

Please 'Save the Date' for 2012

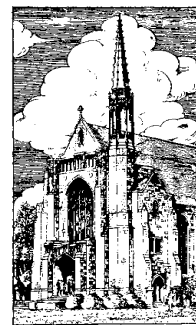
## Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

First Presbyterian Church will be presenting a gift to the Shenango Valley community during the holidays in the form of a Boar's Head Festival. This will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 8, 2012** at 3:30 pm in the church sanctuary.

The Boar's Head Festival is probably the oldest continuing festival of the Christmas season. The history of the Boar's Head reaches back into days of the Roman Empire. This pageant is rooted in ancient times when the boar was sovereign of the forest. A ferocious beast and menace to humans it was hunted as a public enemy. At Roman feast, boar was the first dish served. Like our Thanksgiving turkey, roasted boar was a staple of medieval banquets. As Christian beliefs overtook pagan customs in Europe, the presentation of a boar's head at Christmas came to symbolize the triumph of the Christ Child over sin, good over evil.

The Boar's Head procession involves instrumentalists, musicians, and variety of actors in medieval costumes. Members of the congregation are not passive spectators but participants in this liturgical drama as they are asked to join with the choirs and cast in singing parts of familiar carols and hymns.

The Boar's Head committee is hard at work planning this spectacular event for Epiphany. So what can you do to be a part of this church wide event? The committee is always looking for more cast members and will be looking to borrow costumes from medieval times and old costume jewelry. If you have any of these items, or would like to be part of this spectacular event, please let Paula Haehnel, Shari Getway or Susan McKinney know. There will be more information in Emphasis about this festival as the holidays approach. Thank you.



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

## Emphasis



September

2011

SMOKY HOPE

Salmon cooked on a cedar plank; it reminds me of my Seattle days. I've recently tried grilling salmon on a cedar plank. But it is a challenge. It takes preparation; soak the cedar planks in water for 24 hours. It takes heat control. Too little, and the salmon is raw. Too much, and the cedar plank catches on fire and the salmon burns. It takes patience. With the cover closed I watch for smoke (too much smoke is not a good sign). But I get curious.....is the heat right, is it done, is it cooking? So I open the cover to check. But then the heat and smoky aromas are let out. And more than once when I've opened the cover more air gets in, which ignites the cedar planks.....more fire. I've always got Jeanne to "bail me out" and cook it in the oven. But I'm determined. I keep trying with more or less success. Why? Because the best salmon I've ever had once happened on cedar planks on my grill. The memory gives me hope.

It's hard work being the church. We live in a day of radical extremes; politics, economics, social views. Positions, rhetoric and anger are more prominent than respect, conversations and solutions. The radical ways find their ways into the church.

It's hard work being the church. We live in a time of cultural and generational change. We live in a time of denominational change. We live in a time when the ways of being a church in the community are rapidly changing. And to "stir the pot" we have the issue of ordination and sexuality in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Fires and smoke break out here and there.

But here we are. As the fall resumes we begin the work of ministry and mission and life together. It is hard work. But it is also wonderful work. Amidst grace, love, forgiveness and trust we bear witness to the truth of God's kingdom in these radical times.....and become radical ourselves when we love God and our neighbors. Sometimes we are more successful...and sometimes less (thus our need to live in grace). But we are determined. Why? Because there are those times when we have experienced the wonder, beauty and splendor of God during some moment of our life together.....and those memories give us hope.

The Smoky Chef, Glenn

## September Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 4<sup>th</sup> Last Sunday of Summer Schedule (10:30AM worship only)  
Final Summer Series Sermon Topic: Ordination and Sexuality in the PC(USA)  
**\*Resume Fall Schedule: 8:30AM and 10:30AM Worship**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Romans 1:18-24; 3:9-20 The Problem of Sin  
Deacon offering, Minute for Mission
- 18<sup>th</sup> Rev. Maloney Preaching Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105: 37-45;  
Philippians 1:27-30. The lives we lead.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Romans 3:21-31 The Answer: Salvation by Faith

### Worship Notes:

\*We will return to our fall worship schedule on September 11, with 8:30AM worship in the Chapel, and 10:30AM worship in the Sanctuary. As in the past, the 8:30AM service will share communion the first Sunday of each month, and not include the children's message and the choir's anthem.

Nursery care will be provided during the 10:30AM service, and children K-5th grade will be dismissed to Children in Worship following the children's message. All members are encouraged to share in the fellowship time in the Library/Coffee House immediately following each service. This is a special time to express care, and welcome visitors.

\*Dr. Hink will be preaching from the book of Romans this fall.

\*A Look Ahead in Worship: World Communion Sunday, October 2; Recognition of 50-Year Members, October 30.



**THANK YOU**, my FPC family, for your cards, your prayers, and your visits during my hospitalization and my recovery at home. This has been quite an experience, and your prayerful support meant a great deal to me. Just knowing you were praying for me helped get me through the most painful times. God is faithful and was with me throughout the entire ordeal. I am so happy to be back at work, sharing our love of the Lord in worship and in ministry. God bless you! Rev. Pam Maloney

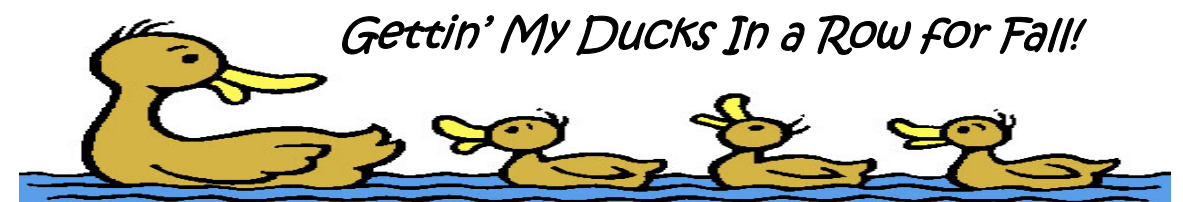


I am bubbling up with JOY for the possibilities of small groups @First beginning this Fall! One of the many questions people have been asking is: What do you mean by “small group”? This can be answered by quoting two scriptures. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says: “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” And in Luke 6:13 it says: “When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them . . .” A quick answer is: a small group is as few as two and as many as twelve people.

Why have small group ministry and what is the purpose? Also found in Matthew 18:20 — *to gather!* And by gathering together, it says: *I will be with you!* When Jesus gathered with his disciples he was with them in three ways: 1) as a teacher; 2) to serve others and 3) as a friend. Jesus also knew that in order to further the kingdom of God he had to break down the numbers of his disciples into small groups for them to grow in their faith, so there would be time for fellowship, faith development and service to others.

J.O.Y.@First is our small group ministry which means we will be offering times and topics for people to gather to learn more about **J**esus, **O**thers & **Y**ourself. This is not a new ministry at First Church because there are many small groups that have already popped to the surface, like: Pairs and Spares; Discuss-In; Bill's Bunch; Kids @ First Church; Mary/Martha Circle and Men's Fellowship just to name a few. This year we are developing more opportunities for people to connect with not only their community of faith but to invite friends and neighbors to GATHER & CONNECT! A modge podge of chances to connect and learn are bubbling to the surface for 2011/2012 are: Cardmaking, Moms On The Town, Take Care topics on stewardship, finances, leadership. A full list will be available soon. If God is whispering something in your ear about sharing one of your gifts with others, give me a call.

Blessings — Debbie Derrenbacher





Ride the Barnabus  
with our  
Families @ First to:  
Munnell Run Farm

on  
September 18th after  
church!



**free  
admission**

**Attractions:**

Artisans/Crafters; Wagon  
Rides; Kiddie Tractor Pull;  
Nature Scavenger Hunt;  
Family Nature Hunt

Food Available by:  
Shenango Valley River  
Watchers

McCullough's Ice Cream  
Mercer County Historical  
Society Ox Roast & more

Bring your own lunch or buy  
there!

RSVP by 9/15/11



**Summer Work and Repairs**

Though church life and ministry slows down a little in the summer, that was not the case with work on our building. As we resume our busy fall schedule we are thankful for the work completed on our facility which enables our ministry and mission, and celebrates the beauty of architecture in our community. Some of

those summer projects include:

Saturday work day on the church yard; significant repair of gutters; new counter and sinks in the women's restroom outside the nursery; replace worn stair treads; inspection and spot repointing of exterior stone; cleaning of stone above northeast entrance; replacement of Plexiglas over 3rd floor skylight; replaster and repaint northeast corner stairwell; refinishing of exterior office door; and a light remodel of Library into Library/Coffee House (cabinets and counter top, sink, small refrigerator, better use of space so to increase seating, and additional book shelves).

Special thanks are due Tim Jones (Head of Maintenance), Rich Arnold (Property Team Chair), our custodians (James Camp, Ron Ruth, Ralph Robinson, Gordon Longstreet and Robert Jones), our Property Team, and area tradesmen who help care for our building.

**Mary/Martha**



**Circle**

Mary/Martha Circle will resume meeting on the second Monday of each month, September through May, at 12:00 Noon in Fellowship Hall. The Bible Study this year is "Confessing the Beatitudes" by Margaret Aymer. The study will examine both Matthew's and Luke's record of the Beatitudes.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Circle meeting as we enjoy a brown bag lunch, fellowship, and our study. If you would like to purchase the study book, please call the Church office.



## Library/Coffee House

Over the recent years members of FPC have identified hospitality as a significant focus of our life together. In Christian faith we want to extend a warm welcome to members and visitors, reflecting the way of Jesus.

To help with this special ministry we moved the time of our second worship service 30 minutes earlier to 10:30AM-11:30AM (so to provide some “before noon” fellowship time), and moved the location of our fellowship to the Library. These changes have

significantly increased the fellowship of members and visitors following worship.

However, this spring a concern was expressed that the crowded conditions in the Library during fellowship time may discourage some of our senior members from participating (over-crowding; a good problem, but still a problem to address). After reviewing a number of options and Discipleship and Membership Team (the team that provides the after worship fellowship ministry) and the Session decided that the best option remains the Library. To address the crowding/seating issue the first phase of a remodel project was approved.

This remodeling project will include the removal of all the tables and chairs currently in the Library. A bookcase will be relocated, and additional shelving will be built. A custom-built cabinet and countertop will provide storage and serving space. A small sink and refrigerator will also facilitate times of fellowship. The Bunn coffee maker will be moved from the kitchen to the library. After some consultation new chairs and tables will be purchased and placed in the Library/Coffee House. In the future we will consider a second phase of the project, which will include flooring, lighting, additional cabinets and artistic design.

The change will be helpful for our fellowship ministry. The change will also be helpful for the Library ministry, as the fellowship activities bring more people into the Library. The Library/Coffee House may also be attractive for small groups, and provide a venue for small concerts. The plan is to have it ready on September 11 for the return of the fall schedule.



## FAMILIES @@FIRST CHURCH

During the year, our Families @ First build relationships by having fun and fellowship together. The following is the schedule for our get-togethers:

Sept 18	Munnell Run Farm Days, noon—5 p.m.
Oct 2	Rally Day Picnic & Bouncers for Kids, noon-1:30 p.m.
Dec 4	Christmas Party, noon—2 p.m.
Jan. 29	Family Kinect Game Day, noon—2 p.m.
Feb 26	Swimming Party at the Radisson, 5:00
Apr 22	Save Our Earth — Earth Day Event, noon-2 p.m.

If you are interested in any of these events, please RSVP to Debbie D. at 724/981-2211 x 3.



## Children-In-Worship CHURCH

- When:** During 10:30 a.m. Worship  
**Where:** Room 315  
**Who:** Children K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

We are continuing with our the curriculum called “Worship for Life” by Logos Ministries. Logos specializes in children’s ministries and for many years has worked with children in after school programs. The curriculum focuses on teaching the key elements of worship through hands-on mini-workshops.

Bible Bonus Bucks: Children will get a chance to earn Bonus Bucks for things like bringing their Bibles, learning, inviting friends to church , being kind. On Bonus Day at the end of each session, they can redeem them for prizes. What’s a “3D AWARD”? Ask Mrs . D!

JOIN US OCT 2ND AFTER CHURCH FOR FALL FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS & ADULTS PLUS THE DEACON'S PICNIC

RALLY DAY @@FIRST CHURCH



**Children will learn to be a  
F.I.R.S.T. Kid:**

- F = Follow Jesus
- I = I pray
- R = Reach out to others
- S = Study the Bible
- T = Teach others about God.



**KIDS @ FIRST CHURCH**

**When:** First Sunday of every month

**Times:** 12-2 p.m.

**Where:** First Presbyterian Church

**Who:** K - 5<sup>th</sup> grades

**What:** Fun, Faith, Fellowship

**Cost:** Free

At KFC, the children will have fun connecting with the Bible, connecting with the community and world, and connecting with their teachers and peers.

**KFC Themes for 2011-201**

**Oct 2**

Bounce into Rally Day!

**Nov 6**

Firm Foundation Fair

**Dec 4**

Christmas Shindig  
(Family are invited to attend)

**Jan 15**

Winter Wonderland

**Feb 5**

God Thinks Ur Spectacular Social

**Mar 4**

Mission & Meatballs

**Apr 1**

Breakfast at the Beach Bash

**May 6**

Field Trip to Science Center, Yo., OH



**LET MUSIC FILL THE AIR**

It's time for our Carillon and Sanctuary Choirs to resume rehearsals as we prepare to return to the Sanctuary for worship. The first day for rehearsals will be Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, with the bell choir meeting at 6:00 PM in room 206 and the singing choir meeting at 7:30 PM in room 303.

We welcome new ringers and singers to the choirs. The more, the merrier! If you are interested in helping with our music ministry, or have questions, please call Rev. Pam Maloney, extension 5 here at Church.



**3  
Bible Coaches  
Needed**

once a month for KFC to give guidance to children, help with a lesson and have some fun with kids!

See Debbie for details!



**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY**



One of our favorite guest teachers for our adults is Dr. Andrew Purves from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This fall we have the opportunity to hear Dr. Purves as he teaches "Living in Christ, the Word of Truth: Spiritual Reflections on Themes from Colossians."

These classes will be held on four Tuesdays: September 27, and October 4, 11, 18 from 7:30 – 9:00 PM at Westminster College in New Wilmington. The cost is only \$35 for the four sessions. Included in Dr. Purves' classes will be his reflections on how Colossians spoke to him as he recovered from cancer surgery and chemotherapy.

If you would like to register for this class, you may do so by calling the Chapel Office at Westminster College: 724-946-7117. If you need transportation to the college, please call the Church office.

## 2011-2012 Backpack Food Mission @ First is starting this fall, but it isn't too late to get involved!!

Last year, First Presbyterian Church along with Grace Chapel Community Church, Covenant Presbyterian church, the Community Food Warehouse and Sharon City School District partnered to help children attending Case Avenue Elementary School who had been coming to school on Mondays hungry.

This team decided it would provide simple meals for 30 children at Case during the weekends. The Community Food Warehouse provided the menu and food according to the standards of a national program. Through the hard work and dedication of all three churches, we sent 112 backpacks of food to Case Avenue every week. This year the team would love to double our efforts and feed more kids!

We will begin the **2011-2012 Backpack Food Mission @First** in September. We need to get organized and collect money and pledges. The cost is about \$25/child/month, or \$225/child for the school year. You can choose a monthly pledge, yearly gift, or a sponsorship in honor or memory of someone. We also need 4 teams of volunteers to work for about forty-five minutes (starting at 7:30 PM) one Tuesday evening each month putting the food in the backpacks. Finally, we need people to pray for this mission.

If you would like to support the **2011-2012 Backpack Food Mission @ First,** please complete the following with your area of interest and return to the church office or drop it in the offering plate as soon as possible:

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**\*Volunteers-I can support the Backpack Food Mission by working on a team:**

-1st Tuesday    -2nd Tuesday    -3rd Tuesday    -4th Tuesday  
 -I can help any Tuesday of the month

**\*Sponsors-I can support the Backpack Food Mission through a financial gift:**

(Check one. Sponsors will receive special envelopes for their contribution/s)

-One time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (any amount \$\$)  
 -One time gift of \$ 225, so to sponsor food for a child for a year  
 -A monthly gift of \$25 during the school year (Sept-May).

I would like my gift to be given in honor or memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Prayer Partners-I can support the Backpack Food Mission through prayer;**

- I will pray regularly for the children and their families, the Backpack Mission, the volunteer teams, Community Food Warehouse, and the First and Covenant Churches.

As always, your generosity and support is greatly appreciate by the Mission Team  
THANK YOU!

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S FALL DINNER

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

6:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

### SLIM BROTHERS



The SLIM Brothers are from the Sandy Lake Presbyterian Church in Sandy Lake, PA. Although they have all been involved with music and been friends for decades, they just started singing together in the fall of 2007 after many nights of sitting around the church piano after choir practice, and vowing to become a gospel group. The SLIM Brothers, Marm Snyder, Chuck Mowry and Tom Eidenmuller are far from SLIM, so you need to come to see what SLIM stands for and what makes them...The SLIM Brothers!!!

All - **men**, women and children - are invited to come to the dinner and hear The SLIM Brothers.

Tickets - \$8.00

Available in the church office or will be sold after church on September 11 & 18 - Deadline is September 18  
Child Care available upon request

First Presbyterian Church  
600 East State Street, Sharon PA 16146  
724-981-2211