: Exodus 15:22 – 18:27

Key Scripture: Exodus 15:22-25; 16:1-3; 13-15; 17:1-7; 18: 12-24

Key Idea: Even in the wilderness God provided for all the needs of His people, (physical, emotional, and spiritual) and He still provides for the world and His church now, using all His disciples.

As we start a new year, 2014, we study Lesson 5 which tells us that God takes care of the needs of his people, now as well as in Biblical times. While they were on their journey in the wilderness, the people were quick to complain about their living conditions. They showed their fear in that way. One complaint was about the water being bitter but Moses sweetened it with some wood. Moses passed the complaints on to God and He remedied the problems. The people needed to see actual, physical proof that the Lord was with them every day in order to overcome their fear of being abandoned. Future generations of God's people remembered and celebrated that care in festivals, including celebrating water. Water became a symbol of hope for a Messiah to come. Thus, Jesus is referenced as "living water" to quench the thirst of the people.

The people also complained about hunger and again Moses was a conduit to God. God provided just what the people needed each day, with no extra. The manna was truly bread from heaven for the people. God provided for His people, in all needed ways, body and soul. Moses became overwhelmed by the care he had to give the people. Jethro advised him to give more instruction in the law to the people so Moses could give them more responsibility for their own care. Certain deserving men and women served as judges, a form of government still used today. Jethro learned to respect and love God by watching Moses praise Him. The act of telling about God's care is a way to keep our faith alive and growing. However, we must be careful to delegate to others and not try to do too much ourselves so that we do not become overwhelmed as Moses did. It can be hard for us to let go of control but we must remember that God works through all people.

Church workers can have trouble getting others to take on the work of the church. This is a problem that is not new in our time, but has always existed. We need to remember that, with God's help, we can work together. Please plan to come to the circle meeting of your choice on Jan. 21, 2014 at either 10 AM, 1:30 PM, or 7 PM, to learn more about how God takes care of our needs and how we can work to help His church grow and nurture His people in our world. Call the church office for more information.



Creation KALEIDOSCOPE

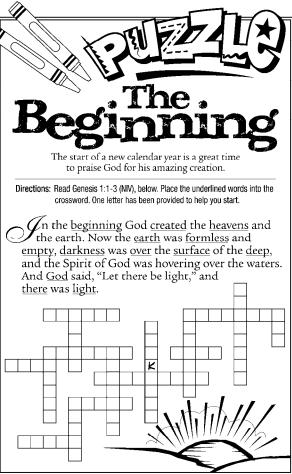
Make this fun craft to remember what our heavenly Creator made. $\Lambda \circ \Lambda$

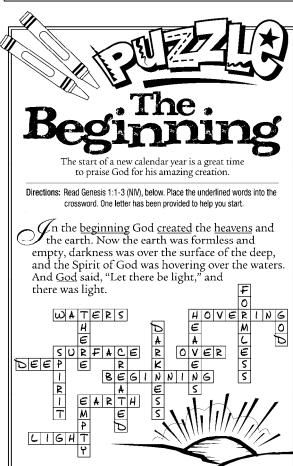
What you need:

- Adult help
- Tall chip can with lid
- Hammer and nail
- Acrylic paint; paintbrush
- Water, glitter, white glue o
- Colored tissue paper
- Stronger craft glue (not hot glue)
- Star stickers or sequins
- Two 4" x 5" pieces of clear Con-Tact paper
- Scissors; pencil; permanent marker

What you do:

- In bottom center of can, hammer a hole with a nail. Paint outside of can. Let dry.
- 2. Add glitter and a little water to white glue. With a clean paintbrush, glue tissue paper to bottom outside of lid.
- 3. Add stars to sticky side of Con-Tact paper. Place a matching piece on top, sticky sides together.
- 4. Put craft glue along edge of can opening. Glue Con-Tact paper square over opening. Let dry.
- 5. Place lid on can, over Con-Tact paper. Turn lid to get kaleidoscope effect.
- 6. With marker, write "In the beginning ... " on can.





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Joys and Sorrows



Norah Florence Delaney, daughter of Lucy and Sean Delaney, was baptized on December 22, 2013 by Rev. Carter.

Rilya Ann Werner, daughter of Bill and Hillary Parrish Werner, was baptized by Rev. Carter on December 29, 2013.

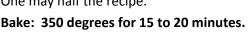
Recipes from A Sunday Dinner, September 8th, 2013, Carol Winn

Hot Crabmeat Dip

- 2 (8 ounce) packages of cream cheese
- 3 Tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 ½ cups sour cream
- 3 Tablespoons Old Bay Seasoning
- 3 shakes Worcestershire sauce
- 4 shakes garlic powder
- 3 Tablespoons fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 2 cans lump crabmeat
- 1 package (2 cups) shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:

Mix the first eight ingredients in a large bowl with a whisk. Then mix in the cheddar cheese. Place in a baking dish. One may half the recipe.



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

Lectionary Readings

January 5 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

January 12 Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17

January 19 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 26 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;

1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23



The Book Group will resume its meetings on January 23rd at 7:00 at Judy Cutler's home. We will be discussing 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 twentyeight-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.



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 Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Permit No 30 PAID Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested





A little more than 8 years ago, our church was experiencing a budget crunch. One of the solutions, at that time, was to eliminate a paid part-time position in the office, saving approximately \$8,000 per year. The outcome of this decision was the birth of the Office Volunteer Program. A deep debt

of gratitude is owed to this dedicated group of people who, over the years, have saved our church in excess of \$65,000. These volunteers work from 9:00 AM to Noon, from Monday to Friday, performing simple office tasks. The tasks include answering the telephone, greeting visitors, and filing, to name just a few of the responsibilities. Led by Sandra Bailey, the volunteers include (currently or previously) Barbara Brown, Alice Broxton, Louise Check, Marie Cochrane, Jo Conklin, Lorraine Daniels, Nancy Dennen, Janet Dobson, Myrna Diven, Mary Lou Emmel, Nancy Ford, Gayle Hamilton, Alma Herron, Nancy London, Jane Maurer, Barbara Pittman, Jack Pittman, Bonnie Plantholt, Diane Scheuer, Linda Schuller, Janet Stansbury, Lois Stoeckel, and Gail Van Horn. (Here's hoping we haven't missed anyone!) A separate but important task is performed on Thursday afternoons when the bulletins and church family announce-

ments are duplicated, folded, and prepared for Sunday services.

Both facets of the program need additional help at this time. Please call Sandra Bailey at 570-586-7551 or Nancy Owens in the church office, 570-586-6306, if you would be interested in volunteering in any capacity.

In the meantime, **THANK YOU** to our Office Volunteers.

