The Church on the Hill

The Presbyter

Celebrating 100 Years

1912 - 2012



First Presbyterian Church

February 2014

Clarks Summit, PA

Join us for the Ice Festival - February 14-16

Mark the weekend of February 14-16 on your calendar. The church will take part in the Clarks Summit Ice Festival. There will be an ice sculpture outside and all kinds of activities.

On Friday night, February 14, we open our Art Show at 6 pm. with a concert by vocalist Erin Malloy. She will perform a selection of love songs in honor of Valentine's Day.



On Saturday, February 15, there is a full range of family fun activities, including the Art Show,

the Chili Café (at lunch time), and music while the Café is open.

Our headliner is juggler Rob Smith. who has performed to packed houses. He will 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.

Our exhibit of artwork of local artists and FPC congregation members 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 be open on Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm, with all proceeds benefitting our mission work as a church.

Can you make a pot of chili?

Contact Jack Pittman (587-2050) or John Conklin (563-0211) by Sunday, February 9 to tell them that you can bring a pot to share.



Calling all artists: Anyone interested in submitting artwork to the First Presbyterian Art Show held during the Ice Festival, contact Elaine Tweedy, our art coordinator, by email (elainetweedy@gmail.com) or cell phone (570-575-1705).

Artwork submitted must be different than what was submitted last year. We need to have it dropped off on February 13th between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. at the church. 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 juried photography show by the Northeast Photography Club.

Elaine is hoping for enthusiastic participation by church members. Over 150 people enjoyed last year's show.

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Notes from the Session Meeting on January 14, 2014 Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

- 1. Session approved the finance statement for the year ending December 31, 2013 and were pleased when the Finance committee announced the 2013 Actual Pledges received exceeded the Budget forecast by \$364. Many thanks to all members and friends who supported the work of First Presbyterian in 2013.
- 2. There will be a suggestion box in the church for members to give their ideas for programming and different venues that they would like to make happen at First Presbyterian.
- 3. Please plan to attend the Mardi Gras service at church on Sunday March 2nd at 10:00 a.m. It will be a special Jazz Communion with a Dixieland Band! Further details will be in the weekly bulletin

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

REVENUE

 Budget
 \$ 389,225

 Actual Received
 367,237

 Difference
 \$ (21,988)

EXPENSES

 Budget
 \$ 397,814

 Actual Expenses
 371,091

 Difference
 \$ (26,723)

 =======

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ 4,736

2013 Budget projected a deficit of \$8,589

PLEDGE INCOME

 Budget
 \$ 315,000

 Received
 315,364

 Difference
 \$ + 364

Per Capita Update 2013: Total Received in 2013 - \$4,438 Per Capita assessment for 2014 is \$29.50 per member.

The Presbyter deadline for the March issue is February 14, 2014

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 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 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 of Educational Ministry Tina I				
Administrative Assistant Nancy Ov				
Treasurer	Patricia Delaney			
Editor	Lindsey Hardy			
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright			
Director of Adult & Teen Choirs	Susan Kelly			
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane			
Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck			
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck			
Sexton	John Conklin			



Hymnal Dedication

Glory to God! Our new hymnals have arrived and will be taken into our pews on February 2. The project has been funded entirely through your donations in honor or in memory of family and friends of the church. We are pleased and grateful for the response we received, and give special thanks to the Hoag family for their generous donation to begin the fund drive. Please join us on Sunday, February 9th, at 10AM for a special worship service to dedicate our new hymnals to the glory of God.

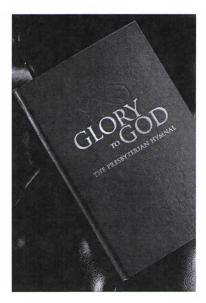


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From the Pastor

William G. Carter



February 2014 is **G2G Month** at First Presbyterian Church. **G2G** is the abbreviation for **Glory to God**, the new Presbyterian hymnal that inhabits our pews. It is a blessing to have this new resource for leading us in song. We will take the month of February to discover more about it.

Hymnals do not come out of the air—they arise out of the church. They collect the songs that praise God, speak for the people, elucidate scripture, teach doctrine, and voice our prayers. One of the best pieces of evidence that the Holy Spirit fills the church is the simple observation that the church keeps singing. We sing the songs that have stirred our souls (the first hymn in this book is "Holy, Holy, Holy"). We also follow the repeated invitation of scripture to "sing a new song to the Lord." The new hymnal will lead us on both counts.

This is the first hymnal revision in more than twenty years. It began with a 2006 General Assembly directive, which formed a hymnal committee that began to work in 2008. For the past five years, the national committee has

collected songs, conducted surveys, and weighed the feedback. They had an enormous undertaking, fraught with no shortage of input, and they have done a tremendous job. The new book includes about 830 songs. Due to new publishing technology, the printers were able to publish a collection that has larger print—but is slightly thinner—than the most recent Presbyterian Hymnal (1990).

I find **G2G** to be a tremendous collection. As I've mentioned to many of you, it contains the best pieces from the former blue book and our green "Sing" supplement. Added are a number of old classics (for instance, "Standing on the Promises" and "How Can I Keep From Singing") and an assortment of new hymns that you are going to love. Remember our delight in discovering "Here I Am, Lord" and "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" in the blue book? You're in for some more joyful surprises.

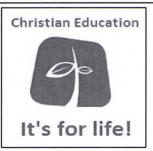
There are prayer songs in the new volume, intended to be repeated until they sink into the crevasses of our hearts. There are also plenty of songs that have guitar chords—and even percussion suggestions—printed with the notes. Hmm... wonder what we can do with those? And to the person who laughed and said, "No jazz tunes in this hymnal!," I will simply point out that "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" is on page 442.

I commend the new G2G to all of you. Feel free to thumb through the pages. If you find something inside it that you want to sing, let us know. This is our book, intended to shape our lives as we praise God together. Good church music has that power. It welcomes the Spirit of God to come and fill our lungs, that every exhaled breath would become a doxology. May God be praised as we sing together!

Tunefully yours,

Rev. Bill

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

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 5 - On March 5 we will still have our W.A.Y. program. Classes for the evening will prepare us for the upcoming season of Lent and will end at 7:00pm. At 7:00, we will move to the sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday service.

SAVE THE DATE! We will be holding an all-church Seder on Wednesday, April 16.

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 exploring the story of Jesus in the Temple. Through this story they will discover that God's "house" is a comfortable place to learn, 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. February 5-26. *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 room 206. *Faith and Film*. February 5, Bill Samford; Feb. 12, Bill Carter; Feb. 19, Ken Forbes; Feb. 26, Virginia Miner. In our time and place there may be no better form of storytelling than the movies. We are blessed to have some neighboring pastors, who love to integrate Gospel insights with the films that have stirred their souls, with us for this four-week series.

<u>Contemporary Christian Living (CCL)</u> - For the month of February, 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.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth group

meets February 2 and February 16, 6:00-7:30pm.

Snow tubing at Montage Mountain

Monday, February 17

12:30pm meet at church

5:00pm return to church

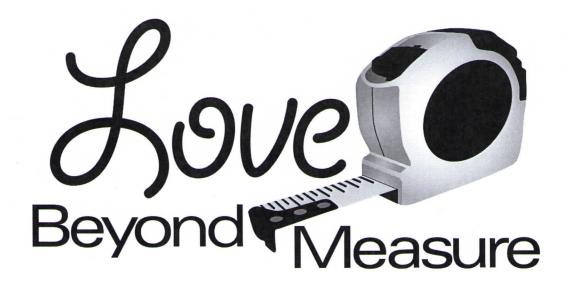
Cost: \$10

Since there is no school this day, our youth are headed up to Montage Mountain. Come spend your afternoon tubing down a snow covered mountain!

Interested in a mission trip this summer?

Any youth, grades 6-12, who are interested in going on a mission trip this summer are invited to join us for a planning meeting on Sunday, February 9 at 11:30am.

If you have any questions about any of this information please contact Tina Ide, Director of Educational Ministries, by phone (570) 586-6306 or email learnandgrow@fpccs.org.



Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Independent & Assisted Living: Sara Ann Hosier 587-0371

independent & Assisted Living. Sala Ann Hosier 387-037

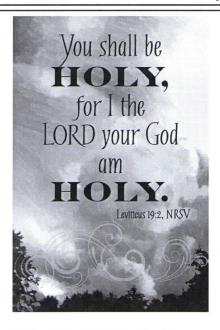
Emergency Needs: Jo Conklin 563-0211
Time of Loss: Lee Wirth 587-3767

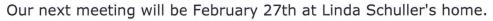
Emergency Home Repair/

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.





Come join us as we discuss <u>Falling Leaves</u> by Adeline Yen Mah Born in 1937 in a port city a thousand miles north of Shanghai, Adeline Yen Mah was the youngest child of an affluent Chinese family who enjoyed rare privileges during a time of political and cultural upheaval. But wealth and position could not

shield Adeline from a childhood of appalling emotional abuse at the hands of a cruel and manipulative Eurasian stepmother. Determined to survive through her enduring faith in family unity, Adeline struggled for independence as she moved from Hong Kong to England and eventually to the United States to become a physician and writer.



What is a Stephen Minister?

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. 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.

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

If you think you might be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, contact one of our Stephen Leaders, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, or Rev. Bill Carter.

Mission and Justice Committee News

Thank you to all who helped out at St. Francis Kitchen in 2013. We will be continuing our support of this important mission to the homeless and hungry. Two or three people are needed to help out on the last Tuesday of each month. Please find the sign up sheet on the hall bulletin board and sign up.

Thank you to all who signed up to prepare and deliver meals to The Homeless Shelter at Bethel AME Church. If you didn't get a chance to sign up and want to, we can add additional Sundays to the schedule. A special thanks to the Presbybop Christmas Eve Band for donating proceeds from the webcast of the Christmas Eve Jazz Service. Bethel greatly appreciates our help!

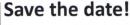
The third of four payments from the Centennial Capital Campaign has been sent to Groundswell International for use in Haiti.

On Sunday, February 2, 2014, 160 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 2nd. The money will be donated to the Abington Food Pantry. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts!





On Martin Luther King Day, Mission and Justice Committee members Meg Hatch, Melba Fialko and Linda Frangos joined Jennifer Wynn of VAC at the South Abington Elementary School. After a lesson on the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King and peaceful activism, they assisted the fourth grade students with assembling 250 toiletry bags that will be donated to local homeless shelters. Thanks to Jennifer who got all the components donated and to the fourth graders of South Ab, who with excitement and passion learned about the life and ministry of Dr. King from their teachers.





We are pleased to announce our third annual Janson Lecture for Saturday, March 1, from 10:00 a.m until 2:00 p.m. Established by the Session as an event that focuses on studying the Bible, the event is named to honor Joyce and the late Roy Janson for their steadfast love of Scripture and learning.

This year's speaker is Dr. Beth Tanner, professor at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. A Presbyterian minister, Beth is a popular speaker who teaches with great joy and enthusiasm. Her topic is "Befriending the Old Testament: Discovering the Riches of Israel's Sacred Book."

Watch for details in the bulletin and next month's Presbyter!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

JO ANNE SHEPHERD

Background Scripture: Exodus 19 and 24; Deuteronomy 7: 1-11 Key Scripture: Exodus 19: 3-6; 24: 3-8, 15-18; Deuteronomy 7: 7-9

Key Idea: God gives us many blessings through a covenant relationship. We make daily choices which re-

flect this covenant and honor God.

In Lesson 6, which we study in February, we learn how the people on their journey became a special people with a covenant binding them to God. They are destined to be a "treasured possession" who are set apart to live in a special way following the laws God laid down for them. Before meeting God they prepared themselves by purifying and washing and then they avoided doing things that would make them unclean again. This took a couple of days and they were careful not to touch sacred ground while they were not pure. If anyone broke this rule, the punishment was to be put to death. Once the rituals made them pure, they were able to see God portrayed as fire and smoke, which signified God's presence with human beings.

The people were told what would be required of them before they entered into the covenant so they could not claim "I didn't know" in the future. The leaders, including Moses and Aaron, went up to meet God, representing everyone. Only Moses was able to get close to God so the others stayed at a distance. A feast was held and amazingly all the leaders were able to see God without dying. Moses went back down to the people and told them God's requirements. All the people agreed so Moses wrote down the words. They built an alter and made sacrifices of burnt offerings and oxen. Moses again read the laws of the covenant to remind the people how they were agreeing to live. The people again agreed and also promised to obey. Moses put the sacrificial blood on the people which made the covenant a binding agreement with God. Moses and Joshua went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets which listed the law and commandments. The people below saw God as cloud and "devouring fire". Moses was gone a very long time.

To us today, the image of blood being put on the people by Moses is disturbing but then it had a different connotation. Blood was thought to represent a sacred bond to God, who alone can make it. It symbolized healing and forgiveness as well as God's spirit. The blood was a sign of the new life in the covenant. The New Testament uses the same images of blood representing forgiveness, new life and a chance to start again in the "blood of the covenant" of Christ at the Last Supper. We receive these blessings ourselves at the Lord's Table as represented by the wine. We are reminded that these covenantal laws were the instructions that Jesus followed as He lived a faithful and holy life honoring God. They show how to live with others in the way God wants His people to live, having love and grace. Our choices, as we live our lives, allow us to renew our covenant with God. Plan to learn more about God's covenant with us by coming to the meeting of your choice, at 10 AM, 1:30 PM, or 7 PM, on Feb. 18, 2014. Call the church office for more information.



NEVER-ENDING

GIFT

Seven days a week, remind someone special about God's love, the gift that truly keeps on giving.

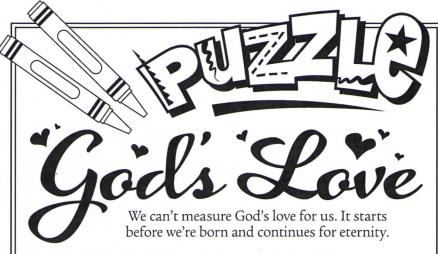


What you need:

- Large plastic pill box with a compartment for each day
- Construction paper
- Craft glue
- Black permanent marker
- Heart stickers
- Scissors
- Bible
- Pencil
- 7 small treats (fish-shaped crackers, small candies, trail mix, etc.)

What you do:

- Glue paper onto the container. Write "God's Love" in permanent marker. Decorate with heart stickers.
- 2. Cut seven slips of paper. On each slip, write out one Bible verse about God's love. (Examples include Psalm 63:3; Psalm 100:5; John 3:16; John 15:12; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9.)
- 3. Fill each compartment with a different treat. Then place a folded slip atop each treat.
- 4. Give away the present. Tell the recipient to open the correct day for a week and then refill the treats and verses and "regift" God's love to someone else.



Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

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Joys and Sorrows



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Nancy Ross Ware who passed away at the end of December 2013.



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Holiday Pajama Drive for two Local Head Start Centers. We collected over 80 PJ'S

A special Thanks to Amber and Zach who helped with making all the tags and putting up the tree.

Janet Dobson and Tyler Kusma Christian Education and Growth Committee

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



Lectionary Readings

February 2

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

February 9

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58:1-9-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16;

Matthew 5:13-20

February 16

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm

119:1-8;

1 Corinthians 3:1-9;

Matthew 5:21-37

February 23

7th Sunday in Ordinary time

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40;

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23;

Matthew 5:38-48





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).

February 2014

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regular Support Groups Room 210 Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Every Day 7 AM Big Book Study—Tuesday 7:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous (OA): Sun 4 PM; Tues 6 PM; Thrs 9:30 AM					8:30 AM "Backdoor" Seminar continues 9:45 AM OA	
2 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:45 AM Annual Meeting 6:00 PM Youth Group (grades 6-12) Souper Bowl of Caring offering	3 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers 7:00 PM Mission & Justice	4 10:00 AM PW Executive Board	5 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Chapel ch, 7:15 Adult ch, 8:30 Teens & Bells 6:15 PM "The WAY" Christian Education Program	8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 7:00 PM Building & Grounds 7:00 PM Christian Education	7	9:45 AM OA
9 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:30 AM Youth Mission Trip Planning Meeting	10 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers	11 10:00 AM MBK Quilts	9:30 AM LDT & 1PM COM 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Chapel ch, 7:15 Adult ch, 8:30 Teens & Bells 6:15 PM "The WAY" Christian Education Program	13 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group	6:00 PM Erin Malloy concert Presbyter Deadline	9:45 AM OA 11:00 AM -2:00 PM Recital - Chili Cookoff- Art Show 2:00 PM Juggler
16 10:00 AM Morning Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group (grades 6-12) Ice Festival	17 12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers 12:30 PM Youth Special Event: Snow tubing Church Office is closed.	18 10:00 AM 1:30 & 7:00 PM - PW Circles	19 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Chapel ch, 7:15 Adult ch, 8:30 Teens & Bells 6:15 PM "The WAY" Christian Education Program	20 8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 6:30 PM Fellowship	21	22 9:45 AM OA
23 10:00 AM Morning Worship	12:00 PM & 6 PM Weight Watchers	25 10:00 AM MBK Quilts 7:00 PM Deacons	9:00 AM Presbyter 10:00 AM Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Chapel ch, 7:15 Adult ch, 8:30 Teens & Bells 6:15 PM "The WAY" Christian Education Program	5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 7:00 PM FPC Book Group	28	



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested





Our Church has been aiding the Bethel AME Church shelter by supplying a meal alternate Sunday evenings. This year even more persons are at the shelter because of the weather. This has created an increased need for supplies. We can help by donating any of the following:

Coffee, cream and sugar; dry snacks; laundry detergent; cleaning supplies; garbage bags; and especially blankets.

There is a box in the Narthax where you may leave your gift. The items will be delivered to the shelter.