



BAKERSTOWN CONNECTIONS

DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

P.O. Box 127, Route 8 at Heckert Road, Bakerstown PA 15007 • Phone: 724-443-1555 • Fax: 724-443-5223 • Website: www.fpcb.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of BAKERSTOWN

*Connecting the people around us
to the God who loves us ...
through Reaching, Growing, and Serving!*

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:45 — 9:45 a.m. Contemporary Service

10:00 — 10:50 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 — 12:00 p.m. Traditional Service

The Café is open from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Senior Pastor - Dan Muttart
Associate Pastor - Karen Anderson
Parish Associate - Terry Stoops
Children's Ministry - Sandy Floyd
Youth Ministry - Jeremy Collins
Choral Director - Mia Tepper
Organist - Harry Campbell
Business Manager - Mike Herron
Financial Assistant - Linda McDonough
Program Assistant - Leslie Ward
Office Assistant - Linda Smith
Hospitality Coordinator - Dianna Croskey
Housekeeper - Lisa Wood
Custodian - Mike Risk

Deadline for February Newsletter: Jan. 10

A Glimpse at the Calendar

Dec. 2, Coming to CHRISTmas Concert

Dec. 4-11, Lighthouse Toy Collection

Dec. 4, SB2W Movies

Dec. 6, Women's Christmas Tea

Dec. 9, HI Gift Distribution Pick-up

Dec. 10 & 17, Rehearsals for 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service (Dec. 7 for speaking parts)

Dec. 14, Miriam Circle Cheer Boxes

Dec. 17, Men's Visit to VA Hospital

Dec. 17, Christmas Cookie Exchange

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 5, 7, and 11 p.m.

Dec. 25, Christmas Day Worship Service at 10 a.m. with the Hallelujah Chorus

Jan. 1, New Year's Day Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Jan. 8, Communion

Jan. 13-14, Senior High Lock-In

Jan. 27-28, Women's Retreat (off-site)

*See bulletins, call the church office,
or visit www.fpcb.org for details.*

Dear Friends,

What is your Christmas media tradition? I'm not talking about family traditions – which ornament goes first on the tree, when you bake the Christmas cookies, things like that – I'm talking about those TV specials that remind you that, “Hey, Christmas is getting really close!”

Mine begins with “Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer.” I have been watching this since I was about eight years old, and I know every line. As a matter of fact, when I was in the Radio-TV Arts degree program at Ryerson University in the late 70s, a bunch of us booked one of our TV Lab studios, watched it together, and all of us knew all the lines! It was while watching Rudolph that I learned, in fact, a little-known scientific principle: “Bumbles bounce!”

What's so special about these specials is that they are like a warm pair of slippers that we try on every year. Lines like “To my brother George, the richest man in town,” or Linus' poignant description of the Christmas story in “A Charlie Brown Christmas” take us back to simpler days and the hope of youth.

But our hope need not end with the “The End” caption in our favorite holiday program. Our hope is not something that comes to us via a Hollywood script, but rather from the Greatest Story Ever Told: that God loved us so much that He left the glories of heaven to walk amongst us as Jesus and show us the way to live with Him forever.

And so this Christmas, I have a proposition for you, something to think about as you watch “Frosty the Snowman,” “The Christmas Story,” “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas” “A Christmas Carol,” “Christmas Vacation,” “Miracle on 34th Street” or whatever your favorite holiday show is: think about people you know, who you care about, who could really use the pick-me-up of your favorite Christmas special and most importantly, the Greatest Story Ever Told. Invite them over to watch the Christmas telecast with you, and then invite them to our Coming to CHRISTmas Concert and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.

To quote my favorite song from Rudolph, “There's always tomorrow for dreams to come true.” Hope and dreams come true at the foot of the manger, and in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. It's not only hope for tomorrow. It's hope for eternity. Share that. And may I be the first to say to you, “Merry Christmas!”

Blessings, Dan

Reaching . . . Growing . . . Serving

Karen's Corner

Exciting news: 2012 brings new opportunities for adult Christian Education!

Adult Education

On January 8, we will launch a new format for adult Sunday School, using a small group model. The theology behind it is the belief that we grow spiritually by learning from each other as well as from a teacher – especially when we connect personally with each other on some level. To facilitate that kind of learning, we are offering four adult education classes starting on January 8. They'll be held during the Sunday School hour at 10:00 a.m. as before. What is different is that they will be organized around demographics rather than curriculum. There will be a class for women's studies, men's studies, co-ed studies, and a class called "Kid Raisers" for those raising children. The teachers will bring curriculum choices for the class to choose from. The classes will run for seven weeks. Each class will decide whether or not to continue after the seven weeks. Please, pre-register by Dec. 25 so we have an idea about what size classroom we will need for each group to assign rooms. You can pre-register by filling out an activity card from the pew rack or calling Linda Smith at the church office.

Women's Retreat - January 27-28

Also in January, we will hold an overnight Women's Retreat on January 27-28 at the Family Retreat Center in Cranberry Twp., which has newly renovated facilities. The cost is \$85/person. The study program will be based on the book *Made to Crave* by Lysa TerKeurst. Lysa is a wife and mother of five, a nationally known speaker, and an award-winning author of 11 books, including her latest, "What Happens When Women Say Yes to God." She's been featured on Focus on the Family, Family Life Today, Good Morning America, Woman's Day Magazine, "O" magazine and the Oprah Show. She is the president of Proverbs 31 Ministries and I recommend checking out the blogs and devotions on their web-site. Her book talks about how each of us was created with a craving for God. Often in our humanness, we turn to other things to satisfy that craving -- things, people, and yes, food. While Lysa's book focuses on the issue of food, the spiritual principles it discusses can apply to many areas of our lives. She does not talk about particular diets or eating plans. Her focus is on how we can tap into God's power and truly be satisfied with Him. It will help you find the "want to" to make healthy lifestyle changes in your life. There will also be opportunities for fellowship, fun, and some time alone in the beautiful surroundings. I hope many of you will join us for what is sure to be a time of spiritual renewal - even if you do not have issues with food! To register, fill out an activity card or call the office. **We need to have both the registrations and payments (\$85) no later than January 15.**

Know that I pray that each of you will have a blessed Christmas and New Year! Karen

Upcoming Classes - Sundays at 10 a.m.**December 4, 11, 18**

- **Hallelujah Handel, Part 2.** An exploration of the biblical texts on which *Messiah* is based. Al Wettach, Mitch Tepper. Westminster Room.

December 25 & January 1

- No classes due to the 10 a.m. combined worship services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Beginning January 8 *

- **Women's Studies**, taught by Joyce Birkhimer
- **Men's Studies**, taught by Mitch Tepper
- **Co-ed Studies**, taught by Al Wettach
- **Kid Raisers**, taught by Karen Anderson

* **Please sign up by December 25.**

January 27 - 28

**Starts Friday at 7 p.m.
Ends Saturday at 3 p.m.**

Cranberry Retreat Center

**Study: "Made to Crave" *WOMEN'S RETREAT*
by Lysa TerKeurst**



Cost: \$85/person (includes overnight accommodations, snacks on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and study materials). Registration forms are available with Women's Retreat displays, on the narthex table, and from the church office. Registration forms and payments (\$85) are due by January 15. Contact: Karen Anderson at 724-443-1555 or anderson@fpcb.org.

And coming in February for couples . . .

Marriage Workshop at FPCB

**Marriage Built to Last:
Living Intentionally & Loving Biblically**

February 10 & 11, 2012

Watch for details.

Contact the office
with news to share!

Church Family News

New Members: See pages 4-5

Born:

- Kai Greyson Filasky, son of Hayley Shields Filasky and Christopher G. Filasky, grandson of Karen Shields, and great-grandson of Jack & Shirley Shields, on October 29
- Charles Patrick Kling, son of Erin Kratz Kling & Robert Kling, grandson of Chuck & Diana Kratz, and great-grandson of Harry & Marcella Bittle, on November 3

Our Prayers Go Out to:

- The family of Vi Pfishner in the death of her daughter Elizabeth W. Beaven on October 30
- The family of Mildred Davis, faithful visitor from St. Barnabas Village, who died on November 1
- The family of Florence Ball in the death of her daughter Victoria Ball on November 4

At the 140th Annual Congregational Meeting on November 6, the following individuals were elected to serve as officers.

OFFICE OF RULING ELDER, Class of 2014

1. Amy Jo Armour
2. Charles E. Getze
3. Edward G. Jaicks
4. June F. Manderfield
5. Michael L. Reynolds
6. Mary J. Terrell
7. John A. Utz

OFFICE OF DEACON, Class of 2014

1. Matthew W. Brown
2. Michael J. Clogan
3. Elizabeth F. Day
4. Richard E. Dunmire
5. Cathy E. McMullen
6. William W. Ross

OFFICE OF DEACON, Class of 2013

1. Dianna D. Croskey

OFFICE OF AUDITOR, Class of 2014

1. C. Dale Bailey

Thanks to the members of the 2011 Nominating Committee for their diligence and hard work: Chairperson Douglas L. Kingan, Vice Chairperson Kathleen W. Crooks, Adrienne S. Desch, Melinda Y. Jamrom, Beth R. Joyce, Michael W. Kronenwetter, Ellen R. Shore, R. Geraldine Shoup, Alvan W. Plymire, Daniel H. Muttart, Ex-officio.

In Our Mailbox
"Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for your prayers, packages, letters and cards while serving with the Marines in Afghanistan. It meant a lot to me to be in touch. God bless you. Ian M. Butler"

"I want to thank all the people who serve our church. I feel so at home in my church, but I should since I was baptized in my church. The Steven Ministers have been a great thing. When our son died suddenly in 1998, those ministers came and prayed with us. When my husband John died, they helped me so much and were so generous with time and gifts. I will never forget it. Our church is a friendly church and it is a wonderful church with wonderful people. I would go on and on, but I'm getting ready to go to Circle. Most sincerely, Marjory Burk"

"To Friends at Bakerstown Presbyterian Church, I wish to say 'Thank You' for such a surprise of those lovely flowers. It was such a great gesture of kindness and thoughtfulness. I also want to thank all my little friends of the 4th & 5th grade classes for the nice card and kind wishes they sent to me. 'Thanks' to all who were involved in bringing me much happiness. Please be sure the 4th & 5th grade classes see my message. Sincerely, Mrs. Eleanor Hackbarth"

"How can I thank our church family for all the kindness shown me when I fell recently? Without your prayers and my faith, it would have been impossible. God is good all the time! Flo Bozzone"

"It's past October and now it's November. You are still the greatest team ever. With love, Aline Powell"

A Christmas Reflection

Stewardship

Picture this: a dark Christmas Eve night on the plains of Kansas, a 1956 Ford - my Mom and Dad in the front seat and my sister and me in the back. We are driving across the prairie to my grandparent's home in northwestern Kansas, the spectacular display of stars looking over us. As the season of giving approaches, I am once again reminded of my childhood in a family who always gave a tithe of any and all money earned or received to God's work in His world. My family had a modest income but we always felt God's unfailing blessing. No time in our lives was more important or more celebrated than Christ's birth.

I think that was the biggest gift given to me in my life – the gift of knowledge to always be mindful that God gave us His Son as a Savior to forgive our sins and that our lives need to be dedicated to giving of our talents and bounty to glorify our Heavenly Father. God's work is never done and we can never out-give what He has done for us. Whatever He gives is far more than sufficient for our needs.

I have been so blessed to have Christ-centered grandparents, parents, and a sister who loved Jesus. Once again this year, they will all be celebrating Christmas in Heaven ... and isn't that the goal for all of us.

Christmas blessings to all of you,
Devonne Palmer, Stewardship Team

**Jonathan and Carla Bailey**

311 Covington Ct.

Seven Fields, PA 16046

724-772-4529

Carla's e-mail: carlabailey@zoominternet.netJonathan's e-mail: jonathanbailey@zoominternet.net

Jonathan and Carla live in Seven Fields. Jonathan works for H.J. Heinz in Warrendale and Carla works for H.J. Heinz in Pittsburgh. Carla in her previous church was involved in the choir. They attend the 11:00 a.m. Service. Jonathan joined by Profession of Faith and Carla by Reaffirmation of Faith.

John and Amy Baxter

204 Kayla Court

Gibsonia, PA 15044

724-449-5757

E-mail: baxters4@zoominternet.net

John and Amy and their children, Hunter (grade 7) and Maren (grade 5) live at Grandview Estates. John is a Guidance Counselor at Fox Chapel High School and Amy is a School Nurse at Hampton Middle School. They attend the 8:45 a.m. Service and were introduced to the church by Dave and Bobbi Battista. They joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

**Hal and Kari Biehl**

125 Little Deer Creek Road

Cheswick, PA 15024

724-265-4141/724-265-1734

Hal's e-mail: hbiehl2001@yahoo.comKari's e-mail: kskatula@deloitte.com

Hal and Kari were married on November 12 by Pastor Dan here at the church. Kari's daughter is Samantha Skatula (grade 10). Hal is a teacher and Kari is a Tax Secretary for Deloitte & Touche. They attend the 11:00 a.m. service

David and Laura Deiters

128 Oak Drive

Saxonburg, PA 16056

724-524-1177

David's e-mail: smkdeiters@gmail.comLaura's e-mail: lauradathome@gmail.com

David works for Oberg Industries and Laura is employed by Saxonburg Library. David at his previous church was an Elder, on the Pastor Nominating Committee, Sunday School Teacher, and painted the church. Laura was a Deacon, Stephen Minister, Children's Ministry Director, helped with VBS and was a Sunday School Teacher. They were introduced to FPCB by Flo and Bob Bozzone and attend the 8:45 a.m. service. They joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Ron and Jane Hudok
Kaitlin Hudok
 422 Minglewood Drive
 Gibsonia, PA 15044
 724-502-4061
 Jane's e-mail: jhudok@consolidated.net

Ron and Jane and daughters Kaitlin (grade 12, joining) and Sloane (grade 8, in the current Confirmation Class) live in Parkview Estates. The girls attend Pine-Richland Schools. Ron is in Communications at Westinghouse Electric Company and Jane is a teacher with Fox Chapel School District. They attend the 8:45 Service and came to FPCB because of the church being near their home and BPCC. Ron and Jane joined by Reaffirmation of Faith & Kaitlin joined by Profession of Faith.

Jonathan "Jamie" and Colleen Mahan
 139 Dwellington Drive
 Valencia, PA 16059
 Jamie's cell: 704-996-8785
 Colleen's cell: 980-241-2018



Jamie and Colleen and their children Carson (pre-school age) and Sage (age 1) live in the Dwellington area of Route 8. Colleen is the daughter of Tom and Gerri Shoup. Jamie is an Engineer with Ansaldo STS. They attend the 8:45 a.m. Service and joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Susan Mettus
Jackson Mettus
 205 Dwellington Circle
 Valencia, PA 16059
 724-898-1007
 Susan's e-mail: skushner@consolidated.net
 Jackson's e-mail: jmettus@yahoo.com

Susan and Jackson "Jackie" (grade 11) live in the Dwellington area of Route 8. Susan works part-time for Slippery Rock University and Jackie is a Junior at Mars High School. They attend the 8:45 a.m. Service. They joined by Letter of Transfer from St. John's Lutheran Church, Mars, PA. They came to the FPCB the first time because of Susan attending the 2011 Honduras Medical Mission Trip.

Mitchell "Mitch" and Mia Tepper
 133 David Drive
 Butler, PA 16001
 724-287-2267
 Mitch's e-mail: amannaGod@aol.com
 Mia's e-mail: msing4j05@aol.com



Mitch and Mia live in Northwest Manor in Butler. Mitch is employed at Roenick as a Vending ATT/AUI/Driver and Mia is FPCB Choir Director and works for the Butler Area Schools. Mitch was an Associate Pastor, involved with Pastoral Care, preaching, teaching, youth minister and Mia was involved with music and youth in their previous church. Mitch is involved with adult teaching in our Church School and Mia is doing wonders with our children, youth and adult choirs. Here at FPCB they want to do whatever God's Will is for them. They attend both services. They joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Joseph and Kerrie Wynn
 5201 Karrington Drive
 Gibsonia, PA 15044
 412-371-0015
 Joseph's e-mail: wynnjoe@yahoo.com
 Kerrie's e-mail: kerriewynn@gmail.com

Joseph & Kerrie & their children, Jonah (kindergarten), Simon (Pre-School) & Lucy (age 2) live in Karrington Woods. Joseph is employed at Education Management Corp. & Kerrie is a stay at home mom. They attend the 8:45 and/or 11:00 a.m. Kerrie joined by Letter of Transfer from Mountain Presbyterian Church, Sunbury, PA & Joseph by Reaffirmation of Faith.

"And He shall reign forever and ever!"

If you have ever sung those words -- in a college or high school choir or a church choir -- you probably recognize instantly that they are part of Handel's great "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah*. This powerful piece of music has thrilled people for generations. Both *hearing* it and *singing* it are inspirational experiences.



Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, and FPCB will be holding one worship service at 10 a.m. for all our church family. At the conclusion of the service, the Chancel Choir, with Harry Campbell at the organ, will sing the "Hallelujah Chorus." **If YOU have ever sung the "Hallelujah Chorus" in a school or church choir, YOU are invited and encouraged to sing along with the Chancel Choir on Christmas Day.** Copies of the score will be available from Mia on Sunday morning or in the church office during the week. **What we ask is that everyone gather in the sanctuary on December 25 at 9:20 a.m. to run through it before the service.** Then you will sit in the pews with your families and come forward when it's time to sing. What a glorious Christmas Day it will be! And YOU can be a part of it!
 Blessings, Mia

Many thanks to the people who took the time to send notes of appreciation following the Sing For Joy! Concert on October 23. Some excerpts follow:

- *"Thank you for the beautiful, well planned, well executed chorale! We enjoyed it all! Thank you to you and the choir for all of the intense work and planning it must have taken."*
- *"To all of the wonderful people that gave us at FPCB a wonderful worship of Praise to our Lord through the music you sang and for all the musicians - what a wonderful program."*
- *"It was very special to have all of the different ensembles and to have so many singers involved. The programming was varied and well-chosen."*

All our Choirs welcome new members! See Mia.

Chancel Choir - Adults

Rehearses Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Joyful Noise - Teen Choir for Grades 6-12

Rehearses Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Angels in the Wings - Children's Choir for Grades 3-5

(new!) Rehearses Thursdays from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Q. Who sings "Love Me Tender" and makes Christmas toys?

A. Santa's little Elvis.

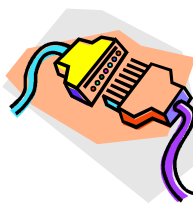
Q. If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called?

A. A subordinate Claus.



As it was coming up to Christmas, a young boy is praying upstairs while his mother sits by him, and his dad and grandma are downstairs. He prayed loudly, "Lord, I pray for a train set, a remote control car and A NEW BICYCLE." "You don't have to shout, dear," says the mom, "God is not deaf." "I know" said the little boy, "but grandma is."

B - CONNECTORS



Look for the new rotation assignments on January 8, 2012

We have improved our use of technology to make receiving your **January** rotation assignment easier. We will email your new assignments approximately **January 8, 2012**. If you have changed your email address, please let us know! If you do not have email, we will mail it or deliver it in person. If you do not receive your assignment shortly after that date, contact one of the coordinators.

Registration. Another rotation period has been (or soon will be) completed. Once again, many members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another better. We are in the process of preparing for the **January 2012** rotation period. If you were a B-Connector during the September rotation, you do not have to register. However, if you are not planning to be part of the B-Connectors, please notify us by December 12, 2011, so that we do not assign you to a group in January.

New Members. We always look forward to having **new members** join this exciting ministry! New members can register on the church website (www.fpcb.org > Adult Ministries > B-Connectors), send us an email (bconnectors@fpcb.org), or contact one of the coordinators. Please let us know by **December 12, 2011**, if you plan to join.

Calling all Snowbirds! Last year, we had the **B-Connectors Florida** group meet in **Vero Beach, Florida**. If you are a **Florida snowbird** and would like to participate during this **January rotation**, let us know. You can call us or send an email. We're looking forward to expanding this chapter! **New members are welcome!**

Thank You! B-Connectors coordinators, Bonnie & Franklin Blackstone: 724-443-7730; Ellen & Joe Molhoek: 412-719-1076

**Get
Out!**
Adult
Fellowship

A Great Day in Amish Country!

We had a wonderful trip to Berlin, OH on October 15. We left bright and early at 7:30 a.m. and returned to the church around 8:30 p.m. It was a cool, windy fall day, but

thankfully sunny all day. Fourteen people attended: Keith & Mary Ehmann, Charles & Rosemary Butler, Bill & Gerry Ehmann, Lou & Barbara Bier, Harold & Elsie Cunningham, Len & Cassie Burrows, Geno & Karen Maniago.

Ring in the Christmas season! *Get Out's* final event of the year is **Saturday, December 3** at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland to see the nationally-acclaimed handbell choir, **The Raleigh Ringers**.

You can look forward to more fun activities in 2012. If you'd like to help in planning or if you have any ideas, contact Keith & Mary Ehmann at 724-903-0923 or handbells@zoominternet.net.

Next Event . . .

Men's Ministry

December 17 - Visit to Veteran's Hospital

Meet at the church at 12 p.m.

Please bring a dozen cookies

To find out more, see a member of the Men's Ministry Team: Franklin Blackstone, Matt Brown, Nelson Crooks, Al Plymire, Dan Saniga, Mitch Tepper, and John Welty.

TOPS! Take Off Pounds Sensibly

meets 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Westminster Room

This year-round program works! Learn to lose weight and keep it off, and receive support and encouragement at the same time. Give it a try! All welcome. Contact: Lisa Wood, 724-898-7848.

Creativity Group - Mondays at 10 a.m.

You are invited to join the Bakerstown Creativity Group every Monday from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Geneva Room. This group is open to folks in the community as well as church members. Contact: Karen Anderson at the church office or email anderson@fpcb.org.

"Coming to CHRISTmas!"

A Free Concert!

Friday, December 2, 2011 at 7 p.m.

featuring the Bakerstown Praise Band

with special appearances by the

Bakerstown Choir Ensemble, Joyful Noise,

Bakerstown Ensemble, & Bakerstown Bells

Come to Enjoy the Music! Invite your family and friends, to a concert of contemporary Christian music in celebration of Christmas.

Come to Experience the Fellowship! Following the concert, come to a reception of delicious desserts and Christmas goodies in Fellowship Hall.

Come to Share the Christmas Spirit! We're collecting new unwrapped TOYS for the Women's Choice Network! Please place them in the receptacles at the church on the night of the concert.

Free childcare is available by calling 724-443-1555 in advance.

Women of Bakerstown (WOB)

Annual Christmas Tea

Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m.

Program:

**Clarissa Bowden, Glass Harpist
Fellowship Hall**



Please sign up in advance on an activity card on Sunday morning or by calling the church office during the week.



**Christmas Cookie Exchange
Saturday, December 17, 12:30-2 p.m.**

Get out your baking sheets for our **8th Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange** (Colonial Room). Contact Ellen Shore at shore@zoominternet.net or 724-272-3635. Spaces are limited.



Children's Ministry

As always, one of the highlights of October 30's Pumpkin Festival was pumpkin bowling.

Mark Your Calendar . . .

SB2W Movie Trail, December 4 at 10 a.m. All are invited to see 2011 Summer's Best 2 Weeks Movies in Fellowship Hall and talk to SB2W campers and parents. Most FPCB children and youth, age 8-18, will attend Summer One @ the Que from June 14-22, 2012.

On November 6, we enjoyed making 'Give Thanks' door decorations and playing fall bingo and other pumpkin games with the residents of Windsor Place.



Children Visit Windsor Place, January 8, 1-3 p.m.

All invited to this very meaningful fellowship time with the residents of Windsor Place.

Minute to Win It, January 29. For K-Grade 5 and their families. Lunch at 12:30 p.m. - suggested donation \$2/person; activities at 1 p.m. Please sign up in advance.

Parent's Night Out, February 11 from 5-8:30 p.m.

Youth and adults prepare activities for children (infants - grade 5) and a snack. Parents, make your plans for dinner, a movie, shopping, etc. Please sign up in advance.

Faith Adventures Party, February 19, 10 a.m.

Each month, children in K-Grade 5 memorize and recite a new scripture verse. They will be recognized on February 19 at 10 a.m.

Communion Preparation, March 11, 18, 25 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This 3-part workshop, *Preparing for the Lord's Table*, is designed to help parents and children in grades 3-8 to grow into a deeper understand of the Sacrament of Communion. Participants will be able to take their first Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 5 at the 7:30 p.m. worship service.

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Children in K - Grade 5 are invited to be part of the Christmas Eve drama, *The Story of Christmas*. They will be cast as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, or angels. Some speaking parts will be assigned. Children will join with the other music groups in leading Christmas Eve hymns and songs.

Practice: Sunday mornings, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, & 18 from 9:15-9:45 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.-noon. Children must be familiar with the drama and come prepared to rehearsals.

Grades 3-5 join with Angels in the Wings to learn songs and hymns for Christmas Eve. Practice: Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Grades 6-12 join with Joyful Noise to learn song and hymns. Practice: Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 6-7 p.m.

Grades 6-12 join with the Youth Praise Band to learn song and hymns. Practice: Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 6-7 p.m.

Group Rehearsals, Sanctuary: Dec. 10 & 17, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Those with speaking parts will also attend a dinner (donation \$2 each)/practice on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6-8 p.m.

Meet at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24 to get in costumes and get warmed up.

Children and Youth are invited to play a religious Christmas solo or duet as part of the pre-service music. Please let us know the title and length of the piece, and if accompaniment is needed, by Dec. 8.

Youth, College Students and Adults are needed to provide childcare on Christmas Eve for the 5 and 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Services. This is a paid position. Contact Sandy Floyd if interested.

**Summer Blast 2012**

**July 9 - 13 9 a.m. to noon each day
Age 4 - Grade 5**

Applications will be available May 1 and are due by June 1 to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

Adults, as well as youth who have completed 6th grade, are encouraged to serve at Summer Blast Camp (crew leader, station leader, kitchen crew, childcare, PowerPoint, registration, decorating, behind the scenes). Contact: Sandy Floyd.

Update on Buildings and Grounds and Cemetery

The Property Committee of Session is pleased to report that there were several major projects undertaken during 2011 to improve the church buildings and grounds and cemetery.

- The Fellowship Hall Handicapped Restroom project was recently completed. This project provides members of the congregation and visitors who have difficulty in climbing stairs a safe, convenient, and welcoming facility on the same level as Fellowship Hall. We appreciate the efforts of (a) the staff of Rossman/ Hensley, Inc. who did all of the construction work, (b) the staff of Nest Expressions who installed the floor tile, and (c) volunteers from the congregation who painted and decorated the room. We greatly appreciate the generosity of three families from the congregation who provided funding for the project. A dedication for this project and the Library will be scheduled for January 2012.
- Kitchen cabinets were installed in the Serving Room between Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen to provide some much needed storage space for hospitality functions. We appreciate the efforts of the volunteers who designed and installed the cabinets. The cabinets allow the clutter to be removed from the room and let it serve well as an entry to Fellowship Hall and access to the Handicapped Restroom.
- The Library Renovation project is substantially complete. This room that has served the congregation well for so many years was in great need of updating. The dark paneling, drop ceiling and outdated lighting were removed allowing the room to have more height and depth. A French drain was installed along the outside wall to take care of rain water that occasionally made its way through the field stone foundation. The 142-year-old original 2" by 10" wooden beams that support the Sanctuary floor above were cleaned and varnished and now add an interesting design element to the ceiling. New walls have been constructed, new overhead lighting and ceiling fans have been installed, and new carpeting now covers the floor. The walls and ceiling have been painted to make the room bright and cheerful. New doors with more glass will soon be installed to make the room more inviting. Some furniture has been donated and some purchased to make the social area of the room very comfortable. The existing bookcases were moved to one side of the room to create a library nook. The meeting area of the room is flexible and can be set up with a table and chairs or just with chairs. A nice desk and presentation cabinet have been donated to allow for computer capabilities and white board options for meetings. The *Fishers of Men* have been matted and reframed and are displayed on the north wall. Other walls in the room will be used to display historical pictures.

We appreciate the efforts of the Library Planning Team who had a vision for transforming the room and developed initial plans for the renovation; the volunteers from the congregation who labored continuously from the end of May through the end of October on the construction project, the volunteers from the congregation who decorated the room, had the Jack Stephan's *Fishers of Men* reframed and donated some of the furniture for the room; the staff and subcontractors of Rossman/Hensley, Inc. who consulted on the project, constructed the French drain, masterfully finished all of the drywall and soon will install three new doors; and the staff of Nest Expressions who installed the floor tile. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the family in the congregation who provided funding for all of the construction material, lighting and electrical work, and doors. A dedication for this project and the Handicapped Restroom will be scheduled for January 2012.

- Two projects were completed over the summer to address water problems.
 - The staff and a subcontractor of Rossman/Hensley, Inc. installed a new underground drain line on the south end of the Main Church Building at no cost to the church. This new line should help prevent the freezing and backup of the downspouts on the front of the Main Church Building that we have experienced the past few winters.
 - The staff and a subcontractor of Rossman/Hensley, Inc. did significant work outside the

(continued)

Kitchen. Their work included pouring a new concrete retaining wall; pouring a new concrete pad with a drain and a walkway; installing a French drain around the wall; installing a new drain line under the circle driveway to connect the downspouts and the new drain to the rain water collection area; and having Shields Paving repave a large section of the driveway by the Kitchen to help move water away from the building and make the area more accessible. This work should prevent the flooding of the Big Kitchen and Serving Room that has been a continuing problem when we have had heavy rainfall. The walkway now provides an easy access to Fellowship Hall for individuals using wheelchairs or walkers.

- In the West Cemetery, several diseased trees that were in danger of falling on the graves were removed. New bushes were planted along the cemetery border to improve the appearance of the landscaped area where the trees were removed. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the member of the congregation who provided funding for this work and for the continued improvement of the cemetery.

Stephen Ministry

During October and November, a church-wide small group study on “God’s Answers to Life’s Difficult Questions” was held in homes and classrooms. It was a time for many of us to meet people and make new friends. For me, it was a way to understand the love that God has for us through the Son Jesus Christ. Think about it! The Son was born, lived like we live, felt emotions like we do, and died on the cross. He took on the sin of the world for us all, feeling the abandonment and loneliness that we as Christians do not have to feel. Jesus did this for the love of the Father to save the people on earth whom He loves. What a testament!

We as His disciplines can show the love of Jesus to help one another through times of loneliness. As children, we looked to our parents for love and companionship. They helped us learn about caring and giving of ourselves and, if we were fortunate, they taught us about being with Jesus and knowing we are never really alone. Remember sometime in your life when you thought you were really alone; you cried or swore or screamed, and all of a sudden in your heart you surrendered to a power greater than yourself, accepting that this power was God. Maybe you were only hanging on with your fingertips, but you knew He was there. You may have cried, “HELP ME, I NEED YOU” and you found that the loneliness was lifted and you felt a sense of relief and calm, knowing you still had the love of God on your side.

This holiday season I want you to step out of your comfort zone and share your faith with someone, even if it is only through a touch or kind word. Forgive someone who needs to be forgiven. Talk to someone who is lonely. Tell a happy story to a sad stranger. Such goodness can help a sad and worried world. Remember, the love of God and the birth of Jesus are celebrated this month. Share your gratitude for God’s greatness with someone who needs it.

Let it shine

**Whatever else be lost among the years,
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing.
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
Let us hold close one day, remembering
Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men.
Let us get back our childlike faith again.**

Grace Noll Crowell

Our church community has many people to help. The Stephen Ministers can help people through difficult times, even over the holidays when good memories can bring sad feelings. Everything said between a Stephen Minister and you is in strictest confidence. If you need us, talk to a “blue badger”, Dan or Karen or call Bonnie Blackstone at 724-443-7730.

Here is a prayer for this busy time of year . . .

“Dear Lord help me to move slowly enough to use the wisdom you have given me so I may grow the way you want me to grow and use my joy graciously so I can share my spirit of love and giving. AMEN.”

Have a blessed Christmas,
Your friend in Christ, Pat Eversole

Mission Committee Reminders and Updates**Mission Updates**

- **Toy Collection for the Women's Choice Network.** This year at the Coming to CHIRSTmas Concert on December 2, we are collecting new unwrapped toys for ages 0-6 for the Women's Choice Network. Please place your donations in the receptacle at the entrance to the sanctuary the night of the concert.
- **The Annual Lighthouse Toy Collection** will take place from Sunday, December 4 - Sunday, December 11. Please place new unwrapped toys in the box in the narthex.
- **Hosanna Angel Gift Delivery.** This year Hosanna Industries is trying something different with their Christmas gift delivery in order to accommodate everyone's busy schedules. On **Friday, December 9**, they will host a Jazz night starting at 6 p.m. where you can come and pick up gifts to deliver anytime before Christmas. If you are interested in delivering a gift, please contact Amy Lee Firek at 724-770-0262.
- **Tile Project at 2nd U.P. Wilksburg.** While we had planned on working on the tile at 2nd U.P. Wilksburg in October, we had to reschedule, and we will now go to assist them with this project on **Saturday, January 7**. Please sign up on an activity card or with the church office if you are interested in joining. No tile installation skills necessary.
- **Reminder: The Change for Books & Bibles** collection is ongoing in the children's entrance of the church. Proceeds benefit reading literacy in children through a reading and comprehension program at 2nd U.P. Wilksburg.

From HI's E-Blast on November 8 about Angel Gift Delivery ...

*"Amy Lee Firek is organizing our upcoming annual gift delivery. For many years, **Melinda Brown** of First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown has worked with Amy Lee to provide, through the generous donations of The Presbyterian Women, Christmas gifts for each family member we have assisted throughout the year. Melinda and the Presbyterian Women hand select and wrap gifts with each individual client family member in mind. It has been a heartwarming program and we are deeply grateful to Melinda and all of Presbyterian Women of the First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown for their years of gracious giving."*

*Our children
prepared
dinner boxes and
fruit baskets for
The Lighthouse
Foundation.*



A Class Outing for K, Grades 1 & 2 and their families was

*held at
Glow in
the Dark
Miniature
Golf at
Pittsburgh
Mills on
November 12.
It wasn't
as scary
as it
looks!*

**Bakerstown Presbyterian Children's Center (BPCC)**

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

"For God so loved the world that He sent his Son, Jesus."

John 3:16

Merry Christmas to you and your family as we celebrate the Babe of Bethlehem, a living, breathing, joyful presence in the cradle of our hearts!

**Registrations for the 2012-13 school year begin on January 17 for church members / alumni.
Open registration to our community begins January 31.**

**Emily Willard, Director
724-443-5330**



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**First Presbyterian Church
of Bakerstown**
P.O. Box 127
Route 8 at Heckert Road
Bakerstown, PA 15007

Phone: 724-443-1555
Internet: www.fpcb.org

Sunday Morning Schedule:
8:45 — 9:45 a.m. Contemporary Service
10:00 — 10:50 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 — 12:00 p.m. Traditional Service
The Café is open from 9:45-10:45 a.m.



"He's today's greeter."

The Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first.

Coming up . . .

- **December 18 - Youth Group Christmas Parties.** Bring a \$5 maximum gift for the gift exchange.
- **January 13-14 - Senior High Lock-in.** Cost is \$10.
- **February 17-18 - Junior High Lock-in.** Cost is \$10.



*Both Laurelville retreats went great!
Senior Highs had 16 students and 3 leaders.
Junior Highs had 25 students and 4 leaders.*



Contact: Jeremy Collins —
724-443-1555 (church) or 412-980-3370 (cell)
or Collins@fpcb.org

**Remember to sign up for the youth e-mail list
on our website, www.fpcb.org!**