



First News First

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 7

AUGUST 2015

First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

From the Pastor

"Welcome Home"

The picture, with the words, "Welcome Home Keller Family" printed in crayon, created by Nate Erno, age 9, is still attached to our refrigerator with a magnet. Betsy and I first saw it on the kitchen counter, along with flowers and a card, when we were welcomed to an Open House this past May for those that had helped with the parsonage renovation project. With new carpet, freshly painted walls, sparkling clean rooms, and the start of beautiful landscaping, Betsy and I were grateful and delighted that *this* would be our new home. We enjoyed meeting new friends that night and celebrating countless hours of hard work. We hadn't officially started at First Church, but after meeting those gathered that evening we were already feeling at home here.

That evening, as we toured the house, we noticed small, ornate, rectangular boxes nailed to the doorposts at the front and back doors and to a doorpost on the second floor. The outside of each box was marked with Hebrew letters. A thin piece of paper was rolled up tightly inside of each box, with something printed on it in Hebrew. We soon learned that the couple that had made the new parsonage their home for many years was Jewish. We also learned that the parchment encased in each box is called a "mezuzah," which means, in Hebrew, "doorpost."

On the "mezuzah," in very small print, is the most important commandment God gave the people of Israel through Moses as they were about to enter the Promised Land:

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home or when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and **write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.** (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*

Growing up in a Jewish community, the "mezuzah" was likely written on the doorposts of Jesus' family and friends. He didn't just know the words; he lived them as no other before or since. Jesus taught us to love God with our whole being. Then he added, and "love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:34-40)

Betsy and I are grateful that with all the renovations the "mezuzahs" remained on the doorposts of our new home. Whenever we come and go, whether it is by way of the front door or the back, or up or down the stairs, we are reminded to love God and our neighbor in all that we do. We also remember and give thanks

(Continued on page 2)

Dates to Remember

- Aug 2 Holy Communion
- Aug 15 UMW Yard Sale
Library Book Sale
- Aug 18 Senior Fellowship
- Aug 19 Bagging for
Bethesda Mission
- Aug 22 Sharing Garden
Goodies
- Aug 23 Rejoicing Spirits
@ Sunday School
Senators Game

Inside this issue:

Fellowship	2
Little Friends	2
Stewardship	3
Finance	3
Worship	4
Music	5
Missions	6
Adult Ministry	7
Health & Wellness	8
Library	8
UMW	9
Access Ministry	9
Facilities	10
Endowment	11
News & Notes	12

to be part of this loving congregation, and for the many labors of love to provide a home for us.

You probably do not have "mezuzahs" nailed to your doorposts, I encourage you as you come and go to remember in your heart God's call always and everywhere to love.

In Christ,

Pastor Denny

Fellowship

Senior Fellowship August 18, 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to come for a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library. Pastor Denny will join us for the afternoon!

Contact Janice Bowen at 766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com for more information.



Sharing Garden Goodies August 22, 9am-12pm

Calling all gardeners and bakers! The Care Team invites you to the church kitchen on August 22nd to bake some summer treats! We will assemble goodie-baskets of baked goods, flowers, and home-grown vegetables for delivery to some of our homebound members. If you have any extra goodies from your garden to share (tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, squash, etc.), please place them in the collection basket located in the tower entrance. Thank you! Questions? Contact - Janice Bowen (766 -4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com)



Celebrate summer with your First Church family at a Harrisburg Senators baseball game and picnic on Sunday, **August 23!** The game starts at 1:30 pm, but head over after church to enjoy an "all you can eat" buffet lunch with your friends! The buffet, which is open from 12:00 – 2:00 pm, includes hotdogs, hamburgers, BBQ chicken, baked beans, potato salad, mac & cheese, chips, popcorn, cookies, soda and water.

The church is partially covering the expense of the ticket and picnic, so take advantage of the low cost... only \$12.00 for adults (ages 13 and up) and only \$7.00 for children ages 4 – 12 (kids ages 3 and under are free).

Please sign up by Sunday, August 16 if you would like to attend – there is a sign up sheet in the binder at the Welcome Desk. Questions? Please contact Holly Kurten at bgooser@comcast.net or Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call 766-4611.

Don't miss this great event for all ages!

Little Friends Nursery School

Little Friends Nursery School's annual Fall Festival/Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 14th from 10-2. Anyone interested in donating an item or service to the auction, please contact Chris Sims at lfns@fumchurch.com

Stewardship

Our Stewardship program is beginning its 5th month in August. I hope you are enjoying the Stewardship Seconds each week, as presented by various church leaders/members. The Stewardship Seconds provide an opportunity to hear about some aspect of the life and ministry of First Church using the resources that we provide in our regular offerings to the unified budget. As you will continue to hear each Sunday, FUMC has great plans (and needs) for our offerings, above and beyond your “regular” giving levels. Our total year estimated budget shortfall for 2015 continues to be about \$50,000 (about 5-6%). If we can make-up this deficit during 2015, we can continue to provide (or expand) these important church ministries and missions.



Many of us maintain a regular exercise program. It helps us to stay fit and healthy. Lately I have been doing more resistance training, which is meant to strengthen my muscles, correct bad posture, and develop core strength (especially in my lower back). The result is that by regularly strengthening my core muscles, it then becomes much easier for me to complete my daily activities – Regular exercise strengthens my muscles. In 1 Timothy 4:8 it says “For bodily exercise profits a little, but Godliness is profitable for all things having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.” And in 1 Corinthians 16:9, Paul tells us to give to God on a regular basis. So if regular exercise strengthens our body muscles, **regular giving to God will strengthen our generosity muscle.**

During August’s “Stewardship Seconds”, our emphasis will be on the church mission budget. Despite budget issues over the years, First Church has been able to provide at least 10% of the annual budget to missions. Our Mission committee meets regularly to analyze, evaluate, and determine where our precious mission collections should be directed. During the church services in August, you will hear about many of these mission opportunities. From our support of missionaries and our congregational mission trips, to international and local mission organizations, our mission budget helps fund very important projects that spread the word of God throughout the world and make a difference in peoples’ lives. During August, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the “Missions’ Root”. If we have roots “**Grounded in Faith**”, we will be able to “**Grow to Serve**”.

Finance

Through June 30, 2015
50% of year

General Fund

2015 budget	\$ 875,000	
Expected income	\$ 437,500	
Actual income	\$ 423,109	(48% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 14,391	
Actual expenses	\$ 409,918	
Building Fund	\$ 4,281	
Legacy Campaign	\$ 2,035	

Despite our “Grounded in Faith...Growing to Serve” stewardship campaign, our deficit is growing.

We pray that the congregation will be motivated to more fully support the ministries we offer in Christ’s name.

Worship

Sunday Morning
Worship Services

8:15 am &

10:45 am

Sunday School

9:30 am

Anchor Worship
Sunday Evenings @ 7:00 pm



The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and care givers.

Holy Communion

Bimonthly Communion

8/2/15

Pew Service

World Communion

10/4/15

Loaves and Chalice

First Sunday in Advent

11/29/15

Pew Service

Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00

12/24/15

Loaves and Chalice

Note: Gluten-free bread available in the center of the bread plates.

Summer Sermon Series ~ “Building a Community in Christ”

As your new pastor, I am excited to begin building a community in Christ with you. Before beginning to build anything, whether it’s a swing set in the back yard, a house, or a high rise office center, it’s important to for the builders first to study the instructions provided by those who designed the project. The plans specify the materials and tools needed, as well as, how to put the whole thing together. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians gives us instructions for building a strong, healthy community where everyone can experience the powerful love of Jesus and be prepared to meet the challenges of living in a stormy world.

During the months of July and August, I invite you to join Pastor Dave and me in worship as we immerse ourselves in the instructions found in Ephesians for building a community in Christ:

July 5	Pastor Denny	Ephesians 1:1-2	“What Are We Doing Here? ”
July 12	Pastor Denny	Ephesians 1:3-14	“It’s All about Jesus”
July 19	Pastor Denny	Ephesians 2:11-22	“All Are Welcome Here”
July 26	Pastor Dave	Ephesians 3:14-21	“Together On Our Knees”
August 2	Pastor Denny	Ephesians 4:1-16	“Many Gifts, One Spirit”
August 9	Pastor Denny	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	“Transformed in Christ”
August 16	Pastor Denny	Ephesians 5:15-20	“A Melody in Our Hearts”
August 23	Pastor Denny	Ephesians 6:10-20	“Equipped With God’s Armor”

See you in church!

Pastor Denny

Did you miss a Sunday? To listen to a sermon recording, go to fumchurch.com, click “Sermons” on the dropdown menu under “Resources”.

Don't Miss It!

A very special Rejoicing Spirits worship service will be held on Sunday, August 23 during the Sunday school hour. Please plan to join us for this casual, fun and interactive time of worship at which *ALL* abilities are valued and celebrated in response to God’s message of love. There will be joyous singing, hand-held instruments, a brief and meaningful message, and an expressive environment. We want you to be there & you’ll be so very glad you came! *“So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.”* 1 Cor. 12:25

Music

Ringers Travel to Hand Bell Festival in Scranton

Nine of our hand bell ringers attended the Hand Bell Musicians of America biennial regional festival at the University of Scranton from June 27 to 30. This year the technical classes were taught by Timbre, a community group from California, some of which are working on their Masters in Music in hand bell performance. The clinics ranged from basic hand bell ringing to caring for our bodies to avoid injuries while ringing. One of things that the ringers learned is that hand bell ringing is an aerobic exercise. So when you see us ringing on Sunday morning, we are doing our exercises for God. We also had an opportunity to hear other groups perform including Timbre. The festival gave the ringers an opportunity to play both sacred and secular music and to hear new compositions. Many times this music is then performed at worship services and concerts during the year. The festival ended with a mass ringing of the festival music by about 400 ringers on June 30.

The hand bell choirs are grateful for the support that the congregation provides at its fund raisers such as the spaghetti dinner in June. These events reduce the amount each ringer must pay to attend festivals and conferences without using church offerings.

Next year is the International Symposium of Hand Bell Ringers in Vancouver, Canada and several of us are planning to attend. Starting in September, we will share our plans and fund raising ideas. So watch for further developments.

Question: What is SOW?

Answer: Sounds of Worship choir

SOW sings at 8:15 am service

First rehearsal: Thursday, September 3, 7 pm

First Sunday to Sing: September 13, 8:15 am

Everyone is invited!

Join the SOW family!

For more information
call Gail Leinhos at 717-761-3338 or email her at
LEINHOSDAV@verizon.net

MINISTRY OF MUSIC MORNING SCHEUDLE

8/2—Stu Diehl

8/9—Cello Ensemble

8/16—Trace Morgan

8/23—Women of Light; Invocation at 10:45

8/30—Instrumental Ensemble

9/6—Luke Ogden



Youth Choir Needs

YOU!

Grades 6 through 12

Come Join the Youth Choir on
Sundays at 5:15 pm

Then be a part of 3G at 6:15 pm

So

REHEARSALS begin September 20, at 5:15
pm in the choir room and
First time to sing is at the 10:45am service in
October.

For more information
call Gail Leinhos at 717-761-3338 or email her at
LEINHOSDAV@verizon.net



Missions

Grocery Bagging for Bethesda Mission

On the third Wednesday evening of every month members of First United Methodist Church gather at Mission Central to bag groceries for Bethesda Mission. All are invited to join and be a part of this mission opportunity. Join us at Mission Central on August 19 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeking@verizon.net for more information.

Penny Report

Help supported the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any loose change, into the Penny Bucket in the narthex. One hundred percent (100%) of your donations are used to provide training and dig wells that supply safe drinking water for schools and communities in Sierra Leone. There were 416 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,533.86.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project!

Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Opportunities

VIM has 4 opportunities right here in PA that you or a group could be a part of:

“Transform Lycoming County” (formerly Transform Williamsport)

When: August 10-14 (serve one day or the entire week)

Where: First UMC Christian Life Center, 601 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

Projects: home repair, yard work, painting and many others

Overnight Accommodations: available for out-of-town participants

Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

Cost: \$5 per day or \$25 for the entire week

Apply online: www.firstchurch.cc Click “Events” and drop down to “Transform Lycoming County”

Contact: Mitch Marcello [570-772-9224](tel:570-772-9224) or mhmarcello2@gmail.com

Sweden Valley New Build

When: September 13-18

Where: Sweden Valley, PA

Housing/Meals: Provided by local church

Work: Construction and finishing new building

Contact: Pastor Steve Small- ssmall@susumc.org or [814-414-7505](tel:814-414-7505)

UM Childrens Home Remodel

When: September 14-19

Where: United Methodist Home for Children, Mechanicsburg, PA

What: Remodeling dormitory - anything from demolition to finish painting

Cost: \$100 (Includes housing and meals); air mattress or cot needed

Contact: Ron Lucas - ronkar1976@comcast.net or 570-406-8409 as soon as you can

UM Childrens Home Remodel

When: Sunday, September 27 through Friday, October 2, 2015.

Where: United Methodist Home for Children, Mechanicsburg, PA

What: Major renovation of a Boys’ Dormitory.

Cost: \$100 (Includes housing at UM Church, meals Sunday night thru Friday lunch)

Accepting volunteers on a “first committed” basis—maximum 30 volunteers. Please contact John Best for more information or an application packet - jmbest2@gmail.com / [\(570\) 326-1943](tel:570-326-1943)

Adult Ministry

“Go and Make Disciples” ~ Summer Sunday School 2015

This summer join us as we focus on Matthew 28:19, which tells us that, as followers of Jesus, we are each called to go and make disciples... and not just here, but in all nations! How are the people of First Church doing this? The ways are endless!

Combined Adult Summer Sunday School, held from 9:30 – 10:30 am, will run through September 6. It is held in the Multi-Purpose room. Children and youth are also invited to attend. Come to actively participate, gain new experiences and discover or rediscover your calling to teach and show others the love of Christ.

Date	Ministry/Mission Topic	Description/Associated Activity
Aug. 2	“Community Kindness” Sunday	Come to hear what First Church is doing to reach out to our neighbors, make school bags for Mechanicsburg children and do something kind for our neighborhood police/firefighters.
Aug. 9	Adult Mission Trip: Dominican Republic	Our mission workers will share stories about the people served through ministry with children, a building project and our medical clinic provided in Cristobal, D.R.
Aug. 16	Youth Mission Trip: Taylorsville, NC	Catch up on the mission adventures of our youth and their leaders as they share their stories of service and blessings in North Carolina.
Aug. 23	Special Rejoicing Spirits Worship Opportunity	1 Corinthians 12:25 tells us “there should be equal concern for each other”. Come to enrich your faith and the faith of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as you enjoy a Rejoicing Spirits worship experience together!
Aug. 30	Serving Children – Our Collaboration with Mission Central	Hear about how Mission Central is helping both in our neighborhood and around the world! Also participate in preparing a school kit to be used by a child in need.
Sept. 6	“Sticky Buns & Small Groups” Sunday	Bring your favorite sticky buns to share, stay to enjoy fellowship and check out small group/Bible study resources that you may want to use with your group for the fall.



Our annual “Fall Kick-Off Sunday” is coming up on September 13! Regular Sunday School classes will begin meeting that morning at 9:30 am (look in the September 13 bulletin for more detailed information).

Our all-church picnic will also be held that day at the Adventure Zone Playground Pavilion at 3:30 pm. A pot-luck supper will be held at 5 pm and outdoor worship will be held at 6 pm.

Bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share. Also bring your own place settings and lawn chairs to sit, relax and enjoy each other’s company!

Health & Wellness

Why You Should Carry a Wallet Medication Card?

Sometimes it can be hard to keep track of all the medications you take. To make it easier for you, your physicians, and Emergency Responders, write down the medication names and doses on a card or simply a piece of paper and keep it in your wallet.

That way it is easily accessible at all times, should something happen. Be sure to update this list as your medications change.

Don't forget to include:

- ✓ Doctors' names
- ✓ Emergency contacts
- ✓ Pharmacies
- ✓ Supplements, vitamins

Library

I can't believe I am writing about August already. I waited quite impatiently for summer; now it is whizzing by way too quickly. Sometimes new books on the library's new shelf do the same thing. They disappear too fast onto the regular shelves without proper notice or appreciation. One such series is the **Restoration Series** by Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley. Gary Smalley is a family counselor and has written several books on relationships. Dan Walsh has often been compared to Nicholas Sparks for his heartfelt writing style. Now these two gifted writers have joined forces to write family-based fiction so gripping you will be hard pressed to put it down. The four books in the series are ***The Dance, The Promise, The Desire, and The Legacy***. Each book tackles problems many people face in their marriages—infertility, unemployment, growing apart, and commitment issues. Reviews have raved about the vivid characters and believable story lines. If you have missed this series, spend the last lazy days of summer checking it out.

If romantic suspense and the wilds of Alaska are more your style, the library has the **Alaskan Courage Series** on the shelf. Written by Dani Pettrey who likes high thrills adventure books so much she decided to write her own. Kidnapping, suspicious climbing accidents, boating accidents, not to mention regular mayhem and murder spiced with a generous dollop of romance overflow in this five book series. Her characters and scenery are painted with such detail, you'll feel like you are visiting Alaska. That would be a treat on a hot summer day in Pennsylvania.

Another new feature in the library is a group of MP3 discs. These discs can be played on many CD players, but also easily transferred to an iPod for easy listening. Though I love to read, with audio books I am now able to listen to books while doing chores or sewing. Since the library is trying out this format, there are only a few available, but we have a wide range of genres. Come in and let us show you this display. Listening to books make chores more bearable!

If you haven't taken the time to weed your home books shelf, you still have time before the August book sale. The library is accepting gently used donations of books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages until August 9th. If you have nothing to donate, you definitely need to stock your reading shelves at our book sale on August 15th.

See you in the library!

Pam and Donna



FUM Circles

New Members are always welcome!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton
790-9131 or
swalton54@comcast.net

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick
697-2233

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen
796-0809 or
jjgbowen@yahoo.com

RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan
697-3554

UMW 2015 Calendar

All women are invited to join any of these events!

August 15	Yard, Book and Bake Sale, church parking lot
October 3	Harrisburg District Annual Day, Tower City
October 17	Susquehanna Conference Annual Day, Kingston
November 22	World Thank Offering and Mission Meal

Please contact Lori Hoffnagle with any questions about the above events.

School Supplies Needed

We are still collecting school supplies to be handed out at the Yard Sale on August 15. Needed supplies are: Small box of crayons , Pencils, Erasers, Blunt scissors, Glue sticks

Place the items in the marked box outside of the MP room and then join us on August 2 in the multi-purpose room to decorate and assemble the school bags during the Sunday School hour. This is a great outreach to the community!

Access Ministry

Day of Pampering 2016 will be held on Saturday, February 27.

We need you in order to make this outreach a success! *"But what can I do?"* you ask, *"It's only August!"* Here's what you can do:

- * Begin praying for our church, staff, and the Day of Pampering team as we plan to host this amazing event.
- * Begin praying for the many volunteers including church members & friends, as well as, area business owners & service providers who will serve at Day of Pampering.
- * Begin praying for care providers, those for whom they care, and their families. Life is good, but very difficult for so many.
- * Pray about the way(s) in which you might be a part of this outreach. If you've never participated, you are so very welcome to join in the blessing! We could use your hands....and your heart! If you've participated in the past, consider what your role might be in 2016.
- * Reserve February 27, 2016 on your calendar for Day of Pampering.
- * Pick up a "Save the Date" card in the narthex. Share it with an area service provider (hair stylists, nail techs, massage therapists, makeup specialists) and encourage them to reserve February 27, 2016 for Day of Pampering. They can use the contact information on the card to obtain more details.
- * Help to identify primary care providers who might be blessed by such a day. These are typically mothers of children (or young adults) with disAbilities or wives of husbands with disAbilities, but might also include other women who are in different types of primary care giving circumstances. Please share this information with Lisa Wickenheiser.

Contact Lisa Wickenheiser for more information: [717-975-0225](tel:717-975-0225) or the7wicks@verizon.net.

Facilities

It's hard to believe, but we're already half way through the year 2015. The frenzied pace of activities we experience for much of the year slows down a little over the summer months, affording us an opportunity to tackle projects like floor refinishing and entire room carpet cleaning that are difficult to accomplish when things are happening in every square inch of our church building. We also have a few major facilities initiatives in progress right now.

Restoration work continues in the lower level of the facility in response to last fall's sewage pump malfunction. All of the floor tiles had to be removed in the pump room and in the storage area off the kitchen where the large reach-in freezer is located. Drywall repairs, new cove molding installation, and painting of affected areas are in progress. In concert with these efforts, Judi Buddenbaum and Marcia Espenshade are painting all (I think there are 70!) kitchen cabinets to help refresh the area. A huge "shout out" is in order to those two women for their dedicated efforts.

Eric King has been hard at work making repairs to the wall and windows on the Frederick Street side of the church. Water infiltration over a period of years has made this wall into an unsightly mess, complete with plaster efflorescence and deterioration of window trim. Once Eric completes this painstakingly slow restoration work, we will paint the walls and pray that the exterior repairs we made over the past few years prevents a recurrence of this problem.

Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Canonizado has started work on the prayer garden he designed on the east side of the church near King Alley. Matthew's design includes replacement of the Brian James memorial weeping cherry tree that we needed to remove this spring due to disease, as well as a cross, benches, and other plantings. When finished, we are hoping this prayer garden will be a special place for personal reflection.

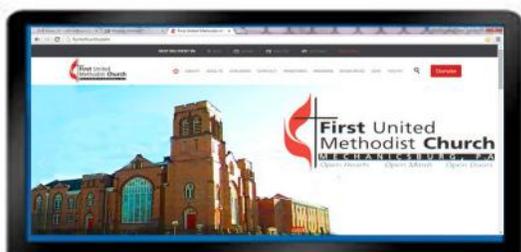
Have you noticed all of the sunflowers in bloom at the Simpson/Frederick corner of the church? They popped up on their own out of the mulch we spread in the spring, and are adding another burst of color to that area.

I hope you enjoyed the Stewardship Seconds in our worship services during the month of July where I focused on the Facilities root of our annual church budget. Opening the door, keeping things running, protecting our investment, and looking to the future are key tenets of our Facilities efforts. Help us be good stewards of the awesome resource that is First Church by showering us with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. Thank you.

Roger Walton

Facilities Manager

Communications



Check out our redesigned website!

Go to www.funmchurch.com

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

The **September** newsletter deadline is **August 15**.

All submissions should be received in the church office on or **before** this date.

Early submissions are always welcome!

Endowment

First Church Announces Hamsher Endowment Gift

Harry and Norma Hamsher may no longer be with First Church, but their legacy lives on.

In June, First Church was the recipient of a substantial gift from the estate of Harry Hamsher. Harry and Norma made the provision many years ago to ensure their support of First Church well beyond them.

"Harry and Norma Hamsher were among the most gracious and generous people I have known," said Pastor Mike Minnix, retired senior pastor of First Church. "During their lives, their love for and support of First Church were apparent through their continual presence and participation in the church's ministry and mission."

Pastor Mike continued, "The considerable gift we have received from their estate assures not only that their love for First Church will continue to be expressed, but that the impact that First Church has on our community and throughout the world will continue to be significant for the cause of Christ and the Kingdom of God."

The Hamsher gift more than doubled the size of the Endowment Fund, which now totals nearly \$270,000.

Harry was an active member of First Church. He served as a Sunday School Secretary, member of the Trustees and Administrative Board, and Financial Secretary, and was an usher for over 60 years! Harry also was a faithful member of the William Guyer Sunday School class. Norma, a native of Enola, joined First Church after she and Harry were married.

Gail True, Harry and Norma's niece, had a special bond with them.

"I can remember as a young child, they were always a part of our family gatherings," Gail said. "When my father (Harry's brother) passed away in 1980 at the age of 50, Uncle Harry and Aunt Norma watched over my mother and became surrogate parents to me. I was a new bride, and when I had children, they filled the role of grandparents." Harry and Norma had no children of their own.

Harry and Norma came from modest means, but they were hard workers and owned a successful farm in Monroe Township. Early on, the Hamshers raised livestock to include chickens, dairy cows and pigs on the nearly 50-acre land.

"Uncle Harry was a full-time farmer and a full-time credit manager at Harrisburg Auto Parts," Gail said. "He would get up early to milk the cows, work all day, then in the evening do more farm work. He had a strong work ethic."

Later the Hamshers stopped raising livestock and focused on crops. Gail fondly remembers helping to pick vegetables and prepare them for storage.

Gail described Harry as a kind-hearted and quiet man. "I was always impressed with Uncle Harry, because he always wanted to do what was right," she said. "He lived a simple life, and wanted to do what would please the Lord." Gail remembers Norma as being ever grateful. "Every day, Aunt Norma made it a point to say how grateful she was for everything she had." Harry and Norma were married for 64 years.

Norma passed away June 2006. In December 2013, Harry's health began to deteriorate. "In his last days, I asked him if there was any Scripture he wanted me to read to him," Gail said. "He requested Psalm 23, 1 Corinthians 15, and other specific scriptures that were dear to his heart. I thought, how can someone in his condition think of Scripture at a time like this? It gave me a sense of peace." Harry passed away just a month later, at the age of 93.

"I think when Aunt Norma and Uncle Harry got to heaven, the Lord looked at them and said, 'Well done my faithful servants,'" Gail said. "They were really good examples for our family."

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the death of Paul Fertenbaugh's brother, Ray, on July 10, 2015.
to the family upon the death of Naomi Kuntz on July 15, 2015.

Special Birthdays

Grace Koser August 2
Jane Heller August 3
Helen Kelly August 10
Doris Sweger August 11
Pauline Trace August 12
Lois Morland August 16
Jo Barth August 27
Victor Norris August 29
Foster Creamer..... September 4
Bill Neumyer..... September 4
Emma Whitcomb ... September 8
Ken Nelson..... September 13
George Rehfluss..... September 16
Ike Bomboy September 20
Lil Thomas..... September 22
Bill Seig..... September 27
Peggy Shenberger.... September 28

Special Anniversaries

♥ Don & Barb Shover married 57 years on August 2
♥ Ike & Nancy Bomboy married 73 years on August 15
♥ John & Dolores Shell married 61 years on August 15
♥ Jim & Joyce Parfet married 52 years on August 18
♥ Les & Ruth Reed married 71 years on August 23
♥ Harry & Joyce Woods married 62 years on August 23
♥ Gerry & Pat Sheely married 57 years on August 24
♥ Bob & Judy Wertz married 52 years on September 1
♥ Richard & Alberta Knause married 65 years on September 2
♥ Ed & Ginny Johnson married 51 years on September 3
♥ Bill & Betty Etter married 72 years on September 4
♥ Milt & Dolly Dougherty married 65 years on September 23
♥ Richard & Marley Ann Schmick married 51 years on
September 26
♥ Paul & Lorraine Strock married 62 years on September 27

Church Staff

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller

ASSOCIATE PASTOR*

Rev. Dr. David Reed

YOUTH PASTOR

Lisa Aronson

ADULT MINISTRIES*

Tina Eaton

DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY*

Dawn Fisher

George Canonizado

CONGREGATIONAL CARE*

Janice Bowen

OFFICE MANAGER

Kristin Brown

FACILITIES COORDINATOR*

Roger Walton

CUSTODIANS*

George Canonizado

Matthew Miller

FINANCE DIRECTOR*

Nancy Robinson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ SANCTUARY CHOIR*

Jody Brinley

ORGANISTS*

Nicholas Werner

ORGANIST/YOUTH CHOIR/ SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR*

Gail Leinhos

BELL CHOIRS*

Kathie Bittenbender

Jon Snyder

INVOCATION/JUNIOR CHOIR*

Allison Ometz

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS*

Lorette Cale

**PART-TIME*