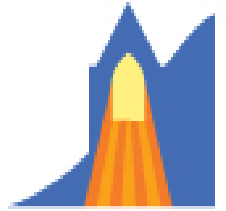


The Presbyter

Celebrating
100 Years
1912 - 2012



First Presbyterian Church

January 2015

Clarks Summit, PA

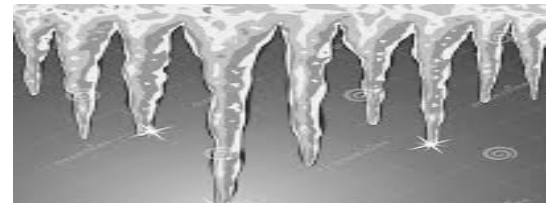


HELP US CELEBRATE THE LEGACY
OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

This winter, we are joining The Voluntary Action Center (VAC) in creating "Care Bags" to be donated to KRMA Shelter (formerly Bethel AME Shelter), the Community Intervention Center, St Anthony's Haven and the Catherine McAuley Center. Last year 500 Care Bags were assembled and distributed to the homeless shelters through a combined community effort in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, through the Mission and Justice Committee, helped assemble the Care Bags with Fourth grade students at the South Abington School.

This Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2015, VAC is again asking schools, businesses and community service organizations to donate one item to place in the Care Bag. However, based on the success of last year, VAC's goal is to collect 600 of each item by January 12, 2015. These items will be organized and distributed on Monday, January 19, 2015 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Mission and Justice Committee has decided to collect and donate 600 travel sized (1-2 ounce) hand sanitizers to this worthy venture. Most grocery and drug stores sell these sanitizers for a dollar or less.

If you would like to help reach our goal of 600, please place the travel sized hand sanitizers in the orange basket located in the Narthex. Collection runs through January 11, 2015. Thank you in advance for your support.



Mark Your Calendars for the Clarks Summit Festival of Ice

February 13 - February 16

Art Show (Friday - Sunday)

Chili Café (Saturday at 11 am)

Renewal of Marriage Vows
(Saturday, 2/14, at noon)

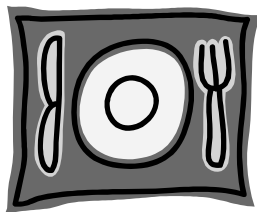
Rob Smith, juggler (Saturday at 2 pm)

Mardi Gras jazz worship
(Sunday at 10 am)

***There's something for everybody who
wishes to take part.***

Table of Contents:

Page 2	- Volunteers for The Way Dinners, Annual Meeting Notice
Page 3	- From The Pastor
Page 4	- The Way
Page 5	- Youth Cosmic Bowling, Janson Lecture
Page 6	- Stephen Ministry, Book Club, Potluck and Games, Bulletin Volunteer
Page 7	- Kids Page
Page 8	- Joys and Sorrows, Lectionary Readings, Thank You Notes, Ushers
Page 9	- Calendar



DINNERS FOR THE WAY

If you would like to help in some capacity starting in January, please give me a call. It can be as simple as putting a salad together, making a dessert, setting up the drink station, or preparing a simple entree such as chili, sloppy joes, soup, sandwiches. Reimbursements are available for any expenses you may incur.

Janet Dobson
(570-563-1887)

Nations shall come
to your light,
and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



The Presbyter deadline for
The February issue is
January 16, 2015

The Presbyter 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
Director Educational Ministry	Tina Ide
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
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

The Annual Meeting
of the Congregation
and Corporation of
First Presbyterian
Church of Clarks
Summit will be held
on
Sunday, February 1,
2015.



From the Pastor

William G. Carter

Every once in a while, something big happens somewhere in the world, and the God Squad goes there to mark it as a miracle site. A statue of the Virgin weeps. A crippled woman drops her crutches and stands up healed. A burned-out hippy told me one time that Sedona, Arizona is the stairway to heaven.

Yet the Gospel of John announces any place can be that stairway. The news after Christmas is that the Eternal Word of the Father comes down from heaven and lives among normal people. Holiness happens among the ordinary. In one intriguing story in the Gospel of John (1:43-51), Jesus awakens faith by spotting a guy under a fig tree. No big deal -- except for Nathanael, the one who was spotted.

But this is how God's dominion grows. Ordinary people have holy moments, and invite their friends to come and see. Nathanael first approached Jesus because Philip invited him. Philip had discovered something about Jesus that prompted him to invite Nathanael to discover it for himself. It begins a chain reaction among friends. One friend saw it, spoke to another. The second friend saw it in a different way, and undoubtedly spoke to somebody else. The Kingdom of God grows friend by friend in an invitation to the kind of holiness that comes in the middle of the everyday.

This is the curious work of the Spirit. As Eugene Peterson writes,

The hardest thing is to believe that God's work – this dazzling creation, this astonishing salvation, this cascade of blessings – is all being worked out in and under the conditions of our humanity: at picnics and around dinner tables, in conversations and while walking along roads, in puzzled questions and homely stories... Everything Jesus does and says takes place within the limits and conditions of our humanity. No fireworks. No special effects. Yes, there are miracles, plenty of them. But because they are so much a part of the fabric of everyday life, very few notice. The miraculousness of the miracle is obscured by the ordinariness of the people involved. (*Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, p. 34)

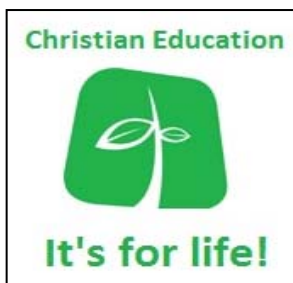
We must never underestimate the impact we can have on others, simply by sharing where we have seen God at work in daily life. It is not difficult, nor does it have to be pushy or obnoxious. The writer Madeline L'Engle said it best: "We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it." (*Walking on Water*, p. 122)

Do you want the Kingdom to grow? Do you want God's influence, power, and grace to increase? Watch for the Light of Christ breaking in. Tell your friends where you see it. This is the invitation to offer: come and see.

And I make you a deal: if you invite your friends to join you for worship, we will do all we can to show them the light and life of Jesus Christ.

With you in the journey,

Rev. Bill



THE WAY

The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education

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

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

SAVE THE DATE! - Saturday, February 28, Dr. Beth Tanner will lead us in a study of the Psalms as part of our Jansen Lectureship.

Spark (Newborn - 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery with teachers Myrna Diven and our Sunday caregivers. In January, our Spark students will hear about Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:22-40), Jesus, the boy, at the Temple (Luke 2:41-52), John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-18) and Jesus going to Nazareth (Luke 4:14-30).

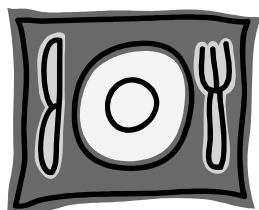
Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5) For the months of January and February, children will experience Bible stories in one classroom. January 7 and 14: The Boy's Lunch (John 6:1-14). Jesus used a boy's simple gift of two fish and five loaves of bread and turned it into a feast for more than five thousand people. January 21 and 28: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Through the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us to love God and other people.

We Believe: The Story of God's Faithfulness (Grades 6-8) Room 209 with Jana Schillinger and Dave Porter. Using We Believe: The Story of God's Faithfulness, our Middle School Class will spend the year digging deeper into the Old Testament, learning and experiencing how God revealed himself to the Hebrew people. In January, students learn about Ruth's story (Book of Ruth), the judges of Israel (Judges 4:1-24; 6; 7:1-24; 14; 15:1-20) and Samuel and Israel's first king (1 Samuel 3:1-18; 9:1-22; 9:27-10:16).

PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12; college age adults) Room 111 with Jack Pittman and Darlene Scappatura. PresbyYouth's Nativity, Water and Wilderness unit encourages students to observe "rites of passage" events in the life of Jesus and to make connections with faith milestones in their own lives. The journey begins by discovering the significance of water in the Bible (Genesis 1:1-23; Isaiah 43:1-2; Revelation 22:1-5, 17), recalling Jesus baptism and our baptisms (Mathew 3; 28:16-20; Romans 6; Galatians 3), learning how we can hear and obey God's call (1 Samuel 3:1-21; Jeremiah 1:4-19; Mark 1:16-20; Acts 9:1-22) and exploring important moments of faith development in our lives (Luke 2:21-38; Mark 14-15).

Talking About God Stuff (T.A.G.S.) Room 206. January 7-28: *The Truth About David*. David is a towering figure in the Jewish scriptures. The greatest of Israel's kings, he is a complex person of extraordinary power and deep vulnerability. We will explore four different perspectives that the Bible has on David: the hero, the sinner, the political symbol, the hope for the future. Rev. Carter and friends will study some of the most important texts about King David -- and we may discover something about ourselves along the way.

Faith and Life Room 210. January 7-21: *Faith and Science*: There is no doubt that faith and science continually intersect with each other. Science focuses on acquired data while faith focuses on the creator of that data and often the different focus seems to create tension between the two. So is there a way for faith and science exist together peaceably? Throughout January, Meg Hatch and Jay Clymer will help us explore intersections of faith such as creation and evolution and discover how the two are compatible.



Wednesday Supper Reservations

Light Supper is served before The Way classes from 5:15-6:10 for those with **reservations**.

Suggested donation: \$3 per person.

Please return reservation slips no later than **Monday**. Slips can be placed in the **basket near the phone in the kitchen** or in the **offering plate**. You may also **call the church office** to make reservations.

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

YOUTH COSMIC BOWLING

Are you ready for some late night fun?

Join us Friday, January 30, as we head to Idle Hour Bowling

Lanes for Cosmic Bowling!

Meet at the church at 8:15.

We will return at 10:30.

This event is open to anyone grades 4-8.

Be sure to bring your friends along!

Cost: \$10



Janson Lectureship Saturday, February 28

We are delighted to have Dr. Beth Tanner back this year, leading us in discussion and study of the Psalms. She is professor of Old Testament at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details.



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:

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.



Curious about how big this ministry is? Here are some amazing numbers:

Stephen Ministry Enrollment

T o t a l s
Enrolled congregations or other organizations - **12,075**

Additional countries with Stephen Ministry congregations - **24**

Denominations represented - **170**

Number of pastors and lay leaders trained as a Stephen Leader at a Leader's Training Course- **66,708**

Approximate number of people trained as a Stephen Minister in their church or organization - **600,000+**

Approximate number of people cared for by a Stephen Minister - **Millions**

Interested in joining these numbers? Contact one of our Stephen Leaders, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, or Rev. Bill Carter.

We are resuming our meetings on January 22nd at Judy Cutler's home at 7:00 PM. Come join us as we discuss: **A Secret Gift: How One Man's Kindness - and a Trove of Letters - Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression** - by Ted Gup In hard economic times like these, readers will find bestselling author Ted Gup's unique book uplifting as well as captivating. Inside a suitcase kept in his mother's attic, Gup discovered letters written to his grandfather in response to an ad placed in a Canton, Ohio, newspaper in 1933 that offered cash to seventy-five families facing a devastating Christmas. The author travels coast to coast to unveil the lives behind the letters, describing a range of hardships and recreating in his research the hopes and suffering of Depression-era Americans, even as he uncovers the secret life led by the grandfather he thought he knew.

POTLUCK & GAMES!

Come join us right after church on Sunday, January 11, 2015, for a potluck luncheon at 11:15 am, followed by games for all ages. Beverages, desserts, plates and utensils will be provided – please bring your favorite board game and a main or side dish to share. All are welcome, so please come join in the fun!

Volunteer needed:

An additional person is needed to assist in the production of the Sunday bulletins on Thursday afternoons. Please contact the office if you are interested. TRAINING will be provided!



"ONE" PAINTING

Ephesians 4:4-6 talks a lot about *one*. Create one painting that says it all.



What you need:

- Foam letters or letter stickers
- White painting canvas
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrush or sponge
- Water

What you do:

1. Place letters on the canvas to spell out the "ones" in Ephesians 4:4-6 (one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God).
2. Paint over the letters, using various colors.
3. When the paint is dry, peel off the letters to reveal words that explain important Bible truths.
4. If desired, finish by painting some number 1's in any blank spots.



One Baptism

The "one" theme of Ephesians 4:4-6 assures us that we need to be baptized only once. Yet a relationship with God involves approaching him with a humble heart each day.

Directions: Inside the 1, fill in words using the spaces as a guide. Then unscramble the circled and boxed letters to reveal John's message about baptism in Mark 1:4.

hope

Spirit

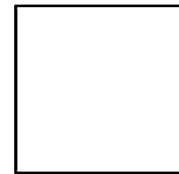
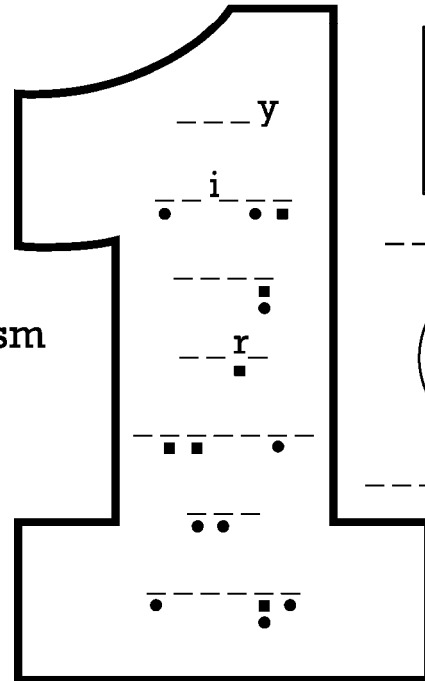
body

baptism

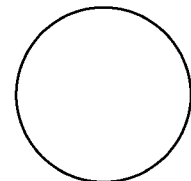
Lord

Father

God



----- n ----- nce



----- v ----- n -----

Answers: body, Spirit, hope, Lord, baptism, God, Father, repentance, forgiveness

Joys and Sorrows



It is with a grateful heart that I write to thank you for your prayers, cards, notes, well wishes and dinners during my recovery. Your caring and kindness were a blessing to me and our family. (Incidentally, we have some wonderful cooks in this congregation.)

With sincere appreciation,
Gwynne Gilbert

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Pajama Drive. We worked with the Family Engagement Coordinator from The Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency and we provided 91 pairs of PJ's that were distributed to 3 South Scranton Head Start Centers. Thanks also to the special helpers for this project, by helping with tree set-up, cutting out all the tags, counting and sorting packages, etc.

Janet Dobson and Tyler Kusma
Christian Education and Growth Committee



With joy we announce the baptism of Dean Clarence Shane, son of Holly and Kevin Shane. The baptism took place on November 30, 2014 with Rev. Carter officiating. Dean's grandparents, Chris and Linda Woodley, Debbie and Tim Shane, an aunt, Briar Woodley, and four uncles Brian, Chris, and Jeff Shane, and Glenn Woodley are all members here.

Lectionary Readings

January 4

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

January 11

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 18

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 25

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January Ushers

Betty Keen & John Conklin



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the Winters family on the recent passing of Virginia. A memorial service will be held on January 3, 2015.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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Clarks Summit PA


DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



January 2015

Monthly Planner

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