

Spotlight on Canyon Community Presbyterian Church

By John Koerner, Relations Committee member, Clarksburg First Presbyterian Church

At right, Canyon Community members Mary Gribko, Debra Hagedorn, and Mary Jo Sodomick pose for a picture in the fellowship hall of their church. I was told that not too long ago the room was just painted blocks. Since then, they have refinshed the walls and put up tasteful decorations and new windows. The room feels light, airy, warm, and comfortable.



Canyon Community is excited about their worship and the great music that is part of the services. They recently had a very talented guest cellist, who added greatly to their experience of that morning's worship. They love their pastor, Judy Shafer, and enjoy worship and working together.

Christmas Eve is always an extra special time for Canyon Community. The first service held in the present building was on Christmas Eve in 1947.

Canyon Community is another of our small churches with a big heart. They have two flea markets each year, which they report are a lot work, but also a great deal of fun. People from all around come to the flea markets because they have a reputation for making sure everything is clean and in working order before it is put in the sale.

The church has a food pantry for the needy in the neighborhood, and they also give out coats and some other household items as they are available. The church building is also used by others in the community. The Canyon Seniors meet at the church monthly, and the Mt. Union Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) club holds their meeting there. Recently, a knitting group from the area lost the place they were meeting and asked if they could meet at the church. "Of course, we'd be glad to have you," they were told. The knitting group meets in the fellowship hall; they love the fact that it is flooded with daylight.

Although this is an older congregation with no young children at present, they are a happy, hopeful, and energetic group. Yes, they would like to have children present, but they don't let that drag them down. Instead they choose to focus on the ways that God has blessed them and to join God in the ministry he is doing around and through them.