

The Presbyter

January 2016

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



Once again, First Presbyterian will hold an Art Show during the Clarks Summit Festival of Ice, February 12 -14. Elaine Tweedy will coordinate the event, as she has the past several years. The Northeast Photography Club has agreed to hold a juried show much like last year, however, Elaine will be looking for contributions by congregation members as well. If you have been working on something you would like to submit to the Art Show, please contact Elaine either by email (elainetweedy@gmail.com) or phone (570) 575-1705 before February 1st, as you will need to fill out submission forms and provide the title of your artwork for publication and labeling purposes. All submitted artwork must be the original works of the artist. All work submitted must be new and not a duplicate of what was submitted in the previous year.

All Art will be collected in the Session Room on Thursday, February 11th between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. and will be hung that evening. Northeast Photography will hold an opening to the juried show on the evening of Friday, February 12th, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. which will include light refreshments. The Art Show will continue through Saturday, and will be open for the congregation only on Sunday, February 14th. Art work pick up will be Sunday at 12 noon. No art work will be accepted without proper notification or completed forms.

Other events on Saturday, February 13 will include the Chili Cafe in Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with entertainment provided by members of the Abington Piano Academy, and a juggling exhibition by Rob Smith at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rev. Bill Carter will do a renewal of wedding vows on Sunday, February 14 (Valentine's Day) following the 10 a.m. worship service.



Calling all REPORTS! February 6 is the date of our Annual Congregational Meeting. In light of that, all moderators of session committees, Board of Deacons, and Presbyterian Women are asked to submit yearend reports and summary financial statements by Friday, January 15, 2016. Please submit by email if at all possible to office@fpccs.org. Your cooperation and attention to the deadline will be greatly appreciated.

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Notes from the Session Meeting

Session did not meet in December.

The church will close its financial books for 2015 on December 31. The "bill payers" will be exceedingly grateful for all contributions and pledge payments.



Per Capita 2016 is \$32.00 per person.

The Presbyter deadline for The February issue is January 15, 2016

<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 held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Child care is available. 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 Fax (570) 587-3784 Web Page www.fpccs.org **Pastor** William G. Carter **Administrative Assistant** Nancy Owens **Treasurer** Wayne Griffiths Editor Lindsey Hardy Clerk of Session Beverly Bright **Director of Music** Frank Jones **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 NOVEMBER 30, 2015

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 361,808
Actual Received	<u>345,353</u>
Difference	\$ (16,455)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 377,444		
Actual Expenses	356,327		
Difference	\$ (21,117)		

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (10,974)

PLEDGE INCOME

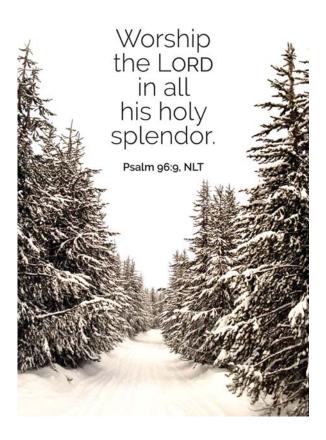
 Budget
 \$ 293,333

 Received
 275,404

 Difference
 \$ (17,929)

Per Capita Update 2015:

Total Received to date - \$4,164



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From the Pastor

William G. Carter

Dear Friends -

As we wait for the snow days to arrive, may I recommend that we take on a New Year's practice of Christian contemplation? The Jesuit theologian Walter Burkhardt once described the practice as a "long, loving look at the real." I believe he was referring to taking a disciplined pause from ceaseless motion. It is essential to take reflective time to notice what is going on within and around us, and to try to discern the usually silent presence of God.

We often resist the practice. After a quiet half hour of mulling over life in a cushioned chair, we kick ourselves into gear, proclaiming, "Well, I better do something." Hmm... the quiet reflection was "doing" something. Why denigrate it by contrasting it to mere activity?

When my daughters were small, often they would complain, "Dad, I'm bored." One time I countered, "There is nothing wrong with boredom, as long as it is rich, imaginative, and still." They would look at me quizzically, wondering if other kids had a father as strange as theirs. I would explain how important it is to have a fertile interior life. "Don't just do something," I said. "Read a book, write a poem, doodle on paper, or enjoy the silence."

There is nothing wrong with being still, reflecting a while, and mulling over your life and God's presence in it. Our times are filled with the myth that we must move with ceaseless activity and leave on the television to drown out the silence. As one of my friends once admitted, "I would rather burn out than rust." In other words, keep on the move but never catch up with your soul. Perhaps that is one reason why our culture has no depth, no discernible maturity, or no true compassion. Contemplation cultivates all these gifts.

The Christian faith has a long and venerable tradition of contemplation, often neglected by noisy preachers, overactive church volunteers, and impatient believers who want to see quick, measurable results. It is not honored by the high achievers. It is ignored by the noisy entertainers who make the headlines. And, sad to say, contemplation has not been honored as an essential practice of those who follow Christ. "I'm giving up on Christianity," one man told me. "There's too much talking, too many squabbles over doctrine, and I need time to be still." He joined a Buddhist meditation group because it offered a life-giving alternative.

May I put in a good word for Christian silence? For cultivating the holy skill of mediation? For keeping Sabbath, not just for one day a week, but for fifteen minutes each day?

Here is how to start: be still.

With you in the stillness of winter

Rev. Bill

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Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Independent & Assisted Living: Sara Ann Hosier 587-0371

Deacon Meals: Donna Kepler 587-2729

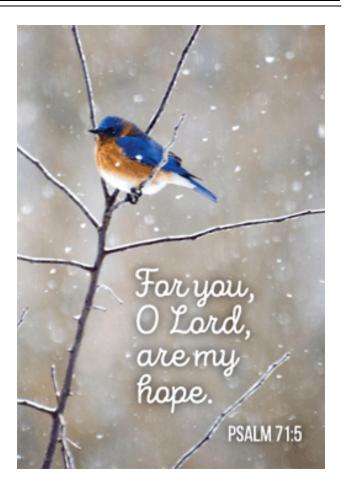
Time of Loss: Ginny O'Brien

Emergency Home Repair/ Joe Waters 586-7233 Maintenance: Greg Matthews 587-2644

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.





MISSION AND JUSTICE

Peter, in Acts 10:34–35, "I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Whoever fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God, no matter what race they belong to."

In the Presbyterian Calendar, January themes focus on race relations with special attention to Martin Luther King's birthday on Monday, January 18th. Fifty-one years after the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, The Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries of the national Presbyterian Church are busy at work addressing racial injustices and privilege that are alive and well in our country today.

In the 2015 spring edition of *The Racial Torch*, in the article "Understanding Power, Privilege, and Justice", Kristena Morse writes "Incidents of racially charged vio-

lence across the country—from Ferguson to Baltimore and in too many other cities in between-and the public reaction and outcry for justice that followed each have once again brought to light underlying racial tensions that still exist in American society. In an effort to begin to work toward dismantling the underlying racial tensions and systems that keep racism alive in our society, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - and more specifically the office of Gender and Racial Justice in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries-hosted conversations focused on cultural diversity and humility with various groups across the country."

In two THE W.A.Y adult classes in September of this year, we held thoughtful conversations about these topics of cultural and individual racism and privilege. With no easy

answers to remediating these social injustice issues, perhaps we can begin this month by individually educating ourselves about what is means to be a black person in this country. A wonderful way to accomplish this is to read the 2015 acclaimed book Between the World by Ta-Nehisi Coates, who pens a letter to his adolescent son and in the process addresses his personal experiences of being a black man in our country while exploring this nation's discriminating past and present. This book has been named one of the ten best books of the year by the New York Times Book Review.

pcusa.org/racialjustice

www.presbyterianmission.org/ ministries/racial-ethnic-womensministries The Presbyter Page 5

MISSION AND JUSTICE

International Education and Peace Scholar, Yaya, is here!

Williamson Jacques, nicknamed, Yaya, the 2016-2020 Keystone College International Education and Peace Scholar arrived on January 1st. Our Mission and Justice Committee and Session have committed funds to support Yaya with such things as health insurance and a school meal plan in his stay in Clarks Summit as he pursues his Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education teaching with the goal of returning to Haiti to improve the education system in his local community there. He is now among us, so say "Bon jou" to him and you will get a smile. Our church has been involved with Haiti since the 1990s when Stephanie Muntzel developed and fostered a relationship with Pastor Mathieu Ciceron and the Rays of Hope School in Solino, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Experiences and adventures since then by members of our congregation have brought us close to the patients and staff of Hospital St. Croix in Leogane, the villagers and construction workers of Thomb Gato where we helped build a hospital clinic which has, since the earthquake of January 12, 2010, become a University Fondwa building of technology classrooms. We have partnered with NaSonje Foundation and Groundswell International to provide Women's Micro-Credit organizing and community development programming that have reaped many benefits for the people of Gwo Jan and the Artibonite Valley region of Haiti.

The ongoing relationship with the people of Gwo Jan brought us to Yaya, a tenacious student who completed his classic education just three years ago at age 26 and who will now work toward his BS in Teaching degree here at Keystone College and with us.

Recent allocation through Mission and Justice Committee

Local Service Organizations:

After Foster Care Program - Helping youth transition from foster care to adulthood.

Bethel AME Shelter - Providing assistance to the homeless.

Infant Care Center - Assistance to the very youngest in need.

SCOLA - increasing literacy.

Local Environmental Efforts:

Countryside Conservancy.

Lackawanna River Corridor Association.

International Efforts:

Groundswell - Small Community Development in Haiti and beyond.

Doctors Without Borders - Designated for Syrian refugee relief in Jordan.

Mission and Justice Committee seeks to pursue peace and justice in the world by encouraging volunteer opportunities and supporting **effective** service organizations. We want the congregation to know that we put great thought into the allocation of funds. Our intention is always to conscientiously address the most pressing challenges facing us both locally and globally.

Voluntary Action Center

We have accepted the responsibility to assist the Voluntary Action Center in Scranton with their goal of assembling 500 Care Bags for the homeless in our area. We will donate travel size hand sanitizers to the bags, and will be collecting at our church until January 11, with the bags being distributed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18, 2016. If you choose to contribute to this effort, please place travel size hand sanitizers into the marked basket in the narthex. We appreciate the congregation's ongoing support of our efforts to make our world more just and loving for all.



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Christian Education

It's for life!

THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education

"I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

Supper, 5:00 * Classes for all ages, 6:15

Spark (Newborn - 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. Stories this month are the Wise Men, Jesus' Baptism, the Disciples, and the Lord's Prayer.

Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5) will participate in one combined classroom for the winter and experience Bible stories through interactive classes. In January we will learn about the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) and Parables of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23).

We Believe: With All Boldness and Freedom (Grades 6-8) Room 209. Students are working through the New Testament to gain the overall picture of the life of Jesus and the early church. This month we shift from looking at Jesus' teaching to hearing about his entry into Jerusalem, final week with his disciples, trial and sentencing.

PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12 and college-age adults) are encouraged to either join an adult class or participate in the middle school class. See below.

Adults and PresbyYouth have the opportunity to learn from Dr. John Lawlor, retired professor of Old Testament. On January 6, he begins a five-week class called "Literary Art? Yes! For Literary Art's Sake? No!" His study will explore the way that literary art and theology work together in the composition of the Old Testament scripture. He will identify some barriers to reading the Old Testament on its own terms, and identify a variety of literary techniques employed by the ancient writers that were used to shape Old Testament stories and poems into theologically "loaded" compositions.

A second class will be led by **Dr. Charlie Pinches.** As he writes, "The Bible has a very long plot; long enough that we sometimes need reminding about how it got started and where it is headed. This study will catch selected highlights of the unfolding story in sequence, begin with Abraham and ending with the Apostles. They'll be lots of discussion prompted by some careful Bible reading, with a little guidance from Charlie Pinches. Young adults are especially welcome--but the class is open to all who want to brush up on the Bible and keep their stories straight."

Christian Education is an important part of who we are and what we do...and we need *YOU* to make it happen. How? You can enrich your own faith and help our church grow in Christ by:

- ♦ Attending the W.A.Y. for dinner, classes, and choirs...we want to see you here!
- Bringing a friend...new faces are always welcome.
- Volunteering to teach...at any grade level for any amount of time, you can help our children and adults learn and grow. Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.
- Helping to set up for, cook, and serve our weekly meal...our church family loves to eat.
- ♦ Joining the CE committee...our group normally meets the first Thursday of each month to plan the W.A.Y., youth group, special events, and more we're always looking to hear from new voices.



Wednesday Supper Reservations

Light Supper is served before The Way classes from 5:00-6:10 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.

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Youth Fellowship

Mark your calendars! We welcome all youth grades 4-12 to join us for these upcoming dates:

- ◆ Friday, January 8 movie night
- ◆ Friday, January 22 *blackout (7-9pm)*
- ◆ Friday, February 19 *church family* feud

Unless otherwise noted, youth group meets from 6:30-8:30 for fun, fellowship, and lessons on living our faith.

Helpers Needed!

The W.A.Y. is looking for people to help with our meals. You are welcome to help once in a while, once a month, or whenever you are able!

You can help by:

Cooking or helping to cook a main dish Providing a salad Providing a dessert Helping with setup Helping with cleanup

If you can contribute, please contact Jana Schillinger or any member of CE committee.



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Holiday Pajama Drive. 94 pairs were distributed among 4 Head Start locations. A special thanks goes out to the elves, Ran, Diane, Amber Zach and Heather that helped with getting all the tags ready, tree set-up, and sorting the packages for delivery.

Janet & Tyler, Christian Education & Growth Committee

Thank YOU to everyone who helped by providing food, set-up and clean-up for THE WAY since September. Your generosity in this undertaking is so very much appreciated. If you would like to help when we start up again after the Holidays, please call Janet Dobson, 570-563-1887.

Christian Education and Growth Committee

Thank you to everyone who has blessed me so much during my illness. The flowers from the Deacons were beautiful, and I appreciate so much all the cards, notes, meals, soup and well wishes that have come my way. You are all truly a loving and caring church. Love, Jo Conklin

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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 12,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers. Want more information? Contact one of our Stephen Leaders to find out about becoming a Stephen Minister or to request a Stephen Minister to share your story with.



Light bulb recycling: For the last several years, we have been collecting bulbs and taking them for recycling. However, we are having difficulty finding a place to take a lot of bulbs at a time. We will, therefore, need to discontinue collecting bulbs. Lowes Home Improvement store on Viewmont Drive in Dickson City collects and recycles bulbs. Please take your bulbs to Lowes for recycling. Their collection area is at the front entrance of the store.



The 2016 flower calendar is posted in the hallway next to Rev. Carter's office. If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday worship service, please indicate this on the flower calendar and you will be contacted.



After a holiday break, we are getting back together in January. We will be at Judy Cutler's home on January 28th to discuss "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. Does the world need yet another novel about WWII? It does when the novel is as inventive and beautiful as this one by Anthony Doerr. In fact, All the Light We Cannot See--while set mostly in Germany and France before and during the war--is not really a "war novel". Yes, there is fear and fighting and disappearance and death, but the author's focus is on the interior lives of his two characters. Marie Laure is a blind 14-year-old French girl who flees to the countryside when her father disappears from Nazi-occupied Paris. Werner is a gadgetobsessed German orphan whose skills admit him to a brutal branch of Hitler Youth. Never mind that their paths don't cross until very late in the novel, this is not a book you read for plot (although there is a wonderful, mysterious subplot about a stolen gem). This is a book you read for the beauty of Doerr's writing-- "Abyss in her gut, desert in her throat, Marie-Laure takes one of the cans of food..."--and for the way he understands and cherishes the magical obsessions of childhood. Marie Laure and Werner are never quaint. Instead they are powerful examples of the way average people in trying times must decide daily between morality and survival.



2016 Offering Envelopes have been prepared. You may pick them up on the table beside Rev. Bill's office. If you desire a box and one was not prepared for you, please contact the church office. We will happily remedy that situation!

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GUIDING

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.

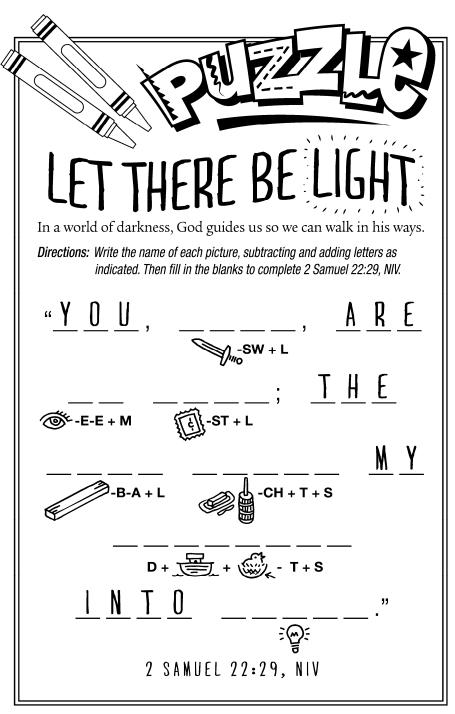


What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

- 1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
- 2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
- 3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
- 4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!



Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

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Joys and Sorrows



Dori and Joe Waters have their first grandchild, a granddaughter. Her name is Clair. Ryan and Lauren Waters are the proud parents in Chicago.



Jack Robert Glasser, son of Andrea and Dave Glasser, and grandson of Connie and John Weiss, was baptized on December 20, 2015 by Rev. Carter.

Zoe Celeste Zymblosky, daughter of Gerald and Joy Zymblosky, and granddaughter of Jessie and Bill Davis, was baptized on December 27, 2015 by Rev. Carter.



With sadness we announce the passing of Paul Canterbury on December 16, 2015. Rev. Carter led his funeral on December 21.

We express our sympathy to John Conklin on the passing of Jo Conklin on December 26, 2015. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, January 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Can you help?

We are trying to locate a nurse named "Esther" who assisted us with an accident after the early service on Christmas Eve? Know how we can get in touch with her? Please let us know in the church office.

Lectionary Readings

January 3, 2016

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

JANUARY USHERS

Greg Matthews and Betty Keen

WELCOMERS

Lee and Mick Wirth



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERI Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested





January 2016

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Dec 2015 S M T W T 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30 31	F S M 4 5 1 11 12 7 8 18 19 14 15	Feb 2016 T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27		New Year's Day	2
3 10:00 AM Worship	4 12:00 PM Weight Watchers 7:00 PM Mission & Justice	5	10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:00 PM THE W.A.Y. supper; 5:30 Chapel Choir; 6:16 classes for all; 7:15 Adult Choir; 8:30 Bell Choir	8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 7:00 PM Building & Grounds 7:00 PM Christian Education	8	9 11:00 AM Memorial Service
10 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Session	11 12:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts	12 10:00 AM MBK Quilts	13 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 1:00 PM LP COM 5:00 PM THE W.A.Y. supper; 5:30 Chapel Choir; 6:15 classes for all; 7:15 Adult Choir; 8:30 Bell Choir	14 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group	15 Presbyter Deadline	16
17 10:00 AM Worship	18 12:00 PM Weight Watchers Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Church Office is closed.	19 PW Circles: 10AM, 1:30PM & 7PM	20 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:00 PM THE W.A.Y., supper; 5:30 Chapel Choir, 6:15 classes for all; 7:15 Adult Choir; 8:30 Bell Choir	8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 6:30 PM Fellowship	22	23
24 10:00 AM Worship	25 12:00 PM Weight Watchers	26 10:00 AM MBK Quilts 7:00 PM Deacons	9:00 AM Presbyter 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:00 PM THE W.A.Y. supper, 5:30 Chapel Choir, 6:15 classes for all; 7:15 Adult Choir, 8:30 Bell Choir	28 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 7:00 PM FPC Book Group	29	30
31 10:00 AM Worship						