



Presbyterian Press

January 2018

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg WV



Thank you to everyone that made donations towards our efforts and volunteered their time during the holiday season. Your generosity does more than just fill bellies and keep families warm. You're showing that people do care, which gives hope, and sometimes hope is just what people need to try to change their lives and bring themselves to Christ.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

are due by
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th



PILL BOTTLE MINISTRY

If you bring your pill bottles for the Matthew25:Ministries to FPC, please use the following info for label removal. If you use Rite-Aid, Walgreens, some mailorders and your label comes off EASILY, please remove it. If you use CVS, Kroger or Wal-Mart or other pharmacy, you can use a black permanent marker and cover your name, Rx number and name of drug, any refills and bar code; it is not necessary for you to remove these extra sticky labels.

You have brought enough pill bottles to ship approximately 20 medium to large boxes in the past year. What a wonderful way to save the landfills and help a very deserving ministry. Thank you, Judy McQuaid

In This Issue...

News / Events	pg 1
Worship Schedule	pg 2
John's Jottings	pg 3
Session	pg 4
Scheduling of Volunteer	pg 5

Sunday Worship

Church
School
9:30 a.m.

Worship
10:45 a.m.



TACKLE

HUNGER

From January 1 through Super Bowl weekend, FPC Youth will collect non-perishable items (see suggestions list below) that will be donated to a local food pantry. This Youth project coincides with the Presbyterian Souper Bowl of Caring.

Tables will be set up in Westminster Hall for donations. Place your items in the area corresponding to the first letter in your last name. Weekly updates will be given as to which team is ahead. Once the Super Bowl teams are in place, the areas will be designated for the two teams. You can then place your items with the team you are rooting for.

CANNED GOODS:

tomato soup	broth	pork & beans
vegetable soup	vegetables	beans
chicken noodle soup	applesauce	canned milk
beef stew	fruit	canned spaghetti
tuna/salmon	chicken/meat	

OTHER FOOD ITEMS:

crackers	mac & cheese	drinks/juices
cereal (18 oz)	peanut butter	cookies
spaghetti (16 oz)	jello/pudding	bread/rolls
spaghetti sauce	coffee/tea/cocoa	pancake mix/syrup
mashed potatoes	sugar	

OTHER ITEMS:

toilet tissue	bath soap	laundry soap
paper towels	shampoo	disposable razors
tissues	deodorant	hand lotion
toothpaste	dish soap	hand sanitizer
toothbrushes	baby items	



Worship Schedule for January

JANUARY 7th: **Baptism of the Lord**

Pastor John will be on vacation. Mary Beth Paletta will be preaching.

JANUARY 14th: **2nd Sunday after Epiphany (Ordain/ Install Officers) (Holy Communion)**

SCRIPTURES: *1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19 John 1:43-51

SERMON TITLE: "The Power of Holy Listening"

THEME: The boy Samuel was listening to God. So many times we are so busy that we hear but do not really listen. We are so concerned with what we want to say next that we don't really listen to what is being said to us. Listening to God and listening to other people can bring about powerful things.

JANUARY 21st: **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

SCRIPTURES: *Jonah 3:1-5,10 *Mark 1:14-20

SERMON TITLE: "We Are the People Who God Enlisted"

THEME: The world tells us that we are our own creation and that we need to find a job doing what we like to do. That is very different from the Biblical ideal that we are God's creation and that God enlists us to be part of what God wants done. Jesus says that his burden is light. It is light compared to the heavy burden that the world lays on us to somehow create ourselves.

JANUARY 28th: **4th Sunday after Epiphany**

We will be serving as a neutral pulpit for the Pulpit Nominating Committee of another Presbyterian Church so we will have a guest preacher.

Activities & Meetings for

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ó Monday, January 8th at 12:00

DEACON MEETING ó Tuesday, January 9th at 5:30

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING ó Tuesday, January 16th at 5:30

SESSION MEETING ó Tuesday, January 16th at 5:30

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ó Sunday, January 21st

WORSHIP & MUSIC ó Sunday, January 21st

PRAYER GROUP ó Monday Mornings at 10:00

BIBLE STUDY ó Wednesdays at 6:30

The 2018 Flower Calendar is in place.

Honor or remember your loved one and reserve your date by calling the church office.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Phone: 304-622-6831

Fax: 304-623-1611

Web: www.clarksburgfpc.org

Church Staff

PASTOR

Rev. John F. Koerner

209 Ohio Avenue

Nutter Fort, WV 26301

Phone: 304-534-2324

revjfk@clarksburgfpc.org

SESSION

Rebecca Alvaro, Clerk

Sally Gray, Asst. Clerk

PARISH ASSOCIATE

Rev. Charla Waters Koerner

CHURCH SECRETARY

Terri Harris

terrihfpsec@yahoo.com

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

Elsa Davis

Elsadavis59@gmail.com

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Terra M. Burnett

angeleyes11_77@hotmail.com

CHOR DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

Dr. Mary Kay Devono

CHURCH TREASURERS

Wayne J. Northey / Jenna Bennett

Chuck Leuliette / Dave Allman

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Isabella Keller



Treasurer's Report

NET CASH FLOW - NOV.	2016	2017
INCOME	\$132,669	\$163,765
EXPENSES	\$154,920	\$155,384
NET INCOME	-\$22,250	\$8,382

Pastor John's Jottings . . .



How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? Romans 10:14

As we look forward to a new year, I want to challenge us to be the witnesses that God has called us to be. In the verse quoted above, Paul asks how are people to come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ if they have not heard.

The session has been brainstorming about ways to increase our attendance in 2018. My hope is that we will do this in the form of true hospitality and welcome good news. We had a great year financially last year. For the first in a number of years, we will finish the year in the black! Thank you all for your generosity! I am happy about that for several reasons. One of those reasons is because it gives us a better opportunity to invite people into something wonderful. We certainly don't ever want to come across as inviting people to worship because we need their money. Yet, when we get preoccupied with dwindling resources, we can come across that way. Nothing turns people off faster than that.

So let's start with what we can offer. We offer a chance to find answers to spiritual struggles. People may not see the church like they used to, but most of the people in our society do believe in God. More than that, almost all people struggle with spiritual questions. We all struggle with questions of : who we are; of who God is; of how God sees us; of what our purpose is in the world.

People are desperately seeking for spiritual answers. The good news is that we know that those answers can be found in a living relationship with Jesus Christ!

So how do we help people encounter Christ? Here are some ideas:

1. Think about how you came to a living relationship with Christ. That is your story. You are an expert in your own story. No one can tell it better than you! Look for opportunities to share your story. (One of the best ways to do this is to encourage other people to tell you their story. If you are willing to really listen to their story, they will be more open to hearing your story.)
2. Be a good friend. We often hear about amazing spiritual conversations that take place between strangers. Sometimes God works that way and we need to be open to that possibility. Most of the time, however, God asks us to befriend people first. When people know that you really care about them, they can more easily trust you to be genuinely working for their good.
3. Make new friends. I often hear people say things like, "All my friends either are already practicing Christians or they aren't interested." It may well seem that way, but the reality may be very different. People often say that they aren't interested in the church. But almost everyone struggles with spiritual questions. A good starting question is: "Do you have things or people in your life that you would like for me to pray for?" Caution, if you ask this question, please carry through and pray. Also ask about that subject the next time you see this person. Oh, yeah, and never stop making new friends. People are hurting and troubled. They need you! And they need Christ in their lives.
4. Invite, invite, invite! If you are reading this, chances are that you have found a way to grow in Christ through the church. Don't be afraid to invite others into what you have found. And keep on inviting. As any two-year-old can tell you, "No, doesn't mean never." It simply means, "not right now." The most effective invitation holds up the positive. "I find the people at my church to be so open and welcoming. I would love for you to experience that." "The church music is so beautiful, it lifts my soul to heaven. I would love for you to come hear that for yourself." In short, you can be persistent without being pushy.

As tools to help you in your invitations, we now have little calendars with the church's name and information printed on them. (Thank you, Judy McQuaid!) Hand these out to the people you meet, as a way of lifting up the church.

Also remember that every activity at the church, Sunday School, worship, fellowship times, special services, Bible study - all of these are opportunities to invite people in!

5. First, last, and always - remember to pray. If we do our part we can be sure that God will always do his part.

Hope and Confidence,

Pastor John

First Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

- After discussion, appointed a task force to work on a security plan for our church.
- Approved signing of gas and oil lease on properties left to church by Dodds.
- Still no regular choir director. Special thanks to Elsa for filling in one Sunday a month in this role. We do have one choir student from A.B. College that wants to come back, Elliott Mihelic. On Sundays that the choir doesn't sing, we will ask him to provide some of the special music.
- Special thanks to Jenna and her volunteers for participation in the Christmas Parade and also those volunteers who were handing out free hot chocolate.
- We do have a new church secretary. Her name is Terri Harris. We are excited to welcome Terri to our church.
- We are sad that Jennifer is leaving to take on a new job. And we wish her well.
- Session approved the budget for 2018.
- We approved the transfer of Adam and Casey King to the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church. We are sad to lose them, but we also wish them well in their new church home.
- Session approved a Sexual Misconduct Policy as required by our Book of Order. Special thanks to Jeep Wilson for providing us with a working draft.
- Approved our church acting as a neutral pulpit for another church's PNC on Jan. 28, 2018.
- Set a quorum for session meetings.
- Granted permission for Harriett Northey to occasionally put "Life Choice, Pregnancy & Family Resource Center" items in our newsletter.
- Elected Beckie Alvaro as clerk of session, and Sally Gray as Assistant Clerk of session.
- Elected Wayne Northey as church treasurer and David Allman, Jenna Bennett, & Chuck Leuliette as assistant treasurers.
- Elected Bob Hardman and Bryon Delawder to serve on nominating committee
- Set date of annual congregational meeting for Sunday, February 25, 2018 after worship.
- Approved first two communion dates for new year.- Jan. 14, Feb. 4

Pastor's Report:

hospital visits: 9 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 21

funerals: 12-4-17 Michael Ann Gainer, burial at Bridgeport Cemetery

Sacrament of Communion was served on December 3rd to 71 people.

Home communion was served with the help of Elder Connie Leuliette to 7 people. More will be served home communion this week.

Pastor Discretionary Fund 2017

Month	Request	Completed	Pledged	Disbursed
November	14	12	\$882.29	\$762.29
December	12	6	\$725.82	350.00
Total	172	156	\$10,112.72	\$8,906.90
2016 Totals	153	137	\$8,891.37	\$7,534.37



SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

- January - 7
- January - 14
- January - 21
- January - 28

WORSHIP LEADERS

- January - 7 Becky Alvaro
- January - 14 Jenna Bennett
- January - 21 Harriett Northey
- January - 28 Terra Burnett

DEACON GREETERS

- January --7 Ginger Delawder
- January - 14 Judy McQuaid
- January - 21 Maria Morrison
- January - 28 Harriett Northey

ACOLYTES

- January - 7 Bradley Burnett and Anderson Mitchell
- January - 14 Hannah Burnett and Molly Hugus
- January - 21 Bradley Burnett and Anthony Corsini
- January - 28 Ashleigh Burnett and Hannah Burnett



Reredos Flowers

Dates available:

**January 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th
February 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th**

*Joined the Church Triumphant
Michael Ann Gainer
December 28, 1943- December 1, 2017*



- 1 - Charles Leuliette
- 2 - Carie Plants
- 5 - Lois Nelson
- 5 - Chad Montgomery
- 6 - Kaylee Tustin
- 6 - Emma Gray Moen
- 7 - Frank Devono
- 8 - Cassie Delawder
- 9 - Tim Tosh
- 9 - Terry Weaver
- 12 - Brandi Glaser
- 13 - Joshua Sabatino
- 16 - Rebecca Cantrall
- 16 - Madeleine Vessels
- 17 - Buzz Alvaro
- 21 - Buddy King
- 23 - Charla Waters Koerner
- 24 - Maddison Lafferty
- 29 - Kathleen Linville
- 29 - Jack Kaull



In Special Care Facilities:

- Joyce King Roberta Davis
- Carrie Waters Marj Faris
- Sara Graham

*IN OUR THOUGHTS
& PRAYERS...*

- ADKINS, Charles
- FOWLER, Angie
- GAINER, Hugh
- HOLT, Jack
- HOOD, Robbie
- KING, Buddy
- KUHENS, Eric
- LYNCH, Jeanne
- MCCAMMON, Kyle
- MORGAN, Misty & Todd
- MUMMERT, George
- NELSON, Lois
- OLDAKER, Kenneth
- OLDAKER, Wilma
- SHIFFRA, Donna
- SHIFFRA, EVERETT
- SMITH, Donna
- STROMBERG, Rosemary