

# WITNESSING FOR CHRIST



Through the Mission Programs  
of  
First Presbyterian Church  
Parkersburg, West Virginia

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## A Message from the Pastor

One of the saints of the church, St. Francis of Assisi, said, "Preach the Gospel always; if necessary use words." The good news of God's love for us and all humanity in Jesus Christ is the message we are to share. Everyone is called to this task. The witness of scripture offers a wide variety of ways this can be done. For some, that proclamation uses words and ideas, but for many more it involves demonstrating the love of God through mission programs of the church.

This booklet shows the many ways this particular congregation, known as the First Presbyterian Church, has been led to share the love of God in Christ. Each mission project is described, along with a brief history of our participation, and finally, suggestions about ways you can be involved.

Thanks to the Mission and Outreach Committee for putting together this tool of ministry.

The Rev. Michael R. Seely  
Pastor

## Ongoing Mission Outreach

**Title:** Old Man Rivers Mission

**Description:** We provide funding to help the Old Man Rivers charity in Parkersburg which provides a hot meal on Saturday and Sunday, 52 weeks a year. We also collect supplies for their food pantry.

**Our Contribution:** In 2010, contributions totaled \$900.

**Ways for you to help:** Cash contributions designated for Old Man Rivers will be sent directly to this charity. Donations of food may be placed in the collection basket in the narthex.

## Ongoing Mission Outreach

**Title:** Two-Cents-a-Meal

**Description:** On the third Sunday of each month, we take up a second offering for “Two Cents-a-Meal.” We are each asked to contribute two cents a meal to support hunger programs, locally, regionally and nationally. 25% of the money collected is remains locally; 25% remains with the Presbytery of West Virginia and 50% is sent to the PCUSA for its hunger programs.

**Our Contribution:** For 2010, contributions totaled \$1,241.

**Ways for you to help:** You may make cash contributions monthly during the special collection or at any time by designating your contribution to “Two Cents-a-meal.”

## Ongoing Mission Outreach

- Title:** Kids Hope USA
- Description:** KIDS HOPE USA develops one-on-one relationships through the creation of church-school partnerships that pair church members with at-risk kids in supportive, mentoring relationships. KIDS HOPE USA mentors spend just one hour per week, reading, talking, playing and listening to a child at school. Mentors from First Presbyterian work with at-risk children in grades 3-5 from Franklin School.
- Our Contribution:** The 2011 Mission budget support of Kids Hope is \$1,000.
- Ways for you to help:** You can serve the program by volunteering as a mentor, by being a prayer partner for the child or by making cash contributions to support the program.

## Ongoing Mission Outreach

- Title:** Family Crisis Intervention Center
- Description:** The Family Crisis Intervention Center provides emergency shelter for victims of abuse in the Wood County Area. They also maintain a 24-hour hotline to assist abuse victims anytime of the day. We contribute personal hygiene items for distribution by the Center.
- Our Contribution:** The 2011 Mission budget support of Family Crisis Intervention Center is \$600.
- Ways for you to help:** Cash contributions designated for Family Crisis Intervention Center will be sent directly to this charity. Contribution of needed items may be left in the collection basket in the narthex.

## Ongoing Mission Outreach

**Title:** Good Samaritan Clinic

**Description:** The Good Samaritan Clinic provides free medical care and pharmacy for low-income families in Wood County.

**Our Contribution:** The 2011 Mission budget support of Good Samaritan Clinic is \$600.

**Ways for you to help:** Cash contributions designated for Good Samaritan Clinic will be sent directly to this charity.

## Ongoing Mission Outreach

**Title:** Presbytery of West Virginia

**Description:** The Presbytery of West Virginia is the intermediate PC(USA) governing body covering Presbyterian churches in most of West Virginia. Our contributions to the Presbytery mission budget are unrestricted and our contributions support a variety of mission programs ranging from work camp, support of the Blue-stone Camp and Conference Center, campus ministry, Presbytery hunger programs, ministry to older adults, and youth activities. Additional information about the mission activities of the Presbytery of West Virginia is available in the church office. This contribution is divided among the Presbytery (70%), Synod of the Trinity (5%), and the PC(USA) (25%).

**Our Contribution:** The 2011 Mission budget support of Presbytery mission is \$5,000.

**Ways for you to help:** Cash contributions designated for Presbytery of West Virginia Mission Fund will be sent directly to this charity.

## Ongoing Mission Outreach

**Title:** Good Shepherd Discretionary Fund

**Description:** Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church are partners providing funds for those who walk in requesting assistance with utilities, prescriptions, and other emergency needs. Thirty dollars is the maximum amount per month a person may receive. The Discretionary Fund is able to provide on average \$350 per month for emergency assistance. However, the fund is usually depleted within the first four days of the month.

**Our Contribution:** The 2011 Mission budget support of Good Shepherd Discretionary Fund is \$1,800.

**Ways for you to help:** Cash contributions designated for Good Shepherd Discretionary Fund will be sent directly to this charity.

## Ongoing Mission Outreach

**Title:** FaithLink

**Description:** FaithLink provides a network of interfaith volunteers who enable people who are elderly, chronically ill, and/or physically disabled to remain independent at home. Non-medical services such as transportation to medical facilities and grocery stores are provided, as well as shopping, phone reassurance, visitation, light chores and home maintenance, and assistance with correspondence. FaithLink is a program of the Volunteer ActionCenter.

**Our Contribution:** In 2010, support of FaithLink, collected from Worldwide Communion ecumenical service, was \$400.

**Ways for you to help:** If you wish to become a FaithLink volunteer, contact the church office. You may also make cash contributions by designating them to "FaithLink."

## Seasonal Mission

**Title:** Christmas Shoe Fund

**Description:** We support the Christmas Shoe Fund through Good Shepherd Episcopal, providing shoes to those in the Parkersburg area who are in need and cannot afford shoes.

**Our Contribution:** In 2010, contributions totaled \$1250.

**Ways for you to help:** Cash contributions designated for Shoe Fund will be sent directly to this charity.

## Seasonal Mission

**Title:** Community Christmas Dinner

**Description:** Every Christmas Day for the past 19 years, First Presbyterian has hosted the community Christmas Dinner for people who are needy, shut-in, lonely or otherwise in need. Typically over 600 meals are served, about half of which are delivered to homes. Some food is donated by area merchants, but other expenses are covered by our Mission Fund.

**Our Contribution:** In 2010, the costs for the dinner and supplies was \$430.

**Ways for you to help:** Volunteers are needed on Christmas Day to serve meals, to deliver food and to assist with meal setup and serving. You may make cash contributions at any time by designating your contribution to "Christmas Dinner."

## Designated Offerings of the PC(USA)

- Title:** Christmas Joy Offering
- Description:** The Christmas Joy Offering is a Presbyterian Church (USA) special offering. We participate in this collection annually during the Christmas Season. 50 percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council.
- Our Contribution:** Combined under “other programs.”
- Ways for you to help:** You may make cash contributions annually during the Christmas Season using the special envelopes in the pews, or at any time by designating your contribution to “PCUSA Joy Offering.”

## Designated Offerings of the PC(USA)

- Title:** One Great Hour of Sharing
- Description:** Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The undesignated portion of the offering is divided between the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Self Development of People Fund, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. At First Presbyterian, contributions to One Great Hour are received during the Easter season, although contributions may be made any time of the year.
- Our Contribution:** In 2010, support of One Great Hour of Sharing was \$366.
- Ways for you to help:** You may make cash contributions annually during the Easter Season using the special envelopes in the pews, or at any time by designating your contribution to “One Great Hour.”

## Other Mission Opportunities

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Per Capita contributions</b>
<b>Description:</b>	The staff and program support of the Presbytery of West Virginia, the Synod of the Trinity, and the Presbyterian Church (USA) are supported by annual per-member contributions from member churches. For 2010, the per capita contribution paid by First Presbyterian Church was \$26 per member.
<b>Our Contribution:</b>	In 2010, the per capita payments from First Presbyterian were \$8,138.
<b>Ways for you to help:</b>	Each family is urged to help defray this budget cost by making an offsetting contribution of \$27 (the fee for 2011) per member to the Church. Please mark your contribution "Per Capita."

## Other Mission Opportunities

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Other mission activities</b>
<b>Description:</b>	During every year, the Session considers special situations that arise and may make special contributions and/or request that the congregation participate by supporting special needs. In 2010, contributions were received for Haiti Earthquake Relief, the Christmas Joy Offering, the Salvation Army Angel Tree, and Preaching Peace. Each program and contribution is considered and funded on a case-by-case basis.
<b>Our Contribution:</b>	For 2010, the total of other mission activities from First Presbyterian was \$619.
<b>Ways for you to help:</b>	You may make cash contributions by designating your contribution to any particular need.

## Other Mission Opportunities

- Title:** Memorial Contributions
- Description:** Throughout the year, friends and family members may wish to recognize loved ones by making memorial contributions in their honor or in their memory.
- Our Contribution:** During 2010, memorial contributions were received totaling \$3,325.
- Ways for you to help:** You may make cash contributions at any time during the year by sending the contribution to the church.

## Other Mission Opportunities

- Title:** Presbyterian Women programs
- Description:** The Presbyterian Women of FPC contribute to many local, national and international mission programs, as follows:
- Our Contribution:** \$100 to The Gabriel Project - baby items for disadvantaged mothers  
\$80 to ARC - Christmas funds for 2 mentally-challenged clients  
\$100 to Davis-Stuart - home for children who need temporary or semi-permanent care  
\$100 to Salvation Army - to be used at their discretion  
\$200 to House to Home - provides home furnishings for those in need  
\$100 to Kids Hope - supplies for children and/or mentors at Franklin  
\$500 to Youth Mission Trip - our local youth group's annual trip  
\$420 to Two-Cents-a-Meal - once monthly, in lieu of fresh flowers for worship, donation made to hunger program  
\$50 to Church Women United - blankets for migrant workers  
\$30 to Migrant Missions - health and school kits for migrant workers
- Ways for you to help:** You may make cash contributions to Presbyterian Women at any time to help with any of these programs.

## Other Mission Opportunities

- Title:** Youth Summer Mission Trip
- Description:** Each summer, youth in grades 9-12 partner with YouthWorks for their mission trip. YouthWorks provides our youth with a chance to fellowship and work beside other youth from all over the United States. At the same time, they put on the skin of Christ as they meet the needs of others. In the past, the youth have traveled to Mexico, Toronto, Brooklyn, Queens, Red Lake Reservation, MN, and Swan Quarter, NC. In these locations the youth have performed all types of mission work from volunteering in soup kitchens and nursing homes to painting to playing with children.
- Our Contribution:** The 2011 Mission budget support of the Youth Mission Trip is \$5,400.
- Ways for you to help:** You can serve the mission trip by volunteering as a chaperone or by supporting the Rent-A-Kid Program, and other fundraisers the youth sponsor for the trip.