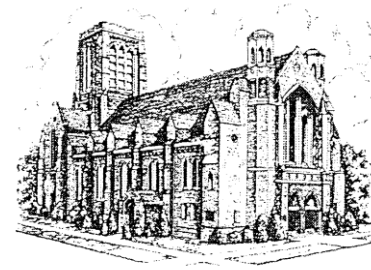


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 South Main Street, P. O. Box 1038
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-5038
phone: 724.832.0150 fax: 724.832.0152
Email: fpcgreensburg@comcast.net
Website: www.fpcgreensburg.com

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January 2012

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:30 & 11:00
Sunday School 9:30
Children & Worship 11:00

FIRST NEWS: A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

INCARNATION, REDEMPTION & A CHILDHOOD GAME



One of my favorite movies of all times is “City Slickers.” I know ... I know ... it will never be mentioned in the same breath as “Citizen Kane” or “Prizzi’s Honor,” but I like it all the same. The plot involves three city slicker-friends who take their annual adventure vacation to various spots around the globe. The movie involves their two-week vacation on a dude ranch participating as cowboys in a real cattle drive.

One of the characters, played by the wonderful Daniel Stern, is trapped in a dead-end job, is in the midst of a sad and messy divorce and is having all kinds of glum thoughts. He offers to his friends the image of when they used to play stickball as kids and would accidently hit the ball onto a roof or an unreachable spot. This was not considered an “out,” but rather the more merciful and gracious offer of a “do-over.” In his adult sorrow, he plaintively asks: “Why can’t life be like that now?”

We’re just past the season of the year when we’ve heard once again the marvelous news spoken first to shepherds watching their flocks in a field: “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

The incarnation of God in Jesus of Nazareth is the greatest comfort we receive in life. In hearing and believing this news, this great and glorious news, that God has not left us alone to stew in our sin and sorrow, but had reached out to us, becoming one of us; this is redemption, this is better than a “do-over” even! This is release from the bondage of sin and death! This is the good news of grace born anew into our hearts each and every day. This is the news that saves us and brings us to the One who has loved us enough to give himself for us.

Grace and peace,
-Martin

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE: MONDAY JANUARY 15, 2012
Email submissions to fpcgreensburg@comcast.net or mail to church office.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor / Head of Staff
Rev. Mr. Michael A. Pacelli, III, Minister to Youth
Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Holben, Minister of Visitation
Edgar B. Highberger, Minister of Music and Organist
Janet L. Schuchman, Director of Christian Education
Joseph O’Malley, Seminary Assistant for Campus Ministry
Cheryl A. Kirsch, Executive Secretary
Lu Ann Peters, Financial Secretary
Keith L. Huey, Sexton
Stacy A. Somers, FPC Preschool Supervisor
Wendy H. Matchett, FPC Preschool Teacher
Joan L. McGinley, FPC Preschool Teacher
Anita M. Garr, Director of Elementary Music
Michelle Stefl Harbaugh, Assistant to the Minister of Music
Carol A. Scherff, Housekeeper
Richard P. Fabery and Jenea E. Craig, Assistant Sextons
Kelli M. Doran and Courtney M. Hutchins, Nursery Care



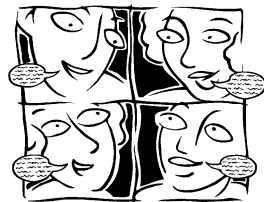
Board of Deacons

ministry of hospitality, extending the love of God to those coming on Sunday morning? If you're interested please call the church office or see Dave Wentzel or any Deacon!!

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A COFFEE HOUR? Provide your own cookies, muffins or pastries or underwrite the refreshments for \$35. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Your contributions and participation are greatly appreciated.

SECOND SUNDAY SUPPER REPORT: A tradition may have started on Sunday, December 11th. Gretchen Lowry cooked up the same dinner she made last December. It was so good the Mission Committee urged her to repeat it. Again it was a huge success proved by the clean plates that were gathered. It included bread and butter, ham, scalloped potatoes, creamed corn and dessert was a bag of cookies and candy. It was so good that there were no leftovers. Arlene Kendra created table bouquets using various greens with some small candy canes dangling from the branches. They created a festive atmosphere and the 46 guests were so chatty that it was a chore to silence them for a moment for the opening prayer. She also made some bundles of candy wrapped in greens for them to take home. The guests also took home the bouquets and a merry afternoon was complete. Our next supper will be served on January 8, 2012.

**Join us on Sunday
January 29, 2012!!!
Combined Worship Service
@ 10 a.m.
Annual Meeting of the
Congregation following at 11:00 a.m.**



Annual Meeting

OUR CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



PRAYER LIST: Virginia Abraham, Linda Anderson, Eva Andrews, Mary Asa, Nelda Ashbaugh, Tom Baird, Donald Bergman, Kit Bickerton, Jonathan Bishop, Gayle Blansett, Jillian Bowman, Frank Bryan, Ruth Cannon, Suzanne Clemens, Thomas P. Cole, II, Anna Crouse, Michelle King Cushey, Paige Dent, Michele Domenick, Charles Eckman, Betty Elder, Maggie Elder, Loretta Enterline, Al Essey, John and Elizabeth Felice, Carolyn Foster, Dave Gibson, Edward Garr, Heddy Garr, Tom Gehm, Brenda Gessman, Janet Glover, William Hayden, Jim Herrington, Ruth Hershey, Evelyn Hockeborn, Neal Hooker, Shirley Howard, Charlotte Jinkner, Laura Johnson, Carolyn Jones, Pat Jones, Ruth Kimmel, Leslie Luhovey, Robert MacRill, Gloria Marion, David Marsh, Carol McDowell, David McNair, Jean Nicholson, Joe and J. P. Pancioli, Tom Peters, Larry Randolph, Ron Russell, Amanda Wood Samit, Tim Sarver, Lou and Joanne Semach, Mark Andrew Senay, Liam Sherman, Sally Smail, Robert Stahl, Jared Stern, Marge Thurston, Lynda Turin, Elsie Vanetta, Michael Washil, and Virginia White

BIRTHDAYS: Each month we observe the VIP and fourscore or more birthdays: If you are 80 or older, and would like to be listed in the monthly newsletter, please contact the church. January birthdays are: Ann Debich, 896 Weatherwood Lane, Room 104, Gbg (1)
Mary Asa, Westmoreland Manor, 2480 S. Grande Blvd, A4 Rm. 421A, Gbg (22)
Sam Kimmel, 514 Green Street, Gbg (30)

BAPTISMS: November 17, 2011 - Jordan Nicholas, son of Andrew Spencer and Emily Bunting
December 11, 2011 – Vida Helen, daughter of Tim and Sarah Hines

BIRTHS: Birth of Jane Elizabeth Finer, born November 27, 2011, daughter of Tad and Alexandra Brown Finer; Granddaughter of Scott and Gretchen Brown.

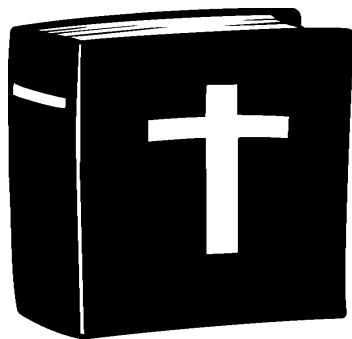
WEDDINGS: December 10, 2011 – Katharine Kemp and Matthew Zeglen

Deaths: Michael C. Moore – December 17, 2011

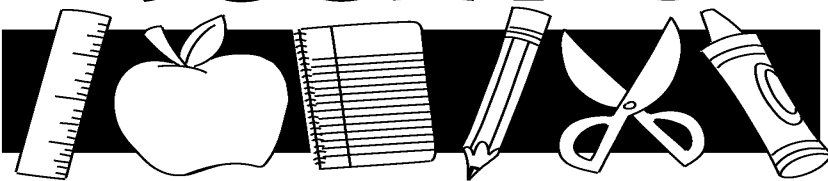
IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONS to “Our Church Family News” page, please notify the church office as soon as possible for inclusion in next month’s First News!

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS since November 21, 2011:
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Cole, II

Stewardship Report	
Total Disbursements through 11/30/11	\$571,192.69
Total Receipts through 11/30/11	\$523,096.75
Total Income over/under Expense	(\$48,095.94)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



SUNDAY SCHOOL - January begins with a single service at 10:00 on New Year's Day and no Sunday school. We will have our regular schedule back from the 8th through the 22nd; then a single service on the 29th with Sunday school, as we have the annual meeting that day. Parents should come to the classrooms after the meeting to pick up their children.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP will occur on January 1st at the 10:00 service. We will continue as usual with this occurring until the 29th (Sunday school that date). We should be seeing our friends the Smedleys back with us again in January too!!

MISSION WORK: Wow! November was a great month for donations to our Cents-ability program. The children donated \$399.91!! We will hope everyone keeps this in mind throughout the months to come. Remember the last Sunday of each month is Cents-ability Sunday!!

Our donations to the local food pantry were well received; but Deacon Greg Martinko said it was also very humbling. He saw at least 350 bags ready for people in our area to pick up...we need to be there for each other.

WANT TO BE AN ACOLYTE? Attention 4th- 12th graders: If you are not already helping with this ministry and you would like to, call Mike at the office (724) 832-0150 and let him know. A short training session will be offered.

KIDS: COME JOIN THE FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

7:06 & DEEP END RETURNS WED. JAN. 11!!!

(CHILDREN/YOUTH AGES 2ND GRADE TO 12TH GRADE ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. WE JOIN FOR DINNER AND GO THROUGH OUR EVENING WITH DEVOTIONS, MUSIC, AND RECREATION/FELLOWSHIP TIME. PLEASE JOIN US!!

Y-Fi* Connections in January

*Youth of First Pres.

Our Sunday Schedule looks like this:

5:30 – 6:30 pm Middle School

6:30 – 7:00 pm Dinner

7:00 – 8:00 pm High School

Each Sunday, we ask for parents or anyone else who would like to volunteer to make a meal for our students. We serve dinner at 6:00 PM and you don't have to get too fancy. Pizza, burgers, tacos, ham BBQs, chips, drinks, and desserts are the order of the day. We typically serve anywhere from 10 - 20 people. We provide the plates, silverware, cups and napkins and you bring the rest.

**January Cooks Schedule: January 8th : Cooks needed / January 15th: Cooks needed
January 22nd: Cooks Needed / January 29th: No Y-Fi (Retreat Weekend)**

Upcoming Events:



January 27th – 29th – Sno-Ball Youth Retreat at Pine Springs Camp – Don't forget to mark this on your calendars!

This year's theme: "Treasure Hunters – All that glitters is not gold!"

Cost will be the same as last year: \$75 per person for the entire weekend, which includes: meals, great accommodations, and snow. Please see Mike today before all the spots are taken ...

Coming Soon in February – The Return of the 7 Springs Tubing Trip. Costs and dates have not been determined yet but please see Mike if you would like to be included again this year or if you have any questions about the trip.

Summer High School Mission Trip is Set! If you missed earlier meetings and announcements, there is still time! We have eight students committed and some room left in the vans. The dates for the trip to Maine are June 16-23rd. Please see Mike soon if you wish to go!

LOOK FOR SPAGHETTI DINNER ANNOUNCEMENT ELSEWHERE>>>>

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MUSIC SERIES

At the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, music enriches our worship celebrations by reinforcing the meaning of Scripture and by deepening the focus of our prayers and praise. Our music series continues to strive to make a special contribution to the religious and cultural life of the Greensburg area. Some of the events are presented in cooperation with the Seton Hill University Sacred Music Program and the Seton Hill University Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 (Single Service at 10 A.M. in the Sanctuary)
THE LENTEN JOURNEY—A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS AND ANTHEMS
with Readings from Susan Palo Cherwein's book "Crossings".

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012 (7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary)
BASICALLY, BRITISH!

Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center Students from the Studios of Edward Kuhn and Edgar Highberger perform music from the British Isles. The concert begins with a rousing rendition of "God Save the Queen".

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012 (4 P.M. in the Sanctuary)
LENTEN CHORAL CONCERT presented by the
WESTMORELAND CHORAL SOCIETY

With Thomas Octave, Director and Nancy Sheehan, Accompanist Tickets are available from the Choral Society or at the door.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012 (4 P.M. in the Sanctuary)
DR. MELISSA PLAMANN, ORGANIST, IN RECITAL

Dr. Plamann, Assistant Professor of Music and University Organist at Oklahoma City University, performs organ works on the Austin Organ of 3,512 pipes in 61 ranks. Dr. Plamann holds degrees from Valparaiso, Emory, and Indiana (Bloomington) Universities. This is the annual grant recital sponsored in cooperation with the Seton Hill University Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Suggested contribution to the grant fund, which benefits Seton Hill organ students, is \$10.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR Y.A.V. IN MISSION ON OUR BEHALF IN NEW ORLEANS! Jillian Manning has begun her work as a YAV in New Orleans with two projects: Mid-City Ministries and Global Maritime Ministry. Jillian invites all of you to keep informed with her year in mission by visiting her blog: littlepostcardsfromnola.blogspot.com. Please keep Jillian in your prayers! Also, if you wish to contribute toward her work, please call the church office for more information!



ADULT FORMATION

ARE YOU BUSY THIS WEDNESDAY MORNING?!?! IF SO, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS AND JOIN US! Each Wednesday morning a group of men from our church gather to fellowship, share breakfast and spend time in God's Word. The group meets at Eat 'n Park on US 30 at 7:45 A.M. each Wednesday and is led by Rev. Ankrum. No need for reservations, big Bibles or well-polished answers, just come as you are ... P.S. bring money for breakfast; there is no free lunch here!

Last Tuesday Book Club ... January 31: 7 – 8 p.m.

Join us on Tuesday, January 31. We'll gather in the PW Lounge to discuss *The Fall*, by Albert Camus. We'll gather at 7 p.m. Everyone needs a little existentialism in the midst of a bleak January!

The Biblical Book of the Month Class January 23: 7 – 8 p.m. The Epistle to the Ephesians

This class meets once a month to discuss a single book of the Bible for one hour. There is a presentation on the topic by Rev. Ankrum with plenty of space for questions and discussion. We meet in the Memorial Chapel in the CE Wing. Please join us on Monday, January 23 to discuss Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.

THE FLOWER GARDEN: The Flower Garden meets Monday, January 9th at 11:00 a.m. in the Women's Lounge. Women are invited to gather and be with the One who stirs within.

HIGHLANDERS: No meetings in January and February. Next meeting on March 4, 2012.

An Opportunity for Fellowship & Fun! Cornerstone meets on Sat. January 14

Cornerstone will meet at Mauro's in Jeannette, January 14, 6:30. RSVPs should be in by January 11th to the Church office (724-832-0150), to Jan (724-989-6449) or by signing up at coffee hours. All adults are welcome to join us!!



Welcome
New
Members

are interested in joining, please see Rev. Ankrum.

A Great New Year's Resolution!

Announcing a New Member Class in January 2012

Saturday, January 28, 9 – 11:30 a.m.

If you have been considering joining our congregation as a member, please put January 28, 2012 on your calendar. Why join the church? That is a fair question and possibly the best answer has to do with our faithfulness to Jesus Christ. The best way to maintain our Christian practice, witness and discipleship is to join with others in this pursuit. Throughout the Bible, followers of God are encouraged to join together in their life for Jesus. Being a member really does matter ... it is something you should prayerfully consider. If you have any questions or

Begin the New Year Right!!!

preschool registration



The Presbyterian Preschool Opens Registration: Jan. 3 ...

Because of our outstanding reputation in the community, our program tends to fill up quickly. Registration for Fall 2012 is open January 3, 2012. You may call the church office at 724-832-0150 if you have any questions regarding our program, if you would like to observe a class, or if you would like to register your child. A teacher will return your call as soon as possible. We encourage you to share this information with friends and family who may also be looking for a quality educational program for Fall 2012.



**Spaghetti
Dinner**

Spaghetti Dinner Returns! January 26th – 4-7 PM

**This dinner benefits scholarships for Pine Springs Camp
Come out and support YOUR camp & YOUR youth!!!**

We know how much you missed our locally famous spaghetti in December so here you go! Spaghetti Dinner has returned and you will be able to enjoy all the spaghetti you care to eat as well as salad, dessert and drinks, all for \$6.00.

Don't forget! Volunteers eat for free.

AND DON'T FORGET

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION SERVICES: On Sunday, January 8 at both services of worship, our new ruling elders & deacons will be ordained and installed for the term of service. Please join us to celebrate this holy moment both in the lives of the officers and our congregation.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT: A special reminder to all members of the Session, the Board of Deacons and the staff: Please reserve Saturday, January 14 for our Annual Leadership Retreat. The retreat will be held at the church building. YOUR participation is vital!