

Celebrate the Arts

The Series at Second Presbyterian Church
presents

Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet

September 27, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Second Presbyterian Church

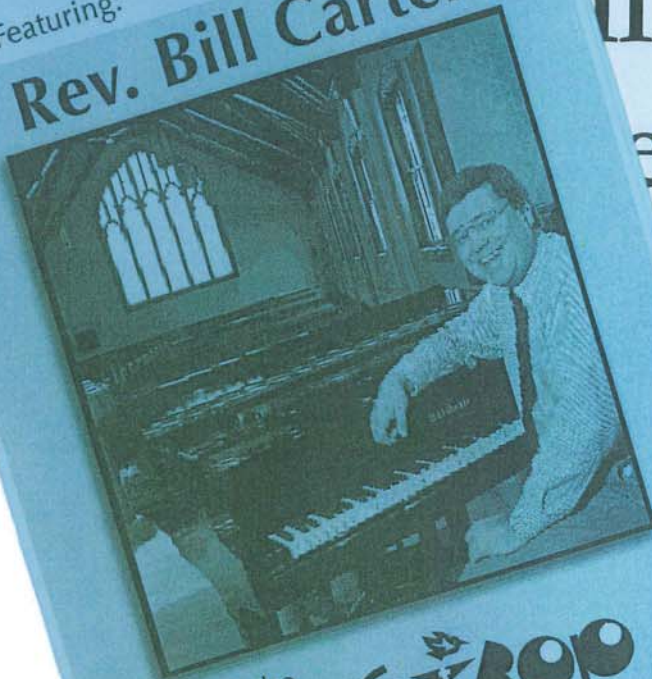
Philadelphia, PA

5th Annual

Festival of FAITH

Featuring:

Rev. Bill Carter



And the

presbybop
Quartet

"Faith in a New Key"

They will infuse the life
of faith with the
swinging pulse of jazz.

January 24-25, 2004

First Presbyterian Church
2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119

Rhythm for the Soul

A worship experience in a different key



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAWRENCEVILLE HOSTS

Jazz Vespers & Supper Concert

featuring the music of Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet

Sunday Evening, September 30

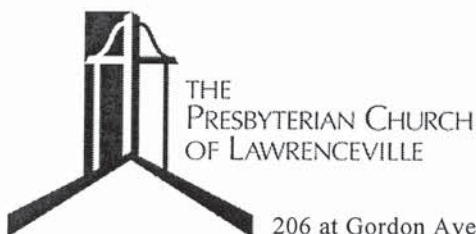
ALL ARE WELCOME

Jazz Vespers 4 pm

Dinner 5pm

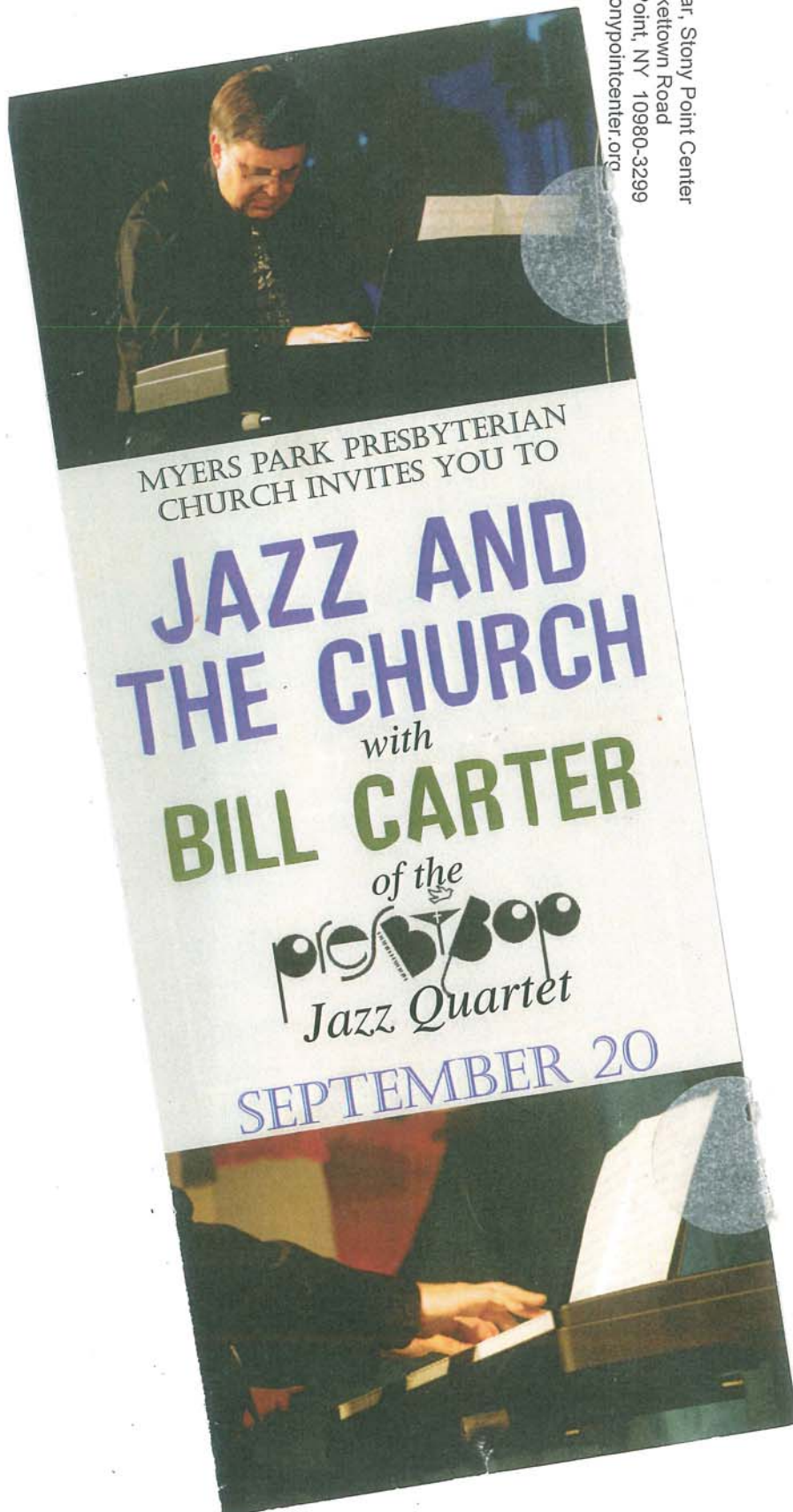
Jazz Concert 6 - 6:30 pm

\$5 Donation Requested



206 at Gordon Avenue, Lawrenceville, NJ • 609-896-1212 • www.pclawrenceville.org

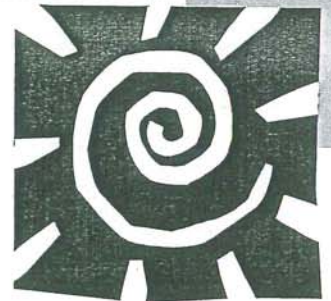
Registrar, Stony Point Center
17 Crickettown Road
Stony Point, NY 10980-3299
www.stonypointcenter.org



Jazz and the Church

Take Four

A gathering of jazz musicians, music fans, church leaders, choir directors, and creative people



October 10-12, 2004
Stony Point Center
Stony Point, NY

*A swinging place
where all are welcome*



Covenant Public Concerts

Is Thrilled to Present

Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet

Psalms Without Words

Syncopated Prayer Meeting

*New compositions that explore instrumental
jazz as form of Biblically-shaped prayer*

Sunday, February 15, 2009

4:00 PM



Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet are the best known musicians playing “sacred jazz” in the United States. Formed in 1993 by pianist, Rev. Bill Carter, this consort of New York-based professionals have toured the country extensively in presenting concerts and jazz worship services. They have served as the “house band” for national church conferences, led worship services for the PC(USA) General Assembly, and served as “musical theologians in residence” at Princeton Theological Seminary, the Massachusetts United Church of Christ, and Arkansas conference of the United Methodist Church.



They have recorded six CDs of original tunes and jazzed-up church music, most recently “Welcome Home” with vocalist Warren Cooper. For more information on their jazz ministry, visit them online at www.presbybop.com.



Concerts are free to the Public with a free-will offering to support the series.

Food Drive for Safety Net's Pantry

Receptacles will be available for Non-Perishable Food Items

Covenant Presbyterian Church /550 Madison Avenue / Scranton,

Visit www.covenantchscr.org or call 570 / 346-6400 for more information

Rev. Bill Carter Jazzes Up Labor Day

BY KRISTIN WINTERMANTEL
THE SUNDAY TIMES

It's quite a surprise to witness a Presbyterian minister sit down at the altar of his church and bang out Thelonious Monk's "Bye Ya" on the piano.

But that's what the Rev. Bill Carter did on a recent summer afternoon for a visitor to the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit.

The young minister is known for his love of jazz and his talent for playing it, and since 1992 has done a jazz-based service twice a year to rave reviews from his congregation.

The services, held on the Sunday before Labor Day and Christmas Eve, have become a long-standing tradition. The next Jazz Communion will take place on Sept. 2 at 10 a.m. at the church, which is located at School Street and Stone Avenue in Clarks Summit.

Many of his congregation knew of Rev. Carter's affinity for jazz and his hobby of playing with other musicians outside of his work as a minister. One week

PERSONALITY

in 1992, the church's organist went out of town, and the music director could not find a substitute.

"So someone said, 'How about you?' and I said, 'Sure ... I got it.'"

Rev. Carter recalled. "Then someone else asked you going to jazz up the service? I had always wanted to do service but never had the chance to give it a try."

Word got around, and on Sunday, the church was standing in line around the same

Carter was also with some friends world. Over the next he formed the Pres with Al Hamme, his college music Binghamton University Tony Marino and Whaley complex.

The quartet from "Presbybop," the style favors.

They con

IF YOU GO

WHAT: First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit's jazz communion service
WHEN: 10 a.m.

every year, and also be around the church

*If thou of fortune be bereft,
And in thy store there be but left
Two loaves,*

*Self one and with the dole,
Buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.*

Ancient Persian Poet

The Hyacinth Series



Bill
Carter
and the
Presbybop
Quartet

Sunday, January

Conceived in 1983, The Hyacinth Series brings unique and inspiring programs of music to The Moorings Presbyterian Church and the Naples community. The concerts signal the importance of music in the church program, and the church's open door to the community.

All concerts are open to the public without charge or reserved seating. Offerings are reserved as the concerts are received, the church's operating budget.

The Friends of The Hyacinth Series was established to denote donors contributing seventy-five dollars or more annually. A special salute is made to the Angel Band, whose major gifts enable new dimensions in the Hyacinth Series for many.



This Week at Derry Church

Email Update for June 9-15, 2005

A Message From Bill Carter

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYBOP QUARTET

Hello friends! We are looking forward to our return to Derry Church this weekend. It's been three years since you first welcomed us to Hershey.



Since we've seen you, this has been a very exciting time in our jazz ministry. We have traveled all over the country to present concerts and jazz worship services. Our repertoire has continued to grow, as we've recorded three new albums. And we've produced a new jazz hymnal supplement, entitled *Swing a New Song to the Lord: Resources for Jazz Worship*. It was the product of a worship renewal grant funded by the Lilly Foundation, and will be used during worship services at Derry Church on Sunday, June 12.

Our band personnel has also grown. These days, we are now more of a consort than a fixed quartet. Al Hamme will bring his arsenal of saxophones for the weekend. A native of York, Al is one of the founding members of the quartet. Drummer Ron Vincent has also joined the band. A New York professional, he was the drummer for Gerry Mulligan's band. Shawn McGloin, another New Yorker, will be playing bass for us.

Most recently we led worship at the National Presbyterian Pastors Retreat, which was held over Memorial Day weekend in Snowbird, Utah. After presenting a jazz vespers and concert on the first evening, we were the "backup" band for Jim Forbes, the pastor of Riverside Church in New York. To the wonder of the musicians, Jim preached a 54-minute sermon (not to worry for Sunday! I'm programmed for only 20 minutes).

It will be great to see you again. This Saturday at 7:00 pm, our concert will feature a mixture of familiar tunes and some of our new music. We will also be playing for both worship services on Sunday morning, before the church picnic.

Spread the word and bring a friend!

New Care Concerns

Preparing for surgery: Lynn Hackman, daughter of Dick & Jackie Hackman (SG 12C); Ann Kline, mother of Laury Poland (SG 7A)

In the hospital: Infant twins of Craig Copeland, brother of Mark Copeland (SG 7B)

Rehabilitation: Glenda Speicher (SG 12E)

Undergoing treatment: Tom Dugan, son of Ruth & Al Dugan (SG 7D)

Special groups: Mission week participants in Nicaragua, Baltimore & Camp Reiley

Death of loved ones: Ray Kolstrom, father of Keith Kolstrom (SG 5B)

In the armed services: Thomas Hopper, Army Germany, son of Ken & Margie Hopper (SG 5B)

Local Presbyterian Congregation: Paxton Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg

Do you have a prayer concern? Call the church office at 533-9667 or email Teresa Hutcheson.

SG = Shepherd Group

C&S = Care & Share (support for homebound & nursing home residents)

SUNDAY • JUNE 12

Jazz Worship & Church Picnic

Dress Casually!

Bill Carter, Guest Preacher

Mission Week

Food Bank Sunday: Derry Twp. food bank is in need of tuna fish, pork and beans, tuna helper, fruit cocktail, cake mix and icing.

Worship

8:00 and 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Scripture

Psalm 148
Daniel 3:1-18

Nursery

For infants through age three, 7:45 am through 10:30 am worship.

Summer Church School

9:15 am for all ages:

Children's Summer Series

"Chronicles of Narnia"

Videos & activities based on the popular C.S. Lewis books, beginning with "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe." Lower level classrooms.

Youth Summer Series

Get together with Eli for a fun activity & breakfast snacks.

Adult Summer Series

"Search for Joy: C.S. Lewis, His Life & Thought"
Video & discussion. Room 7. This week's topic: Story of a Man, Part 1.

Church Picnic

Noon on the church grounds.

Youth Fellowship

Selling ice cream at the church picnic (proceeds support youth going to Montreat this summer)

Contact Eli McCulloch for more details on any youth activities.

Arts at First Presbyterian Concert Series

300 School Street, Clarks Summit

- presents -

Presbybop Quartet

Best known musicians playing "sacred jazz" in the U.S.



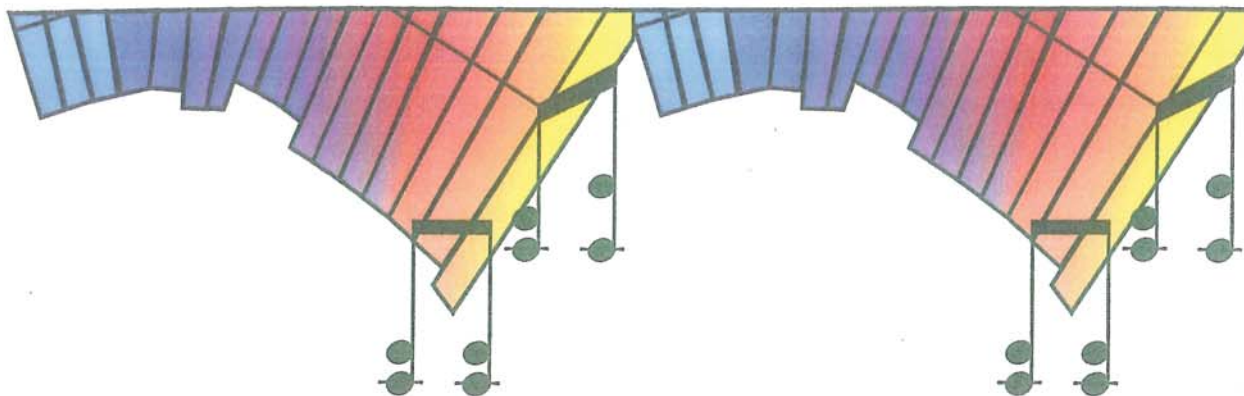
**"Make a Joyful Noise," a six-part suite
by Dr. Billy Taylor**

**Sunday, March 8
4:00 pm**

"Meet the Artist" Reception following the concert

A free will offering will be taken

For more information, call the church at 586-6306
or visit www.fpccs.org or www.presbybop.com



Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church

presents

The Presbybop Quartet

Sunday, January 18, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church
1225 Piper Boulevard
Naples, Florida 34110

The 2008-2009 Concert Series Brochure is available at our website:
www.vpcnaples.org

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is a member of ASCAP.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
Department of Music
presents

BILL CARTER & FRIENDS

featuring:

Al Hamme
Tony Marino
Tom Whaley
Jeff Stockham
Doug Sertl
Mike Carbone
Dan Miller
Mark Copani



A JOURNEY IN JAZZ "Burning Jazz for a Cold Winter's Night"

8:15 pm
Friday, February 2, 2001
Anderson Center Concert Theater

JAZZ THE IN CATHEDRAL

A Sacred celebration

St. James' Cathedral, Toronto
Friday November 8th, 2002, 8:00pm

OF WELCOME

the Sacred Arts Trust of the Anglican Foundation of Canada presents a jazz celebration to mark the first Sacred Jazz conference in Toronto. Throughout the day we have spent time with Rev. Bill Carter, founder of the Presbybop Quartet, from Clarks Summit Pennsylvania, who will include new musical and liturgical elements. People from many places have come to our conference. It is the result of the combined efforts of many people. You are invited to join in this program.

Thanks to The Very Rev. Dean Douglas Stoute, the churchwardens and staff of St. James' Cathedral for hosting this conference and celebration tonight. Deep thanks to June Moyle, administrative secretary of the Anglican Foundation for church and supporting this conference and evening's celebration.

celebration is full of surprises being built as it is on the gifts of many people. The celebration will proceed unannounced. At the time of improvisation. The celebration will proceed unannounced. At the time of improvisation. The celebration will proceed unannounced. At the time of improvisation.

if you can make a contribution to this celebration, it would be most appreciated. The celebration will proceed unannounced. At the time of improvisation.

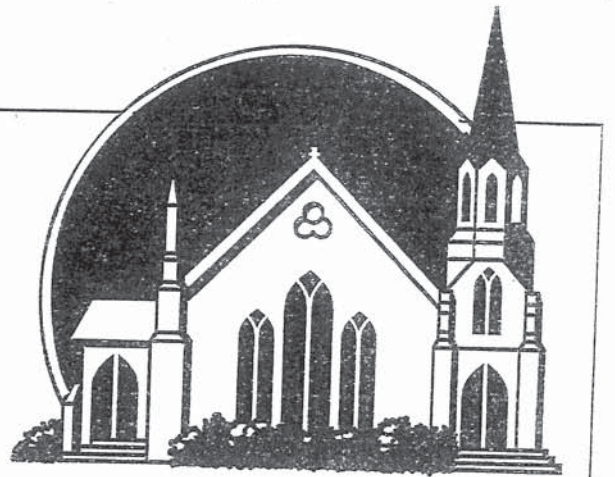
Tim Elliott

Tim Elliott, Conference

Welcome!

April 13, 2008 Worship 11 AM

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- Psalm 23:1



The Presbyterian Church
S E W I C K L E Y

414 Grant Street, Sewickley, PA 15143

www.sewickleypresby.org

phone 412-741-4550

Order of Worship 11:00 a.m.

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent preparation for the worship of God.

Prelude

Sabbath Song

Bill Carter

Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:10-11

One: See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

Many: his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

One: He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

Many: he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

* Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

* Silent Prayer of Confession

* Common Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father;

We have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;

And we have done those things which we ought not to have done;

And there is no health in us.

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.

Spare those who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent,

According to thy promises declared unto humankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and holy life,

To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Lenten Jazz Concert

The Presbybop Quartet played a program of "Psalms Without Words" at the First Presbyterian Church in Clarks Summit this past Sunday.

The group is an ensemble in residence at the church and features Rev. Bill Carter on piano, Al Hamme on sax, Tony Marino on string bass and Ron Vincent on drums, with special guest trumpeter Jeff Stockham.

"Psalms Without Words" is from a set of new compositions for an upcoming CD project.

The free concert was sponsored in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts.



The community turned out for an afternoon of jazz-flavored "Psalms Without Words."

PHOTOS TOM BONOMO



Saxophonist Al Hamme of Vestal, N.Y.



Connie Page of Montrose obviously enjoys the concert.



Rev. Bill Carter, pianist, composer and pastor of First Presbyterian Church.



Jeff Stockham, Syracuse, N.Y., graduated from Eastman School of Music with a master's degree in French horn performance.



Presbybop Quartet with guest trumpeter Jeff Stockham.



Bassist Shawn McGloin, Brooklyn, N.Y., filled in for Tony Marino.

William Carter

Festival of Homiletics

Preaching 2003

Charles Adams

Brad Braxton

Walter Brueggemann

Kate Campbell

Tony Campolo

William Carter

Jana Childers

James Forbes

Murphy Davis

Dee Dee Haines

Barbara DeConcini

Carolyn Knight

Thomas Long

Barbara Lundblad

Joseph Roberts

Donald Saliers

Barbara Brown Taylor

Mary Donovan Turner

Renita Weems

May 19-23, 2003

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

Ebenezer Baptist Church

High Museum of Art

Sponsored by: *Lectionary Homiletics, LectionAid, Preaching Great Texts, SermonMall, The Christian Century, Day 1/Protestant Hour, & Cokesbury*

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2501 Oxford Place
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Charlotte, NC 28207

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THE ACADEMY PRESENTS

Bill Carter *of* Presbybop



Join The Academy Wednesday, September 19 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary for an evening of jazz with Bill Carter of the PresbyBop Quartet to kickoff The Academy's fall term. The Academy, a center for adult Christian formation, will begin fall classes the week of Tuesday, September, 25.

This is an event you don't want to miss. Bill Carter is a jazz pianist and Presbyterian Minister who creates jazz music to glorify God.

We also invite you to a special performance of the entire PresbyBop quartet at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Jubilee Hall on Friday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m. Formed in 1993 in northern Pennsylvania, PresbyBop travels around the country performing in a variety of venues.

The Academy offers an opportunity for adults to come together for study, prayer and fellowship to deepen their faith and enrich their spiritual journey. The Academy Chair Jason Lambertson is excited to kick off another great term. "I'm excited to see such a variety of classes offered to our

congregation this fall. The Academy has lined up a schedule with a very compelling mix of topics we hope will tap the interest of many. Classes vary, from a look at U2's spirituality to the basics of the Presbyterian Church. You can even attend a tour of the Holy Land."

Jason adds, "The opportunities for basic to advanced learning is impressive and constantly evolving. I hope everyone can find a course in which to learn and grow, no matter where they are in their spirituality."

The faculty of The Academy has an abundance of expertise and skills. The courses are structured to help participants mature as Christian disciples. There is something for everyone.

For more information and to register for classes, please visit www.myersparkpres.org, or call the church (704-376-3695, Ext. 275). ■

By Millie Cort, *The Academy Team Member*



Rev. Bill Carter of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit is featured in the church's Jazz Communion service at 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

ABINGTON JOURNAL FILE

Celebrating creation with creativity

Rev. Bill Carter jokes that First Presbyterian Jazz Communion is like church for people who don't like church

BY CHRISTOPHER J. HUGHES
hughes@theabingtonjournal.com

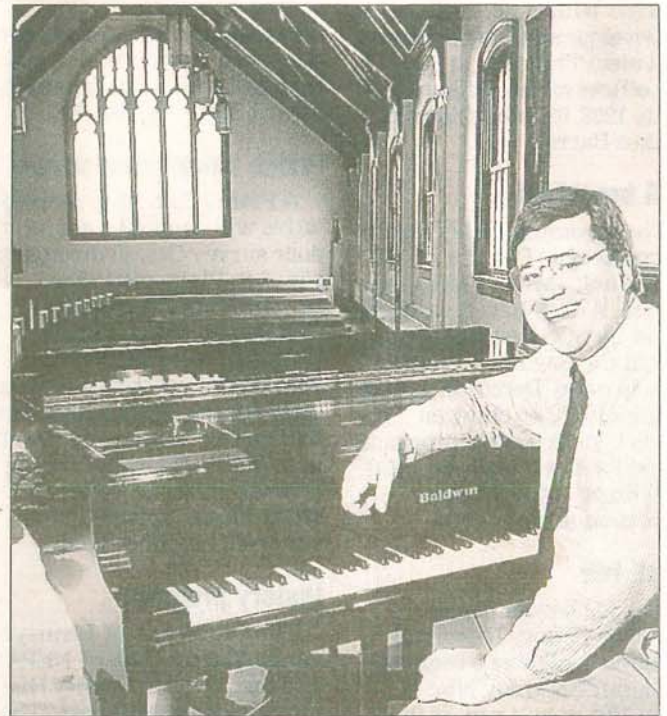
CLARKS SUMMIT - Christmas music is steeped in tradition, and the richness of holiday carols and songs tends to bring people together.

The music of the season will bring residents of Clarks Summit together as the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, hosts a Jazz Communion service on Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec.

24, at 11 p.m. The service, which is presented as a free gift to the community, will feature Rev. Bill Carter on piano, Marco Marcinko on drums, Tony Marino on bass and Mike Carlone on saxophone.

The Christmas incarnation of the Presbybop Quartet has been performing the unique service for more than 10 years, and each year the service has grown. "It's a great way for our church to provide a service to the community and attract all kinds of creative-minded people," Carter said. "It's kind of like church for people who don't like church," he added, with a laugh.

See Celebration, Page 10



Pianist Bill Carter will appear in concert Sunday with the Presbybop Quartet.

Jazz quartet to perform at United Methodist Church

The Fine Arts Committee of the Shavertown United Methodist Church, 163 N. Pioneer Ave., will present Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet in concert Sunday at 7 p.m.

The quartet has toured nationally presenting concerts and jazz worship services. Among many other accolades, they were the Theologians-in-Residence for the Little Rock (Ark.) annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and have released six CDs.

Led by pianist Bill Carter, who serves as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, the group consists of top New York professionals. Featured musicians are Al Hamme on sax, Tony Marino on bass and Ron Vincent on drums.

The concert will include favorite selections from their recordings, most of which are original compositions or creative arrangements of hymns. The concert also will feature a jazz exploration of the biblical psalms.

For more information on the Presbybop Quartet and sound clips of their music, log on to www.presbybop.com.

For tickets, call 675-3616. Tickets, which are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children, also will be sold at the door.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Salem, Oregon

Vol. 57, No. 7, February 12, 2006

Phone: 503-363-9234

503-391-7992

e-mail:

Bill C
Presb
Lea
C

Prepare y
Lord's da
Sunday.
mornin
Carter
tet. Re
recog
Presb



lished five books of sermons, preach
weekly radio show reaching over 2
of the jazz hymnal "Swing a New S
many of his own compositions. Th
ist Al Hamme, bassist Tony Marin
special guest vocalist Warren Coc
Jamms Jazz Performance Compe
worked with jazz greats such as
Harrell, Peter Appleyard, Richa
Holober, Sherrie Maricle, Ann
Brown, Tom Whaley, Fred He
Dave Liebman and Betty Buc
group at www.presbybop.com
then bring your sweetheart to
both sacred and secular jazz
quired for the evening ever
student suggested price \$5
childcare is available with

Presbybop Jazz Quartet

featuring

Bill Carter, piano
Al Hamme, saxophone
Tony Marino, bass
Ron Vincent, drums



Sunday, March 19, 2006

4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
3231 Tilghman Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Celebrating 175 years – A Continuing Presence

NASSAU AT SIX
AN EVENING OF DINNER AND MUSIC

JAZZ VESPERS SERVICE
FEATURING



Sunday, February 20, 2005, 6:00 p.m.

Nassau Presbyterian Church
61 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey 08542



FAITH

IN A

NEW KEY

A CONVERSATION
BETWEEN JAZZ AND
CHRISTIAN FAITH

Featuring the Presbybop Quartet

REV. BILL CARTER, PIANO

AL HAMME, SAXOPHONES & FLUTE

TONY MARINO, ACOUSTIC BASS

TOM WHALEY, DRUMS

Tuesday, May 1st
Amistad Chapel
700 Prospect Avenue

12:00 PM – A musical conversation

1:00 PM – Roundtable discussion with Bill Carter

LATER THAT EVENING, JOIN THE PRESBYBOP QUARTET
AT PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC
2592 W. 14TH STREET
FOR 7:30 PM JAZZ VESPERS WORSHIP

Call for information: (216) 736-2181



SPONSORED BY

PROCLAMATION, IDENTITY AND COMMUNICATION MINISTRY TEAM **Office of General Ministries**
WORSHIP AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM **Local Church Ministries**

MEMORIAL JAZZ CONCERT

SATURDAY, APRIL 28 - 7:00 P.M.

**COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BEN AVON
7501 CHURCH AVENUE**

IN MEMORY OF REV. BRENT J. DUGAN

Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet will present a jazz concert in the sanctuary of Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon on Saturday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m. Led by Presbyterian minister Bill Carter, the Presbybop Quartet has performed regularly since its formation in 1993.

Featuring musicians who have worked regularly with David Liebman, Gerry Mulligan, Slam Stewart, Red Rodney, and Phil Woods, the Quartet has a well-established "niche" among faith-based communities that normally have little contact with improvised

music. The group takes pride in presenting the highest quality of improvised music, and does so among people who may have forgotten that church music is one of the deepest and most neglected roots of jazz.

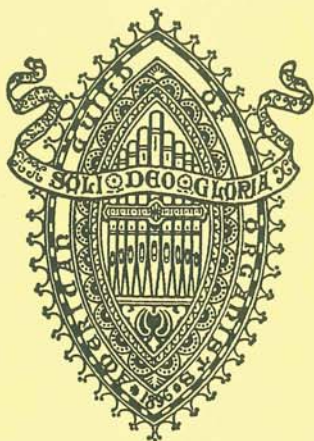
The Presbybop Quartet has performed and been in residence at major conferences from Massachusetts to Utah, from Arkansas to New York. They have led educational clinics and jazz vespers services for the American Guild of Organists, taught improvisation to high school musicians, and twice served as "jazz theologians in residence" at Princeton Theological Seminary. The Quartet has also presented hundreds of jazz worship services around the United States. Most recently, they served as the "house band" for the national conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators, having done so previously for the 2005 National Pastors Sabbath for Presbyterian clergy and the 2004 General Assembly meeting in Richmond, VA.



Most poignantly, Bill Carter was a good friend of Brent Dugan, and they shared a common love of pastoral ministry and good jazz. The concert will introduce a new composition that Bill wrote upon hearing the news of Brent's passing. Titled "The Last Word," the tune is a musical reflection on Psalm 9, and is dedicated to Brent's memory.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an evening of accessible and swinging jazz! A freewill offering will be received.

A light reception will be held following the concert.



Canton Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists
presents

Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet

Monday, October 21, 2002, 7:30 p.m.
Trinity United Church of Christ

This evening's program is co-sponsored by Trinity UCC, the Eastern Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ, and the Canton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The AGO Chapter members and officers welcome all guests from the community and from this church. We invite you to contribute to the artists' fees and expenses for the program at the conclusion of the evening.



According to the purpose statement of the quartet, "Presbybop Music exists to create jazz music that glorifies God, renews the Christian church, and models the integration of faith and the arts." Based in northeastern Pennsylvania, this group of consummate professionals has presented concerts and jazz worship services around the country; they want to help infuse the life of faith with the swinging pulse of jazz. Much of their repertoire includes arrangements of old familiar hymn tunes which come alive for the worshipers in refreshing expressions. Formed in 1993, their music has been widely acclaimed; to date they have two successful compact discs: "Faith in a New Key" and "Dancing Day." Dave Brubeck wrote a review that said, "You are doing something very important. Your CD is to be highly recommended." Dr. Albert Blackwell of Furman University, writing in *The Sacred in Music* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1999), described one of the recordings as "An alliance of fine jazz and graceful theological reflection. The finest recording of its kind."

-- Presbybop's "Fragile Incarnation Tour" --

Wednesday, October 16: The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, PA

Thursday, October 17: Arts Festival, Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA

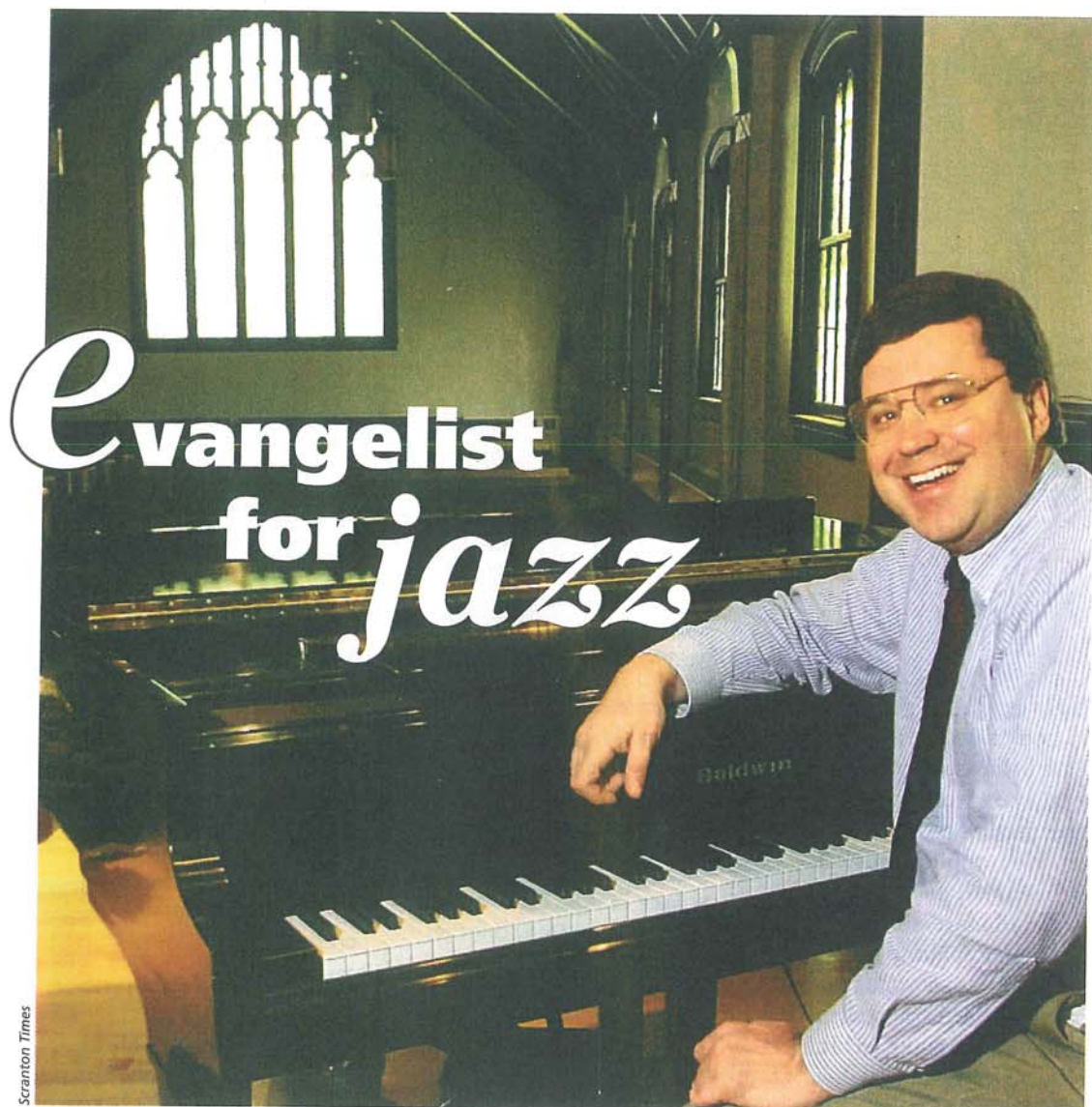
Friday/Saturday/Sunday, October 18-20: First Presbyterian Church, Warren, PA

Tuesday, October 22: Plymouth Church (UCC); 2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights

Wednesday, October 23: Worthington Presbyterian Church, Worthington, OH

Thursday, October 24: Wayside Presbyterian Church, Erie, PA

Bill Carter came to the pulpit by way of the nightclub



Carter on his jazz services:
"I enjoy watching people's expressions when they enter the sanctuary and discover what is happening. A few folks may look shocked or confused, but the great majority of them grin widely and even break into laughter. By the time of the benediction, almost everyone taps their toes to the glory of God."

Jazzy, cool, swinging, bopping—these are not words that come immediately to mind to describe the average group of Presbyterians. But they seem right to Bill Carter, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, who came to the pulpit by way of the night club and describes himself as "an evangelist for jazz."

"I was a working jazz pianist who got tapped on the shoulder by God," he told an audience in Toronto last November. Carter gave both the opening and the closing

By Solange De Santis

address at a day-long conference called "Sacred Jazz" sponsored by the Sacred Arts Trust of the Anglican Foundation of Canada. About 35 clergy, laypeople and musicians attended.

On the face of it, Carter said, jazz in church would

seem to be a bad fit. The music is not exactly associated with the kind of places people go on a Sunday morning. Jazz belongs to the city on a rainy night, cigar smoke drifting through a spotlight, fast men, loose women—and, he believes, God.

Uncharted territory

For the last 12 years Carter has been working on "how jazz can come into the sanctuary." It has not been easy, either for Carter or for jazz itself. One of his jazz heroes, Dave Brubeck, was commissioned several years ago to write music for a papal mass in San Francisco. He composed a chorale and fugue, but at the mass, although a huge choir and brass orchestra played his music, he and his quartet were not allowed to improvise on the themes he had written.

"Improvisation is an act of faith, an informed risk,

Why jazz belongs in worship

BY BRADLEY SOWASH

a willingness to jump into uncharted territory, but with a safety net of grace," Carter says. But its very freedom is also threatening. "We like to have things bolted down when it comes to church. Jazz can upset people who prefer to live their religion to a tidy script."

Since his call to serve the Clarks Summit church Carter has organized a jazz group called the Presbybop Quartet, composed jazz music related to Scripture and the liturgy, established a Web site (www.presbybop.com) and introduced jazz services. A typical reaction after one service: "The music was wonderful. I almost felt like tapping my foot."

In recent years Carter has recorded four compact discs and toured around the country with his quartet. He has also edited a new jazz worship book titled *Swing a New Song to the Lord*. "We believe congregations should participate in a jazz worship service," Carter notes, "rather than sit passively as if attending a concert. We compiled musical resources to allow that to happen."

Thanks to Carter's influence, the PCUSA national conference center at Stony Point, New York, has begun to host an annual "Jazz and the Church" conference. Carter calls it "a family reunion for creative souls." This year's conference is scheduled for October 12-14 and will feature pianist Deanna Witkowski, an emerging jazz star who was recently profiled on NPR's "Piano Jazz."

"Jamming on Scripture"

Sometimes jazz musicians are the ones who have trouble adjusting to playing in church.

At one of Carter's early jazz services a drummer failed to show up. When Carter called him the groggy man's excuse was, "I thought 10 o'clock came at night."

The principles of jazz are really not so foreign to church, Carter said in Toronto. "If you dare preach a sermon, you are jamming on Scripture."

When jazz musicians come together, "there is a sense of community"—like worshipers—"a shared experience of creation."

Carter noted that the Bible is full of music. We read about those who "prophesied with lyres, harps and cymbals" (1 Chronicles 25:1-3). The psalms are a book of songs, and Carter says "the musician in him" sees

■ **Jazz is multi-cultural and inclusive.** Jazz was born in America when the music of European colonists blended with African rhythms preserved by slaves. Latin cultures introduced a third influence. Jazz continues to be enjoyed by people of diverse backgrounds.

■ **Jazz is indigenous but universal.** Jazz is indigenous to America, unlike the European musical imports featured in much of U.S. Christian worship. It is also enjoyed worldwide. Similarly, when we gather to worship locally, we simultaneously participate in a worldwide Christian body.

■ **Jazz involves cooperation.** Each musician both supports his/her colleagues and works as a soloist. Listeners inspire the music through their reactions. Church life exemplifies similar cooperation.

■ **Jazz makes for excellent evangelism.** Many churches have discovered that a jazz worship service appeals to people whose past experiences have led them to consider organized religion uninviting, dogmatic, irrelevant or even repressive.

■ **Jazz is spontaneous.** The essence of jazz is improvisation, spontaneous variations on a given theme. Its creativity relies on a connection to the Spirit. Jazz imitates God's creation—ever evolving.

■ **Jazz has a range.** Sometimes meditative, sometimes celebratory, jazz touches us by speaking directly to a spectrum of emotions. Louis Armstrong said, "What we play is life." The church year also reflects this range of experience—from the wonder of Christmas to the reflective Lent season, and from baptisms to weddings to funerals.

■ **Jazz offers a tradition-based alternative.** Most churches are interested in balancing heritage and contemporary relevance. Jazz renditions of the remarkable American hymnody we have inherited link the past to the present.

■ **Jazz crosses generations.** Unlike some types of music featured in contemporary worship services, jazz appeals to people of all ages.

Bradley Sowash is a jazz pianist, speaker and educator living in Columbus, Ohio. For more information visit www.bradley.sowash.com or call 614-846-1454.

Psalms 137 (in which the Israelites lament their captivity in Babylon) as blues.

Carter finds the deepest expressions of his faith through music. In Revelation, he said, "you hear a song that will not end, a song at the heart of all reality." At that point he sat down at the piano and played an original composition. Full of colors, the sound of summer, and a touch of wistfulness, it was called "Welcome Home." □

Solange De Santis is a free-lance writer based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. This article, first published in the Presbyterian Record, has been adapted with permission.

Publications

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outStanding in the Field

Where the Bible Meets the Blues

Bill Carter Joins Theology and Jazz

The first time Bill Carter tried using his talents as a jazz musician in worship at the First Presbyterian Church in Clarks Summit, PA, (the congregation he has pastored for the past seven years) was on a Sunday in Lent. The lectionary psalm for the day (Psalm 137)



gruesomely lamented Israel's Babylonian captivity by asking God to dash the captors' children's heads against a rock.

It was also Girl Scout Sunday.

With that bizarre juxtaposition and his admittedly devilish sense of humor, Carter decided to present the psalm as a blues piece.

"The text was about being a long way from home," he says, "and the psalmist chose to sing in the language of oppression. For us in America, that's the blues."

So Carter, a professional jazz pianist before he enrolled at Princeton Seminary in 1982, arranged a blues rendition of the text for a tenor in his choir and accompanied him on piano. "After he sang, I talked about what it meant to feel far from home, but the music was really the sermon."

Joining jazz and theology is now commonplace in Carter's ministry; in a sense, it furnishes a defining paradigm for his faith. "I've always been concerned about integrating the various pieces of my life," he says, "especially since I was called to ministry. The Reformed tradition speaks strongly to the head, the intellectual part of who I am. It's very text-oriented. But when we smashed our statues and took the arts out of our churches during the Reformation, we lost

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something. Theoretical truth must also be embodied."

For Carter, jazz is the tune that incarnates the text. "Jazz and other new, non-traditional forms of liturgical music join the text of the Scripture and the church's historic confessions with the tune of human experience," he explains.

He thinks good preaching should do the same thing. "I've learned how to preach good sermons by tuning in to other preachers who tell stories from human experience, like Fred Craddock [former professor of preaching and New Testament at Candler School of Theology]. I listen to his tapes and try out his sermon tunes in my voice. That's how you learn to play jazz, too. You listen to Coltrane or Brubeck and put your fingers where they did on the piano or saxophone keys and hear how their music sounds in your voice, your style."

Carter heard lots of jazz growing up in Owego, NY. His mother played the clarinet, and he remembers many evenings spent listening to Benny Goodman and Count Basie records. His own piano lessons took him from two-part-inventions by Bach to the blues. He played his way through college at SUNY Binghamton ("I think I played at more wedding receptions and parties in my last year of high school and my four years of college than I've attended in twelve years of ministry," he says).

The Christian faith was a mainstay in his home, too. He describes a nurturing Presbyterian family that "went to church [the First Presbyterian Union Church of Owego] every Sunday, attended Sunday School, stayed for coffee hour after service, and talked about the sermon over Sunday dinner. We even made every member canvass calls!" he remembers.



So it seemed natural to Carter to find himself in seminary. He "put music on ice" while at PTS, and while pastoring his first congregation (the Catasauqua Presbyterian Church in Catasauqua, PA). "I felt for a time as if I had to leave the music behind, as if this new calling was very different, and my jazz was, in a sense, a lesser gift," he says.

But the Clarks Summit congregation wasn't satisfied with that reasoning. "This congregation celebrates and cultivates people's gifts, including their

pastor's," he says. "And their understanding of spiritual gifts goes far beyond the traditional ones."

Now Carter plays regularly in a jazz quartet, with "gigs" in churches, nightclubs, and colleges. In 1996 he returned to his undergraduate alma mater to perform and lecture as a jazz pianist in residence. And this summer he and his quartet were featured at the Seminary's annual Institute of Theology in an evening of jazz. Carter also teamed with his friend, fellow-pastor and poet Bill Leety, to lead an Institute workshop on liturgy and the arts.

Interested in expanding the range of music that is used in worship, Carter urges pastors to learn to work with the musicians in their churches and to trust them. "Ministers should teach their musicians theology, and learn music theory themselves in return," he says. "Together pastors and musicians must dig deeply into the bedrock of the church's liturgy-its texts and its music-and their own experiences of God's presence."

Ultimately, Carter believes faith thrives when people integrate what they confess and what they experience about God. "Jazz has done that for me," he says.

And he hopes to share that insight with his newest community of faith-the Princeton Seminary Board of Trustees. Elected as an alumni/ae trustee this past May, Carter will serve a three-year term on the board.

He muses about the board working as "more of a collaborative jazz group than as a traditionally structured organization."

"I hope we can talk together about the whole business of integration between tradition and innovation, between Scripture and experience, between text and tune," he says. "I hope we can be flexible, and I hope we can even have fun! For me, jazz is a model of how to do that. I thought for so long that there was a clear line between the secular and the sacred; but now I believe that if the whole earth is really the Lord's, no experience is outside the sacred."

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JANICE RIGGLE HUIE
RESIDENT BISHOP

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE
NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

June 26, 2001

Reverend Bill Carter
First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Dear Bill:

On behalf of the Little Rock Annual Conference, I want to thank you and the Presbybop Jazz Quartet for your wonderful gift of preaching, teaching, and music at our conference sessions. You did a remarkable job of helping move us "out of the ordinary" in our thinking about worship. Your sermons and Bible studies were excellent.

I pray God's blessings on you and the Quartet as you continue to do worship in a new key. Please convey to your associates in music our joy at having them share with the United Methodist family in Arkansas.

Grace and peace,

Janice Riggle Huie



The Presbyterian Church

414 Grant Street, Sewickley, Pennsylvania 15143-1231

Church Lane, Edgeworth, Pennsylvania 15143

(412) 741-4550 FAX: 741-1210

www.sewickleypresby.org

November 7, 2002

The Rev. Mr. William G. Carter, Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania 18411

Dear Bill:

It was a great pleasure to finally meet you when you and the other members of the Presbybop Quartet participated in our weekly Healing and Wholeness Service on Wednesday, October 16, 2002. From the reception the quartet received following the service, I think you are aware how well people responded to your musical leadership and performance. Those in attendance that evening continue to tell me how touched and moved they were that evening.

Having heard a few of your ensemble's recordings, I was delighted to have the opportunity to hear you perform in person. I am also pleased to have been able to purchase a few additional compact discs to give as Christmas presents. I hope that the remainder of your tour went well and that you sold out of CDs.

Sadly, in my fifteen years here, this is the first time the music used throughout an entire worship service was presented in a jazz idiom. We have had occasional pieces, but I had always hoped to expand beyond that. The work presented by you and the other members of the quartet has great integrity and is of the highest quality. I strongly feel that had not an ensemble of your quartet's stature participated, the response would not have been so overwhelmingly positive.

Thank you very much to you and the other members of the Presbybop Quartet for all you do to further the voice of jazz as a valid idiom for the presentation of sacred music. May God grant you many more years of music-making.

Now, I gather, as all church professionals, you are highly involved in finalizing plans for your congregation's observances of the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany cycle. All best wishes to you and your family for a joyous and blessed holiday season. I also ask that you convey my regards to Connie and John Weiss.

Yours in Christ,

R. Craig Dobbins

David J. McFarlane, Senior Pastor; Jean H. Henderson, Parish Associate and Director of Adult Ministries

Chris Davis, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries; R. Craig Dobbins, Director of Music Ministries

Laura L. Mikush, Financial Administrator; Emily D. Shipley, Director of Children's Education;

Karen L. Steup, Coordinator of Volunteers; Wilma M. Gaughan, Parish Nurse

CALVIN

College

January 16, 2003

Rev. William G. Carter
1763 Newton Ransom Blvd.
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Calvin Institute of
Christian Worship

3201 Burton Street, S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616-957-6088

616-957-7168 fax

email: worship@calvin.edu



Dear Bill,

Thank you so very much for sharing your gifts, insights, time, and energy with us at this year's Worship Symposium. We are grateful for the privilege of working with and learning from such a diverse and gifted group of presenters, this year with presenters coming literally from around the world!

We pray that God's Spirit will use your contributions at this year's conference to inspire and enrich the lives of many participants—and ultimately to contribute to significant renewal of worship in the congregations they represent.

We also hope to be in continuing conversation with you after Symposium. We look forward to hearing your insights about ways we can improve the conference and its administration as well as learning from your work in the months and years to come.

If you have additional conference-related expenses, please return the expense form found in your packet to our office by January 31.

May the Lord bless your continuing ministry.

With gratitude, and on behalf of the entire Institute staff,

Emily Brink and Cindy Holtrop, Symposium co-chairpersons

*Blessings on your continued
work with your grant.*

Thanks for that final sweet gift of "Slane" after dinner!



**216th General
Assembly**
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Richmond, Virginia
June 26-July 3, 2004

NEWS

GA04040

Jazzy service thrills

Quintet's bluesy accompaniment is just right for confession

by Eva Stimson

RICHMOND, June 28 — The swinging sounds of jazz greeted worshippers at the General Assembly's Monday evening service.

It was the Rev. Bill Carter at the piano, with the other three members of his "Presbybop Quartet" playing saxophones and flute, bass and drums.

Carter, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clarks Summit, PA, is a leading figure in jazz-worship circles. His quartet, along with vocalist Warren Cooper, led the Assembly congregation in jazzy versions of such hymns as "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah."

The five supplied an appropriately bluesy background for the confession of sins and a soulful post-sermon rendition of "There Is a Balm in Gilead."

The Rev. Teri Thomas, the pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, IN, focused her sermon on Jesus' words in Luke 6: "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks."

"Whatever you're full of will come out," she told her listeners. "Our speech will reveal what is at the core of our being."

Noting that it's easy to fill our hearts with anger, cynicism and hate, Thomas urged her congregation to join her in making "a choice to fill our hearts with hope."

More jazz tonight

Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet will provide "An Evening of Jazz" tonight (Tuesday) beginning at 8:30 at nearby Second Presbyterian Church, at 3 N. Fifth Street in Richmond. The special concert is sponsored by the Conference Ministries of the PC(USA) — Ghost Ranch in New Mexico, Stony Point in New York and Montreat in North Carolina.

The Arkansas United Methodist newspaper has been telling the church's story in print since 1881; online since 1996.

Making disciples of Jesus Christ through United Methodist congregations in Arkansas.

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ARCHIVES

Jazz and faith intertwined

Bill Carter expresses faith through music he loves

There are good preachers and there are good musicians. Rarely do they come in the same package.

This year's Little Rock Annual Conference saw just such a combination in Bill Carter.

As conference preacher, Carter brought inspiring messages from the pulpit. He was equally comfortable at the piano, sharing his skills, gifts and graces for jazz music along with his Presbybop Quartet.

Carter is pastor of the 610-member First Presbyterian Church in Clarks Summit, Pa. There, he does all the "regular things" a pastor does - preach, visit the sick, lead Bible studies, participate in mission projects. He also counts among his blessings a congregation that understands his passion for jazz and allows him time to share it with others, through performing at venues around the country. He serves a congregation that from the beginning "has been after me to use all of my gifts," Carter said.

Good thing, too. "I realized that for me to be complete as a pastor, all the parts needed to be integrated, to fit together," he says. "I knew a certain part of me would be incomplete if I didn't play music somehow."

On most occasions, Carter is joined by three other highly accomplished and talented jazz musicians - saxophonist Al Hamme, drummer Joe Roma and bassist Tony Marino. The quartet known as Presbybop has been playing together since 1993. Jazz is new to some audiences, an old favorite with others. But in many church settings, it's totally foreign. Carter finds





INTERIM MINISTRY NETWORK

07/16/2002

Bill Carter and Presbybop Quartet
1763 Newton Ranson Blvd
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Dear Bill:

The Interim Ministry Network's 22nd Annual Conference will be recorded in the IMN history as a success! Due mostly to your superior style of jazz music and because of your time and effort, the entire Conference was well received by the attendees. The Board of Directors, the staff and the entire Interim Ministry Network membership is grateful for your professional help and support.

We all appreciate your willingness to open your busy schedule to help us fulfill our mission to strengthen the spiritual and organizational health of the church-at-large by supporting those who lead congregations in times of transition.

Again, we thank you for your informative presentation and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Huheey, CAE
Executive Director

Crystal A. Wells
Program and Finance Manager

the institutions sixt
ecumenical commun
observance will take place
after the 10:45 am. worship
service Sunday morning at
the Amphitheater. All are
welcome.

challenging task of molding,
glazing and firing the slender
stemmed goblets. So moving
was the experience for one pot-
ter that she said, "I just wanted
to do it. I don't want any credit
for it."

a "flaw" emerged as outer
layers fell away from one of
his creations.
"That's like us," Obourn
said. "We come to the table
with our flaws, and we leave
as whole people."

(now deceased) at his turn-
ing lathe on the porch of the
Strohl Art Gallery, creat-
ing bowls from storm-felled
trees that had once shaded
Chautauqua. Approached
about providing a number of

Jazz worship music to fill Amp Sunday night

by Laura McCrystal
Staff writer

This weekend's Sacred
Song service will feature
lively jazz and gospel music
to "let our hair down," ac-
cording to Jared Jacobsen,
organist and coordinator of
worship and sacred music.

The service, at 8 p.m. Sun-
day in the Amphitheater, is
titled "A Jazz Evening with
Bill Carter and the Presby-
bop Quartet."

Bill Carter, pianist and
the primary composer for
Bill Carter and the Presby-
bop Quartet, a sacred jazz
group, will be the minister
in residence at the Presby-
terian House for Week Five.
He and the rest of the group
performed at a Sacred Song
service in 2009, along with
vocalist Warren Cooper, who
will join them on the Amp
stage this weekend.

Jacobsen said last year's
service was a great success
due to Carter's piano skills

on Sunday, Carter said, ex-
plaining that with jazz mu-
sic, "There's no quite telling
what's going to happen."

Like any other Sacred
Song service, Sunday evening
will also include music by the
Chautauqua Choir. Jacobsen
said they will sing "Blessed
Assurance," with lyrics by
Fanny Crosby, who Jacobsen
said came to Chautauqua In-
stitution at the end of the 19th
century and beginning of
the 20th century. The tune is
by Phoebe Knapp, a contem-
porary of Crosby's, but the
choir will perform a modern
arrangement of the hymn by
Mark Hayes. This arrange-
ment turns the hymn into a
gospel shuffle, Jacobsen said.
"It takes it from the realm
of an ordinary hymn into
something that's very much
coming from the bottom of
your soul," he said.

The choir will also sing
"Satan, Come Down!" an
African-American spiritual
arranged by William Allen
Pasch. This song, like most
spirituals, is based on the
repetition of a short phrase
of text, which Jacobsen said
is, "Satan, we're gonna tear
your kingdom down."

Of all the music Jacob-
sen purchased for the choir
this summer, he said this
piece is among those he is
most looking forward to
performing because he is
"dying to see how it's going
to work."

"It's very different; it's
very upbeat," Jacobsen said
of the service as a whole.
"There will be some quiet
moments, too, so it won't all
be rock 'em, sock 'em. But
it's one of our most interest-
ing Sacred Song services of
the season."

Kaye Lindauer

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Group reflects minister's reverence for art of jazz

By JEFF DEAN
Times Leader Correspondent

Just where the notes come from, jazz pianist Bill Carter doesn't pretend to know. He is playing and improvising, and they come. And that's all that matters.

But press him a little and he might just reveal his real suspicion that the source of his musical inspiration is none other than the Holy Spirit itself.

When Carter figured that out, about 10 years ago, he said it allowed him to reconcile the two seemingly disparate parts of his life. By day he is a minister at the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, but by night he is a jumping, swinging, club-playing jazz piano player.

"It was a convergence of a lot of different things," said Carter, of his motivation to form the Presbybop Quartet in 1992, a jazz ensemble appearing this Sunday at the First United Presbyterian Church in West Pittston.

First among those converging factors was his move in 1990 to Clarks Summit to become minister of the First Presbyterian Church — just an hour from his Binghamton University mentor and professor, saxophonist Al Hamme.

"The first two years we played a couple of casual engagements together," said Carter, "then in 1992 our organist wanted a vacation and I invited (Hamme) down to play a jazz service with me at my church. He suggested including a couple musical friends, a bass player (Tony Marino) and a drummer (Tom Whaley), and it turned out to be a smashing success.

"It was standing room only; that amazed me. It was a great church service."

Carter said the result of that first jazz service was the Presbybop Quartet, a jazz ensemble devoted to playing music that "encourages the people who are playing and listening and makes them feel better."

Ironically, Carter is the only Presbyterian in the group, but that hasn't kept the quartet from making a name for itself playing Christian jazz services all over the United States. Along the way the group also has released two CDs, titled

"Presbybop jazz is jazz. It just showcases the excellence musicians can reach if they work hard, play hard and enjoy playing together."

The Rev. Bill Carter
Jazz pianist and founder
of the Presbybop Quartet

"Faith in a New Key" and "Dancing Days," both of which can be found online and in music stores.

Carter said Sunday's performance will feature guest saxophonist and flutist, Michael Carbone, the jazz program director from Binghamton University.

So what exactly is church-inspired jazz music? Well, according to Carter:

"Presbybop jazz is jazz. It just showcases the excellence musicians can reach if they work hard, play hard and enjoy playing together. The music points beyond itself. It's not just wailing to express ourselves. We're trying to point to hope and love and faith as the keys to human life.

"In short, we're using the music to point to God, who inspires all creative things. The music, as part of a worship service, does not have to necessarily be quiet or meditative. It just has to cultivate a spirit of worship."

Translated, that means the Presbybop Quartet ends up playing a lot of improvised original jazz music as well as music created by jazz greats such as Dave Brubeck (who is a personal friend of Carter's) and Duke Ellington.

"In my opinion, jazz music can push a church beyond its own staleness sometimes," said Carter. "At some churches it's the same every day, and while there can be great comfort in that, there can be great complacency and boredom in that, too.

"On the other hand with jazz, we never play the same thing twice. That's unsettling to some at first, but I think most people realize that our jams are greater than the sum of their parts."

Worship gets a twist of jazz

Religion: Carter plays while he preaches, and he looks for God in all his jazz.

By JONAS KOVER
Observer-Dispatch

LITTLE FALLS — The Rev. Bill Carter faced a crossroads after he graduated from the State University of New York at Binghamton: Was his devotion going to be toward preaching or jazz?

He chose both.

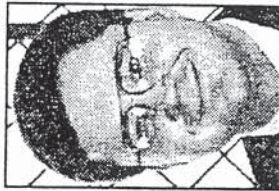
A pianist with traveling jazz groups while a student, Carter, a philosophy major with jazz history minor, sensed he had a spiritual calling. After he received a scholarship at Princeton Theological Seminary, he also was offered a job with a New York City jazz group.

The crossroads literally appeared when he loaded up his car and headed for seminary. Princeton was one way and New York the other, he says. "It was kind of a difficult choice."

Carter eventually became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Clarks Summit, Pa., a suburb of Scranton, and has

found a way to merge the intense feelings of religion and jazz.

"One of my continued projects is to weave together my musical and theological sides. I have been a piano player since I was 8 years old. When I went into seminary, I always wondered what connection religion has with with jazz."



CARTER

Finding similarities, Carter has introduced jazz into services, written articles on the subject and has lectured on and performed at other churches. At 7 tonight, he will lead a jazz quartet in an ecumenical jazz worship in the Holy Family Parish, 590 E. John St.

Some common elements between Christianity and jazz are an oral tradition, a spiritual quest and the knowledge of a creator, he says.

"Jazz is an art form that comes basically by the ear. People hear it. ... That's what storytelling and

Details

WHAT: Canal Days Ecumenical Jazz Worship Service.

WHERE: Holy Family Parish, 590 E. John St., Little Falls.

WHEN: 7 tonight.

SPONSOR: Little Falls Clergy Association.

PERFORMERS: The Rev. Bill Carter, piano; Steve Gilmore, bass; Al Hamme, saxophone, and Tom Whaley, drums.

ADMISSION: A free will offering will be taken.

JAM SESSION: The group invites all musicians to participate in a jam session after the service.

OTHER EVENTS: The service is part of Little Falls' Seventh Annual Canal Days Celebration.

preaching is about. People hear it. ... What matters is the way it comes off the manuscript to become a oral experience. Faith in church is based upon what we hear, the Apostle Paul says."

Acknowledgment of a creator and creativity is also an important factor, he says. "As Christians, we believe in a God who is alive and we call him a creator. While jazz musicians may not always spend a great deal of time in church ... most are very in tune with the creator ... since they create the music as it

happens."

One of his jazz models is tenor saxophonist John Coltrane, who went through many musical transformations in his short life.

"Somewhere around 1964 to 1965, his music changed and turned from becoming commercially appealing to an outgoing search for God. Even though there was turmoil going on in the '60s and race riots, his way was by searching, free and atonal. It was a blending together of a gentle peace and fierce frenetic wildness. ... It was all part of a reli-

gious search. He was searching for God."

Coltrane died two years later at age 41.

Carter says jazz is frightening for a lot of people, especially in a church setting, where many "want to hear the same old thing in the same old way."

He finds that in his own church, there is "always kind of a certain cautiousness among the folk," but there is always a delight when people realize that the music is of the quality it is.

"We try to program the music so it is not going to confront the listener abrasively. When we do it at our church, it is a communion service. People come to take communion and worship. They don't come to be disgruntled and be blown out of the water," he says.

Tonight's service will include traditional church music played in a way that sounds new and still captures the interest and energy of people coming to worship, he says.

"It will be a true blending of jazz tradition and worship tradition on common ground."

MAIN Stream

A Newsletter of the Latrobe Presbyterian Church

Jazz Comes To LPC on April 21

from William G. Carter



When you arrive for morning worship on April 21, a quick glance at the bulletin may lead you to think that the service will be like any other Sunday morning liturgy. But when you enter a church sanctuary to the sounds of a swinging saxophone and a walking bass, you may realize it will not be business as usual. The Bill Carter Jazz Quartet will be leading a Jazz Communion service at Latrobe Presbyterian Church.

This group of experienced musicians has led jazz worship services throughout the northeast, including at last June's meeting of the Synod of the Trinity at Lafayette College.

Last month, they played for Marj Carpenter, our General Assembly Moderator, who spoke at First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, PA. That's the church where the group's pianist, Bill Carter, is pastor and head of staff.

A long-time friend of David Batchelder and Mary Lou Ferris, Rev. Carter has led jazz worship services for a number of years. He began to compose jazz settings of hymns and scripture texts as a student of Princeton Theological Seminary. Some years ago, the organist at his current church took a vacation day and no substitute could be found. Rev. Carter volunteered to lead the service from the piano bench, jazzing up a few hymns along the way. The response was so overwhelming that the Clarks Summit church schedules an annual jazz communion service on Labor Day weekend.

Rather than offering a "sanctified concert," the jazz quartet weaves its music into the fabric of the Sunday service. As the congregation confesses its sins, the band plays the blues. When the congregation sings its hymns, toes begin to tap and hearts are lifted.

The April 21 worship service will include a variety of favorite hymns set to a swinging beat. Rev. Carter's sermon, "Even the Sea Monster's Are Singing," will be based on Psalm 148. A variety of jazz selections will be played during the prelude and the postlude. Come early to hear the music, and bring some friends to this special worship service.

OGHS Offering Dedication April 14

This Sunday, April 14, will bring to completion our many weeks of preparation for the 1996 One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Our individual donations will become one, representative of Latrobe Presbyterian Church, as we dedicate this special offering during morning worship. We have been participants in this preparation as we have listened to and reflected on the needs laid before us in each Moment for Mission and as we have marked each day on our OGHS calendar.

As we further prepare to contribute to and dedicate this offering, let us remember that our gifts to OGHS are a "tangible expression of Christ's love for all the world," and that they do make a real difference in the lives of struggling and hurting peoples, our "neighbors," around the world.

If you have lost track of your OGHS envelope mailed to you, additional envelopes are available in the pews. Children are reminded to return their OGHS banks for the dedication.