

## **Sure Bet Living History**

### **Sure Bet Living and First Presbyterian Church: the Connection**

In 1990 First Presbyterian's Evangelism Committee desired to have an evangelist visit our church for a weekend of meetings. Simultaneously, a group of local pastors had a similar motivation. We joined forces and invited Dr. Leighton Ford for a full week of meetings scattered across Bethlehem in non-religious venues, culminating in a mass meeting at Moravian College and a Sunday service in our church. During follow-up evaluation meetings in 1991, the event committee gave birth to Share the Power, the parent organization for Sure Bet Living. Joe Kricks.

### **Sure Bet Living: an Outreach to Troubled Gamblers**

By the end of 2007 it was obvious that a casino would be part of Bethlehem's future. We in Share the Power worked hard to prevent that, but the political process opened the door. Now we turned our attention to finding and helping those gamblers whose lives were being destroyed by their addictive life-style. In 2009 STP began the organization known as Sure Bet Living. Under that banner SBL formed a state approved program to train counselors to intervene in compulsive gambler's lives. By 2010 the next phase, Finding and Helping, was under way. Joe Kricks

### **Sure Bet Living: Helping Gamblers to Freedom in Christ**

In 2010 First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem took the lead in providing funds to enable SBL to find and help compulsive gamblers find freedom from their destructive life-style, and was joined by several other churches in this common cause. SBL has since led seminars to help educate the public on gambling issues and formed a team of volunteers and counselors dedicated to offer Christ as the gambler's one Sure Bet to freedom. Joe Kricks