The Church on the Hill

The Presbyter

Celebrating 100 Years

1912 - 2012



First Presbyterian Church

November 2013





In addition to regular cleaning and routine maintenance tasks that occur weekly and monthly, many extra projects were accomplished this summer for which we are very appreciative! While some projects were included in the Centennial Campaign, others were improve-Overflowing With Thanks ments made to make our building more inviting. Those responsible

for this activity are: Dick Broxton, John Conklin, Warren Grill, Bill Jones, Betty Keen, Mary Ann Nichols, Brian Schillinger, Ron Thomas, and Dori Waters.

Their projects included:

- decorating the downstairs ladies room,
- distributing "Put out the Lights" signs,
- placing bushes in the front of the church building,
- relocating some light switches,
- planting flowers in various spots around the building,
- fixing our emergency lighting system,
- monitoring our electric rate with PPL,
- renovating the upstairs ladies bathroom,
- reorganizing parts, screens and miscellaneous items in a cabinet in the basement,
- putting the shed together in the parking lot,
- fixing the step at the side door of the church,
- overseeing installation of flooring in fellowship hall,
- coordinating the rebuilding of wall in side parking lot,
- sealing and striping of all three parking lots,
- replacing some stair treads,
- arranging for a beverage machine, and
- checking on a system to raise and lower lights in the sanctuary.



Fall Clean-up is Saturday, November 9 beginning at 9AM. Please come to help prepare our church property for winter.



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Notes from the Session Meeting on October 8, 2013

- 1. Session approved the Building and Grounds and Mission and Justice Capital Campaign updates and copies are available in the narthex.
- 2. Session members received new copies of the Book of Order for the years 2013-2015.
- 3. Session thanked Andy Kepler and friends for their work on the upstairs bathroom.
- 4. Mission and Justice has allocated \$1,000 supporting another missionary which will be determined when the committee meets in November.

Building and Grounds Capital Campaign Update October 8, 2013

Our Building upgrades which were approved by Session and listed in the November 8, 2011 Minutes, are as follows:

New Windows Fellowship Hall Floor Retaining Wall Repair Countertops (Stainless Steel)	\$21,500.00 \$28,865.00 \$20,000.00 \$ 5,658.00
Total Cost:	\$75,673.00
Actual Upgrades: New Windows Fellowship Hall Floor Retaining Wall Repair	\$21,500.00 \$17,153.36 \$20,000.00
Total Cost:	\$58,653.36
Money not presently used:	\$17,019.64



The Fellowship Committee is working on a project to determine the number of members who are active and those who are not. The Book of Order requires that churches do this once each year.

An active member is defined by the Book of Order as one who regularly participates in the life and mission of the church. This is not just financially, but worship attendance and service in the church. Inactive members are individuals who may be unable to or who have chosen not to participate in the church like active members do.

We would like the active and inactive members and those who are not members to know that they are welcome in the church.

The Presbyter deadline for the December issue is November 15, 2013

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

All visitors are welcome to worship with us. **Worship services are at 9:00 and 10:55 a.m.** Child care is available all morning. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

Christian Education classes take place on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:15 p.m.

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

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

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 291,919
Actual Received	<u>265,589</u>
Difference	\$ (26,330)
	=======

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 298,361
Actual Expenses	266,970
Difference	\$ (31,391)
	=======

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ 5,061

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 236,250
Received	226,976
Difference	\$ (9,274)

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



From the Pastor

William G. Carter

One of the evolving changes in our society is the softening of the Thanksgiving holiday. Martin Marty, the famed church historian, notes that the Macy's store across the street from his Chicago apartment will be open on Thanksgiving Day. "Black Friday" is not enough, he notes. Now the merchants are pushing for one more shopping day.

We can react in any number of ways. Perhaps some in our flock will be called into work that day. Or others will fold their arms in defiance and declare, "It's cutting into our family time." Dr. Marty predicts more than a few sermons across the land that will decry the creeping secularism. Some Christians may say quietly, "What kind of sales are they having in Target?" and slip over to try to save a few bucks on the hottest gift items of the year.

Might I make a modest suggestion? Keep Thanksgiving as you wish it to be kept.

I take my cue from faithful Jews. For three thousand years, the Jewish believers have been challenged to make accommodations for the Sabbath. The world says, "The weekend is for playing, yard work, football games, overtime work, and (fill in the blank)." A good Jew, however, will affirm that Sabbath is a gift from God: "Six days you shall labor, and the seventh belongs to God." Sabbath is for worship, and for something more – God's restoration of us through our intentional rest. It is good for us to take a break, a breather, a time for rejuvenation. The time is a gift from God.

The world, as run by the Pharoahs and their empires, cannot understand this. They push us to ceaseless productivity and endless labor. They demand that we produce, expand, expend . . . and spend. Keeping Sabbath begins by saying "No!" to everything but God. Sabbath – and every other Holy Day— is a day for enjoying the gifts of God: the people we love, the food we enjoy, the break from labor, even the turkey-inspired nap before the pumpkin pie.

In our day, as in every other age, it really comes down to our decision to resist the push of the world. Truly we can resist the manic obsession with busyness and consumer spending. But we have to decide the best ways to push back and resist it. If you find yourself scheduled to work on a Holy Day, the job does matter - I get that! But I encourage you to set aside the next possible day as a gift from God for you. Because you matter too.

In all things, I give thanks. Especially for your faithfulness! May God give you a bountiful day of thanks.

With you in the journey,



Miss a sermon? Check out Rev. Carter's weekly sermons online at www.billcartersermons.blogspot.com

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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

PLEASE NOTE: To honor families and rejoice in time together there will be **no Wednesday Evening Way classes** on **Wednesday, November 27.**

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 worked through Moses to guide the people of Israel through the wilderness into the Promised Land.

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.

Talking About God Stuff (TAGS) meet in room 206. Nov. 6 - Do You Presbyterians Really Believe All That? An evening designed for new Presbyterians and other curious Christians. This class will give a quick survey of what Presbyterians believe about God and the Gospel. We will give a bit of attention to a couple of "skeletons in the closet" that still shape who we are and how we believe. Nov. 13 - Do You Presbyterians Really Act That Way? The most distinctive feature of Presbyterians is the way we manage the work of God's church. How do we make decisions or determine the will of God? Are there directives that come from "headquarters" or are we free to decide our own way? Join us for an overview of how our faith shapes our church's decision making. Nov. 20 - Giving the Gift of Life. Led by Diane Scheuer. Come hear Diane share some of her story as a transplant recipient as well as the amazing gift that is passed to others by being an organ, tissue and blood stem cell donor.

Faith and Life - meets in Narthex. Nov. 6 - *Celtic Spirituality*. Led by Charlie Swisher. Celtic spirituality speaks to what St. Patrick experienced when he came to Ireland. It is grounded in experiencing the Spirit every day of the week, not just on Sunday. Nov. 13 - *A New Song*. Led by John and Connie Weiss. Come find out what makes the new Presbyterian hymnal different as we sing a new song to the Lord! Nov. 20 - *Giving the Gift of Life*. Led by Diane Scheuer. Come hear Diane share some of her story as a transplant recipient as well as the amazing gift that is passed to others by being an organ, tissue and blood stem cell donor.

<u>Contemporary Christian Living (CCL)</u> meet in room 210. Nov. 6 - Do You Presbyterians Really Believe All That? An evening designed for new Presbyterians and other curious Christians. This class will give a quick survey of what Presbyterians believe about God and the Gospel. We will give a bit of attention to a couple of "skeletons in the closet" that still shape who we are and how we believe. Nov. 13 - Do You Presbyterians Really Act That Way? The most distinctive feature of Presbyterians is the way we manage the work of God's church. How do we make decisions or determine the will of God? Are there directives that come from "headquarters" or are we free to decide our own way? Join us for an overview of how our faith shapes our church's decision making. Nov. 20 - Hopes and Fears of Raising a Family. Led by Bill and Jamie Carter. We return again to conversations about the ups and downs, the hopes, the fears, and the joys of raising a family. Families today come in a variety of packages and with that comes a variety of needs. How do you deal with the unique dynamics of your family and work toward developing faith at home?

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

"Why?" It's a favorite word of young children who are exploring and learning about their world. They ask "why" because they want to understand the purpose of what they see, what they hear and what they do. At times the constant questioning of everything around them can be frustrating, especially when you don't know the answer or how to explain the answer to a young child. Yet, it is healthy and natural to want to know more. In fact, we should encourage children to be asking why. Moreover, we should encourage them to continue asking questions as they grow older.

For some reason, as we grow older we school," "Why should I come to church stop asking "why" and just start school," or "Isn't church school just for the kids? Why should adults have class too?" really is a simple answer. No something others think we should know. Maybe we just stop being curious. Other times we think we already know the answers. Whatever the reason, we often outgrow asking the important questions,

the "why" questions.

I've recently found myself presented with a very important "why" question that I believe often gets overlooked in the church. A question whose answer is often "because we always have" or "because it's tradition" or "I know why we do for the kids but not for the adults" or "uh...because...well...I'm not quite sure." The real answer to the question really isn't that profound or surprising but I do think the answer gets hidden and forgotten and buried by years of tradition, expectations and even by conflicting opinions. See the simple answer to "Why do we do church school," "Why should I come to church school," or "Isn't church school just for the kids? Why should adults have classes too?" really is a simple answer. No matter how old or young we are, we will God, about being a Christian, about trying to live as a Christian, nor will we ever know all the stories that are in the

Bible. Plus, we are forever changing. Who we are as Christians is a continual process. I am a different person today than I was the first, second, third, fortieth and sixtieth time I heard the story of Joseph. And each time I heard it, I learned something different about the story, about God and even about myself. Who I am today has different needs, struggles, and experience than who I was last year or 5 years ago or who I will be in 10 or 20 years. What I need or need to learn will continue to change.

So what's the deal with Christian Education? Why should you be here? Why do we want adults in class as well as the kids? Because we are never done growing, never done learning and never done with the Christian journey. We must be willing to take on the task of experiencing God at every moment, every stage and every experience. And it begins by being in community with other believers.

YOUTH NEWS

Don't forget about The Way on Wednesdays. Supper starts at 5:45 and classes are from 6:15-7:15.

Youth group continues to meet on Sunday evenings and we would love to see you there! Middle School meets Sunday 5:00-6:30 and High School meets 6:45-8:15.

Friends are always welcome at The Way, Youth Group and Special Events!!

Special Event - Laser Tag Sunday, November 17, 4:00-6:00pm

We are headed to Dickson City Laser Tag for the afternoon.

This event is open to all youth grades 6-12.

Cost: \$10

For permission slips, join us at youth group or see Tina.

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Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Independent & Assisted Living:Sara Ann Hosier587-0371Emergency Needs:Jo Conklin563-0211Time of Loss:Lee Wirth587-3767

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.



THANK YOU to all who helped with and/or contributed to our fall State Hospital luncheon. Our guests all left with their own birdhouse which they had painted, and plenty of socks. Food and Fellowship was enjoyed by all. Everyone, including men are always welcome to join us. Our next luncheon will be in April. If you have any questions please feel free to call Janet Dobson.

Presbyterian Women







Have you struggled this year or suffered some sort of loss? Do the holidays bring difficulties or sadness? Are you feeling stressed and just want someone to talk to? Our Stephen Ministers have gone through 50 hours of training to become skilled listeners. All is done with complete confidentiality. They will help bring Christ's love and healing into your life. If you feel you would like to have a Stephen Minister to talk to, contact one of our Stephen Leaders.

We are considering offering another class to train Stephen Ministers. If you are curious about this training and feel this might be something God is calling you to do, contact our Stephen Leaders for more information. Our Stephen Ministers are frequently sharing stories about how their training has helped them help friends and family, even when there is not a formal care receiver relationship established. Our Stephen Leaders are John Conklin, Judy Cutler, and Rev. Bill Carter.

The second concert of the 2013-2014 Arts at First Presbyterian Church series will take place on **Sunday**, **November 17 at 4 pm**, and will feature all the musical ensembles at the church.

The major work on the program is Buxtehude's *Jesu, Meine Freude*, which will be performed by the Adult and Teen Choirs, directed by Dr. Susan Kelly. They will be joined by soprano Jessica Hitchcock, bass Fran McMullen, and a string trio. Other participants in the concert will be the Chapel Choir and the Bell Choir.

The concert will conclude with a performance by all the choirs of "All Ye Who Hear", an arrangement of the familiar hymn tune "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty", which is being presented in memory of long-time choir member, Steve Owens.

The Christian Education and Growth Committee will be working with several Head Start Centers to provide a pair of pajamas for approximately 83 children for the Holidays. Please check out the weekly bulletins for further information.





Stewardship Campaign Kickoff

As we move into our annual Stewardship Campaign season, I want to first thank everyone who has contributed during this year. Our pledge income is below budget, but we are opti-Stewardship Sunday mistic and appreciate everyone's attention to keeping their pledge current. Your continuing financial support has given us the resources to be Christ in the world, and helps pro-

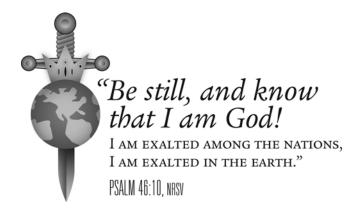
vide for things such as support of the St Francis kitchen, our mission work, and our successful Vacation Bible School.

We acknowledge that you and your resources are pulled in many directions. We hope that you are willing and able to support the First Presbyterian Church in 2014 to assist us in continuing God's work.

You should have received a mailing containing your Stewardship Commitment Card for 2014. We ask that you complete that card, and return it to the church office as soon as possible, or place it in any Sunday offering plate. During worship on Sunday, November 3, we will hold a dedication service to give thanks for all the pledges that we hope to have received.

Thanks in advance for your participation in our Stewardship campaign!

Heather Acker, Stewardship Committee



Mission and Justice Committee News

Earth Care Task Force

The next Adopt-A-Highway clean-up will be the second Saturday in November (9th). We meet at 9 AM and park in the Clarks Summit Methodist parking lot (across from the library). Please let Donna Porter know if you plan to help (585-4006).

Join us on Sunday, November 17th for an Earth Care Table Talk during the Fellowship Hour. The topic will be "An Update on Climate Change and How It Could Possibly Impact Society." This talk will be led by Jay Clymer, biology professor at Marywood University.

Future Table Talks will include "Environmental Justice: How Various Groups are Affected Disproportionately" and "The Heritage River Corridor: A Local Effort at Caring for the Environment."

Please notice on the Bulletin Board near the narthex information on ways to keep you and your environment healthy through "Non-toxic Cleaning Alternatives".

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Mission and Justice Committee News

Report on Contributions

Mission & Justice Committee, First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit (FPCCS)

Delegation to Haiti, June 26 to July 6, 2013

Of the \$25,500 capital campaign funds directed to our international mission in Haiti:

\$5,500 has been disbursed since January 2013 to NaSonje [We Will Remember] for their Gwo Jan, Women's Micro-finance Program

\$10,000 has been disbursed to Partnerships in Development-Local [PDL] in Haiti through Groundswell International [GI], **\$5,000** in January 2013 and **\$5,000** in June 2013, for two village development micro-credit programs in the region north of the Atribonite River, source of the 2010 cholera outbreak.

The remaining \$10,000 will be disbursed in two \$5,000 amounts prior to January 2014 and July 2014.

Additional funding of \$10,000 that would meet capital campaign original funding goals might still be considered for future contributions to PDL through Groundswell International.

An additional \$2,100 was raised through individual contributions and a special fundraising luncheon specifically for this delegation to disburse as needed during our June/July trip to Haiti. Here is the breakdown of those disbursements:

\$200 as honorarium to SASA director Sara Siebert and to the SASA organization in Jacmel that is funded through Beyond Borders. The emphasis of this organization is on education about:

awareness of violence against women,

positive male behavior toward women and others, nutrition.

healthcare particularly focused on disease prevention particularly cholera and HIV/AIDS.

\$200 as honorarium to Leres for his presentation to us, and his project manager expenses, related to supervision Gwo Jan Women's Micro-finance Development Project. This management is to be taken over by NaSonje in late autumn when Leres will not be able to continue. NaSonje currently holds and distributes \$5,500 contribution from FPCCS to Women as they apply and are accepted into established gwoupman.

\$400 to Mona for his expenses for his leadership in bringing the Internally Displaced People of Citi Mosaic to the tent encampment that is becoming the Village Mozayik on the plains north of Port-au-Prince.

\$300 as honorarium to Daniel at SAKALA [http://sakalaayiti.org/] and to SAKALA in Citi Solie, a youth empowerment movement and urban garden program whose mission is to bring honor to the people of the poorest of urban settings in Haiti.

\$600 as honorarium to PDL's director, Contave, for his and PDL's work bringing the micro-credit village development programs to the villages we are supporting.

\$400 to NaSonje for operating costs in support of future endeavors by this organization such as educational funding and repairs to touring vehicles or purchase a new vehicle. Their van is on its last wheels for sure.

\$2,100 total of additional funds distributed by this delegation.

Pastor Ciceron:

We were unable to meet with Pastor Mathieu Ciceron during this trip as he was unable to contact us to coordinate a meeting during our time there. This was unfortunate. Through email correspondence he expresses that he continues to need funds for his school in Solino, Port-au-Prince, for repair of the school. He is not getting enough students returning to pay the teachers and for the repairs needed.



The Alternative Gift Market is coming! This year the Mission and Justice Committee will offer two different opportunities for shopping. On Wednesday, Dec. 4 we will open at 5PM, before dinner at the WAY, for browsing and buying a wide variety of great alternative gifts, some of which will be unique items from other countries through SERRV, vouchers for supporting Heifer Project or the Pygmy Ministry, handmade gifts from Verve Vertu, and a special table for learning about alternative gift wrapping. This is an intergenerational night at the WAY, so it will be a good chance to shop as a family. On Sunday, Dec. 8, we will

again be open for shopping between services. Plan to come, bring your check book, and enjoy a variety of opportunities for supporting good work in the community and in the world.



Brighten your dinner table with these festive candle holders.

What you need:

• An adult's help

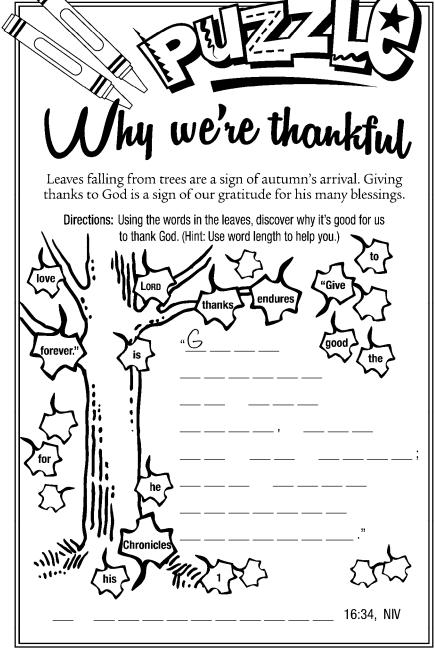
• Miniature pumpkins (palm size)

• Tea light candles

- Pencil
- Sharp knife
- Spoon

What you do:

- 1. Place a candle on top of each miniature pumpkin and trace around the candle's base.
- 2. Have an adult cut around the circle.
- 3. Scoop out the pulp and seeds.
- 4. Place a candle inside. Keep scooping, if necessary, so the candle sits inside the pumpkin nicely.
- 5. Decorate your dinner table with the pumpkins. Have an adult light the candles for you.



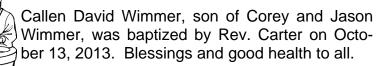
Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." I Chronicles 16:34, MIV

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Joys and Sorrows

The sympathy of the congregation is extended

- to Barbara and Jack Pittman and their Sympath daughter, Jennifer, upon the death of their son-in-law / husband, Jeff Wilson.
- to Tim Pfleiderer and Kay Ten Eyck on the recent death of Tim's grandmother.
- to Dori Waters and her family on the loss of her brother,
 Frank Talarico
- to Diane Scheuer and family upon the death of her mother, Helen Carnahan.
- to the Hawk family on the recent loss of Elmer Hawk.



Readings

November 3 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 4:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Lectionary

November 10 32nd Sunday in Ordinary TimeHaggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
or Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 1317; Luke 20:27-38

November 17 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 24 Christ the King Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

To all members of our church family. Paul and I have been deeply touched by the kindness we received during Nancy's surgery and recovery. Your prayers, cards and phone calls were so very helpful in the healing process and we are so very grateful for the warmth of this congregation. Thank you.



our son-in-law, Jeff Wilson, in his two-year battle with esophageal cancer. Your prayers, cards and other acts of kindness were greatly appreciated. Paul's letter to the Colossians 2:5-7 was the foundation on which Jeff's life was built.

We would like to thank everyone that joined

Barbara and Jack Pittman

Nancy and Paul Ford



It is not too late to decide to come to my home for Thanksgiving. The turkey has been ordered, the menu is in the works. Join me for

a day of great conversation and good food. Contact Judy Cutler at 570-446-9310 or jdragonflyc@hotmail.com if you would like to do something different for Thanksgiving this year.



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

November 2nd.



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 P A I D Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested





We will be meeting early this month because of Thanksgiving. Join us on November 21st at Nancy Owens' home as we discuss:

Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake by Anna Qunidlen

In this irresistible memoir, Anna Quindlen writes about a woman's life, from child-hood memories to manic motherhood to middle age, using the events of her life to illuminate ours. Considering—and celebrating—everything from marriage, girl-friends, our mothers, parenting, faith, loss, to all the stuff in our closets, and more, Quindlen says for us here what we may wish we could have said ourselves. As she did in her beloved *New York Times* columns, and in *A Short Guide to a Happy Life*, Quindlen uses her past, present, and future to explore what matters most to women at different ages.



Order Your Poinsettias Now

The Price is \$8 per plant

Deadline for orders is November 24

Name
Number of Flowers
Total Amount Enclosed \$
I will pick up my flowers Give to a Shut-In
Dedication: In honor of
Dedication: In memory of
Please drop off at church office or in offering plate.