
THE GOOD NEWS

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2011

SESSION

Brenda Ely
John Garlow
Suzanne Glock
Linda Grandon
Kris Haig
Michael Hohn
George Lilley
Chris McClelland
Patrick McGinley
Cindy Barnett Ryan
Marilynn Slaughter
John Sonnenday
Jeremy Zeiders

DEACONS

Katie Benders
Kathy Fisher
Randy Gemmen
Donna Gerber
Linda Hagerty
Stacey Harper
Kaye Leinaweaver
Scott Lyon
Beth Madison
Floyd Phillips
Dick Schreiber
Shirley Schreiber
Rae Jean Sielen
Judy Werner
Nancy Whyte
Amy Zeiders

STAFF

David Allum, *Custodian*
Ashlee Filkins, *Secretary*
Larry Gary, *Sunday Sexton*
Kristine A. Haig, *Co-Pastor*
Janna Kisner, *Minister of Music*
John W. Sonnenday, *Co-Pastor*
Johanna Velickoff,
Administrative Assistant
to the Pastors & Bookkeeper

Presbyterian Child
Development Center
Sharon Portaro, *Director*

Wilderness: A Lenten Journey

Wilderness plays a central role in the story of Israel in the Old Testament and the story of Jesus in the New Testament. After being rescued from their slavery in Egypt, the Hebrew people are immediately led into the wilderness, where they wander for 40 years before entering the Promised Land. After being baptized, Jesus is immediately led into the wilderness for 40 days before he enters his ministry.

From March 9 through April 10 we will explore the meaning of wilderness for ourselves, as we journey with

Jesus through the 40 days of Lent. In worship and in the Adult Class led by John Sonnenday, we will open ourselves to the rich emptiness of wilderness—an emptiness in which Another Voice may speak.

Ash Wednesday



This brief service to mark the beginning of Lent includes scripture, prayer, song, and the imposition of ashes.

March 9
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

“Seeking God in the Wilderness”

An Adult Class led by John
Sonnenday
Sundays, March 13—April 10
9:30 a.m. in Room 3

The experience of wilderness plays a pivotal role in shaping the identity of the Hebrews and of Jesus. In the adult class we will explore how these stories of wilderness experience interact with our experience through the use of scripture, poetry, reflection, and conversation. While the classes form a unit, each one will be self-contained so that you are welcome to attend as your schedule allows.

The Stephen Ministry Program

Over 9,000 congregations are enrolled in the Stephen Ministry program. We feel fortunate to be one of those congregations across the U.S., Canada, and the world to offer care for hurting people when they need it most, both within our congregation and within the community. Stephen ministers receive 50 hours of training, based solidly on Biblical testimony and drawing from the best tools of the health and psychological sciences before beginning their care-giving work. After Stephen ministers are commissioned, they receive continuing education, spiritual formation, and supervision at their monthly meetings. We've had a Stephen ministry program here at FPC for about 15 years. Many may not know much about it because it such a quiet program, involving one-on-one confidential relationships in which a Stephen minister offers help and support to someone who is experiencing difficulty.



Stephen ministers serve those who are facing a wide range of needs or crises: hospitalization, bereavement, illness, separation, divorce, unemployment, relocation, aging/elderly, spiritual crisis, new parents, for example. Generally, Stephen ministers visit weekly for about an hour; that relationship may last just a few months or for several years, depending on the need. This caring relationship is the heart of the ministry. One Christian reaches out to another in time of need to develop an on-going, helpful relationship.

In addition, we have helped train new Stephen ministers in two different classes for the Mon General Stephen Ministry program. In this church, we, along with others, take communion to homebound and those at Heritage Village, assist with visits to congregational members who cannot get to church, deliver grief booklets to the bereaved in the congregation, provide the Care Notes in the rack in the parlor, and provide on-call care when requested.

This ministry provides a meaningful way for our church to use more fully our many talents in sharing one another's burdens and joys. Stephen Ministry is the congregation's program. Each member is a part of our Christian family. You can support the Stephen Ministry program with your prayers for participants, by spreading the word about the program, and with financial gifts. You can alert George Lilley, the Referrals Coordinator, about persons who may benefit from a Stephen Minister. (Be sure to ask the person's permission first.) You can accept the care of a Stephen Minister when in need. You can consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

The Waynesburg University Touring Choir



Sunday, March 20

The Waynesburg University Touring Choir will provide musical leadership during worship on March 20 with anthems by Early American composers, classics, and Moses Hogan spirituals.

Our own FPC choir will combine with the students for a beloved anthem from the Brahms Requiem, *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place*.

The Waynesburg University Lamplighter Touring Choir is an auditioned group consisting of approximately 25 members. The Touring Choir sings for chapels and participates in the Music Department's concert each semester. In addition, it travels off-campus to sing at area churches and for community groups and local events. The Touring Choir also participates in a Spring Tour each spring semester. Recent tours have included concerts in Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida and Georgia.

The Touring Choir is as much a ministry group as it is a choral group. Concerts often include student testimonies and short skits to preface some pieces. The group also participates in some service activities and has performed in hospitals, prisons and nursing homes.

Session Minutes Feb. 6, 2011

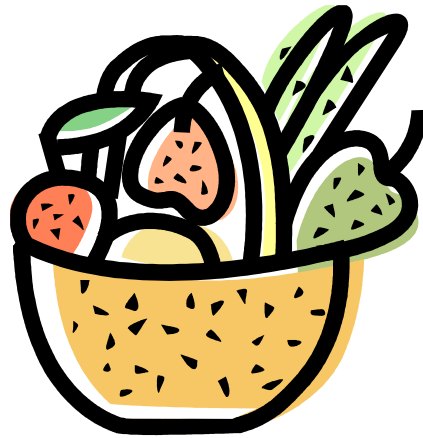
- Session opened with prayer.
- Heard from Co-Pastor Sonnenday that the Carillon is not repairable and the parts will be donated to Butler University and the rolls to a church in Illinois. The Wilkins family has agreed that funds in the Carillon Repair Fund may be used for enhancing our audio-visual system in the sanctuary.
- Session asked the Property Management Committee to establish an ad hoc committee including representation from PCDC and the Pancake Breakfast Team, to consider and, if warranted, develop a plan to enhance the security of the property.
- Session finalized and approved the 2011 budget with a pledge figure of \$247,890; staff raises and a recommendation to change the Call for the Co-Pastors.
- Session approved the reappointment of Linda Hagerty and John Garlow to the Westminster House Board.
- Session closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Dear Pastor,

Once again, the Morgantown Community Kitchen would like to thank you for your contribution to help us feed a good midday meal to those who are homeless or have low incomes. We usually feed between 50 and 80 people each weekday, Monday through Friday. Our records show that The First Presbyterian Church contributed \$112.28 to us during 2010.

We hope that we may continue to count on your generosity. For the coming year we will again record each donation you contribute and forward you the total amount next January together with our heartfelt thanks.

With Best Wishes,
Constance H. McCluskey
Morgantown Community Kitchen
Board Member



First Presbyterian Church -

Thank you for the check thru the Alternative Gift Market and thank you for the donations of food you sent to our food pantry.

Canyon Presbyterian Church
Session & Volunteers



New Secretary: We are very pleased to welcome Ashlee Filkins as our new church secretary. Ashlee is a freshman at WVU where she is active in the Presbyterian Student Fellowship. She is a member of the Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. She will be in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays.



Middle/High school students are needed for a new midweek group being formed for teens who want a chance to delve a little deeper into the Bible, share with other teens and pray together. The group is named for Nicodemus, the character in the Gospel of John who comes to Jesus by night and ends up slowly being converted into a disciple. First meeting will begin at the Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 9 and then continue across the street at 324 Forest Ave. Regular meetings will be Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. at 324 Forest. Leaders are David Mebane and Debbie Palmer. If you're not a teen anymore, ask a teen you know and pray for this new venture. For more info contact David (mebane@gatech.edu) or Debbie (d.delap.palmer@gmail.com) or Kris Haig (revhaig@gmail.com).



March Baptisms
 Lucas Trovato
 (3-31-1996)

March Birthdays	
1 Sharon Lindsay	Julie Zuercher
2 Douglas Hunt	11 Frankie Witt
3 Mary Zuercher	14 Jerry Stone
5 Hugh Lindsay	15 Jan Palmer
Jim Mohrman	17 Penni Witt
7 George Curry	21 Kris Haig
Doug Mooney	22 Emily Larkin
Norma Morris	Harrison Parsons
Lee Mullett	24 Tom Frame
9 Kendra Evans	25 Audrey Chase
Robert McConnell	27 David Burtner
10 Marilyn Slaughter	31 Kathleen Schultz

Please do not park in the VFW parking lot. The VFW has rented indoor space and its entire parking lot to a church on Sundays. If you have been parking in its lot, please plan to use one of the three church lots. The boundary between our upper lot and the VFW lot is the wall that runs out from the south side of the VFW. All of our parking in that upper lot is on either side of the entrance ramp off of Spruce Street. If you are unsure, please ask.

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:00 AM Community Breakfast 8:45 AM Handchimes 9:30 AM Christian Education 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Children's Choir 5:00 PM Cub Scouts	28	1 10:00 AM Dulcimer Group 6:30 PM Youth Ministry Team 7:00 PM NA	2 6:00 PM Property Management 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Finance & Legal 7:30 PM Adult Choir 8:30 PM AA	3 12:30 PM Rehousing Work Group 5:00 PM Presby Dancers 7:00 PM Mission Committee 7:15 PM Nurture & Learning 8:30 PM AA	4 6:00 PM Basketball (A. Crudup)	5 4:30 PM NA 6:00 PM NA
6 8:00 AM Community Breakfast 8:45 AM Handchimes 9:30 AM Christian Education 10:45 AM Worship - Communion 12:00 PM Children's Choir	7 12:00 PM Presbyterian Women 5:30 PM Membership 6:00 PM Basketball (A. Crudup)	8 10:00 AM Dulcimer Group 3:30 PM Stephen Ministe's Meeting 6:00 PM Habitat 7:00 PM NA	9 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM Adult Choir 7:30 PM Nic at Night 8:30 PM AA	10 12:30 PM Task Force on Homelessness 5:00 PM PCDC 5:00 PM Presby Dancers 8:30 PM AA	11	12 1:00 PM Betty Harris-Green Memorial Service 4:30 PM NA 6:00 PM NA
13 Turn Clocks Back 8:00 AM Community Breakfast 8:45 AM Handchimes 9:30 AM Christian Education 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Children's Choir 12:00 PM Confirmation Class 12:00 PM Luncheon 12:00 PM Worship Committee 5:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:00 PM Session 6:30 PM Living the Questions	14 6:00 PM Basketball (A. Crudup)	15 Good News Deadline 10:00 AM Dulcimer Group 7:00 PM NA	16 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir 7:30 PM Nic at Night 8:30 PM AA	17 10:00 AM Sew & Sew Stitching Group 12:00 PM Mon Valley Homeless Initiative 5:00 PM Presby Dancers 6:30 PM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Group 8:30 PM AA	18 6:00 PM Basketball (A. Crudup)	19 4:30 PM NA 6:00 PM NA
20 Cents-Ability Offering 8:00 AM Community Breakfast 8:45 AM Handchimes 9:30 AM Christian Education 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Deacons and Session	21 6:00 PM Basketball (A. Crudup)	22 10:00 AM Dulcimer Group 5:30 PM Habitat 7:00 PM NA	23 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir 8:30 PM AA	24 5:00 PM Presby Dancers 8:30 PM AA	25 6:00 PM Basketball (A. Crudup)	26 PCDC Event 4:30 PM NA 6:00 PM NA
27 8:00 AM Community Breakfast 8:45 AM Handchimes 9:30 AM Christian Education 10:45 AM Worship 5:00 PM Cub Scouts	28 6:00 PM Basketball (A. Crudup)	29 10:00 AM Dulcimer Group 7:00 PM NA	30 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir 7:30 PM Nic at Night 8:30 PM AA	31 5:00 PM Presby Dancers 8:30 PM AA	1	2 Lenten Retreat 4:30 PM NA 6:00 PM NA