



Agape Herald

The Newsletter of the Presbytery of Huntingdon
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May 2003

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Coming Events:

Installation Ceremony for Joy Kaufman, General Presbyter, May 18, 3:00 PM, State College PC

Clergy Support Group, May 19th, Huntingdon PC

Presbytery Meeting, June 24, 2003, Pine Grove Presbyterian Church

KRISLUND KORNER PRE-SUMMER EDITION

Open House, May 17 1-7:30

Come and join the fun: fly a kite, climb the wall, eat a delicious cookout (2-5:30), attend the quilt auction (5:30), tour the facilities & land, and sing under the stars. Give us a call about how many are coming (814.422.8878) and plan for a great day in the mountains. Summer staff will be available to answer your summer camp questions.

CAMP: WE'VE GOT A PLACE FOR YOU!

Worried about finding a spot in one of the 32 summer camps? Don't fret, download an application from our website: www.krislund.org, and get ready for a week to remember. Activities will include new trails and a campout site on the recently purchased 1,500 acres.

SUMMER STAFF OPENINGS

Three male assistant counselor positions for high school seniors and

an arts & crafts director position are available. E-mail the camp's recruiter to get more information and an application: jerkrislund@juno.com.

SUMMER ARTS & CRAFTS NEEDS

Many new projects require lots of supplies. Please collect any or all of the items listed below and we will be glad to come and collect your donation before June 10.

- Toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- 8, 10, or 12-ounce cans
- Plastic quart container lids (i.e. yogurt container)
- 1g. Metal jar lids

150 ACRES DONATED

We are fast approaching the 2003 goal of 250-acre subscriptions. The fee of \$800 per acre is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize someone special, and all donations are tax deductible. Interested persons are asked to contact the Camp: (krislndsec@juno.com).

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Synod School

July 6-11, 2003

Come! Experience
Renewal, Rest, and
God's Abiding Pres-
ence!

Juniata College
Huntingdon, PA

Registration Deadline
May 29, 2003
Call 800-242-0534
Or register online at
www.syntrinity.org

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Cynthia L. Rigby
Austin Theological

Presbyterian Women Events

2003 Churchwide
Gathering of
Presbyterian Women
Louisville, KY
July 9 -13, 2003

Registration opens
January 15, 2003
For registration
forms call:
800-524-2612

Fall Gathering 2003
Sinking Valley PC
September 2003

Clara McMurtrie, A Legacy That Will Live Forever

*By Vicki Thompson, Fund Development Officer
(Special thanks to Rev. Rick Gardiner and the
kind folks at the Huntingdon County Historical
Society for assisting me in researching this
article)*

When Clara McMurtrie was born in 1860, females weren't expected to do anything important with their lives. As the youngest child of a wealthy family, Miss Clara's destiny was either to marry and raise a family or to remain in her parents' home and live the quiet, unassuming life of a spinster. Miss Clara never married or had a family, and she never had a career, yet she managed to live a life that was neither quiet nor unassuming and to leave a legacy that has immortalized her in places far distant from her hometown of Huntingdon.

Except for a few years spent in Maryland, where her father was engaged in the iron business near Fredrick, Miss Clara lived in Huntingdon. She spent the first half of her life in the house where she was born, at 106 Fourth Street. In 1890, she moved around the corner to the mansion on Penn and Fourth Street that her grandfather, Major David McMurtrie, had built.

Unlike most women of the time, Miss Clara received an excellent education. She attended Wilson Col-

Huntingdon County Library



Portrait of Clara McMurtrie at the
Huntingdon County Library

lege in Chambersburg from 1877 until early in 1879 when she had to abandon her college courses to help care for her invalid sister Margaret. She also traveled extensively with her brother Stewart. Because of his poor health, Stewart spent the winter months in warmer climates. He and Miss Clara visited California, Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica, and Florida. In 1905-6 they took a trip around the world, and in 1913, Miss Clara went to Europe on her own.

Her travels gave Miss Clara an international vision and a heart for missions. She had always been devoted to her church, Huntingdon Presbyterian Church, and had taught a Sunday School class of boys there for many years. She had a close relationship with her nephew, Robert E. Speer, who served for many years as Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Rev. Speer kept her informed of mission needs throughout the world, and in 1904, when Miss Clara wanted to establish a church in her mother's honor, he ad-



Huntingdon Historical Society

vised her that Mexico City needed one. The Margaret Whitakker McMurtrie Memorial Chapel will soon celebrate its centennial.

After her brother Stewart's death, Miss Clara wanted to establish another church in his honor. She sold a diamond necklace that had been a gift to her from Stewart, and used the \$5,000 to build Chapel by the Lake in Auk Bay, Alaska. That church is also still in existence.

Miss Clara spent her 92 years in service to others, supporting local projects with her time and talents, and giving generously of her resources to both individuals and institutions. She ensured that her good works would continue long after she was gone by providing for the support of many charities in her will.

After making many generous bequests to family members, Miss Clara bequeathed her home on Penn Street to Huntingdon to be used as the Huntingdon County Library and the home on Fourth Street to the Huntingdon Historical Society. She also sent up trust funds to provide a perpetual income for

these institutions. In addition, she set up trust funds for her church, her missionary society, the cemetery association, the Red Cross, and the Presbyterian Homes.

The Presbyterian Homes received a trust of \$10,000 at Miss Clara's death in 1952, and through the years, that fund has grown to over \$85,000. The Homes receives several thousand dollars income from it each year to help us provide for our residents who have outlived their resources and can't pay the cost of their care.

By today's standards, Miss Clara's life didn't seem especially memorable, but the lives of thousands of people are touched daily by the legacy she left.

If you would like to find out how you can leave a legacy to support the causes you love after you are gone, please contact Fund Development Officer Vicki Thompson at 814-695-637 x3051, 1-800-242-4037 or

*McMurtrie Baptismal Font at
Huntingdon Presbyterian Church*



Piano Needed

The Moshannon Heights Personal Care Home in Philipsburg is in need of a piano in good condition. The Home will arrange to have the piano moved at no cost to the donor. If you or someone you know has a piano to donate to the Home, please contact the Administrator Debbie Hollenbach at 814-342-0340 or Vicki Thompson at 1-800-242-4037 X 305.

Clergy Support Group News

The Clergy Support Group will meet Monday, May 19th, at 10:00 AM at the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church. The theme is "The Nuts and Bolts of Working Within Sessions."

We shall explore the character of the pastor as leader, the wisdom of the Session as decision-makers, and how we deal with difficult pastor-elder relationships.

All clergy are invited to attend. If you wish to receive a meeting reminder, please email your re-

**“Shine Like
Stars”
Connection
Assembly 2003**

July 30 – August 3,
2003
Louisville,
Kentucky

An event designed to equip and empower young people to lead, to listen, and to learn within their faith communities!

The Connection Assembly 2003 is a triennial assembly and is the national event for the Presbyterian Youth Connection.

Registration ends
May 1, 2003.

Materials are available from the Presbyterian office or can be downloaded from the Office of Youth Ministry website
www.pcusa.org/youthministry

Cost: \$235.00 per person
(travel and hotel not included)

Make your reservations
TODAY!

Do You Know Your Great-Grandmother's Name?

*By Vicki Thompson, CFRE
Fund Development Officer
Presbyterian Homes*

Unless you happen to be the family genealogist, you probably don't know your great-grandmother's name. But what if your great-grandparents had left money in their wills to establish a charitable endowment? What if you and your siblings met each year to decide which charities should receive a gift from the fund? No one in your family would ever forget your great-grandparents. This is a true legacy.

Could you leave a legacy like this? When we die and our estates are liquidated, all of our assets suddenly become available for whatever use we have selected. Our capacity to leave a charitable gift is probably greater than at any other time! Many people decide they want their favorite charities—church, other religious organizations, and secular charities—to inherit a part of their estates, along with their families.

Establishing such a legacy is easy. You can simply specify in your will that a certain amount of money from your estate will go into an endowment fund established with the charity of your choice or with a foundation that handles endowment funds for many charities. The principle of the fund will be invested and remain untouched forever, and the income from the fund will be distributed in whatever manner you have selected. You may specify in your will how, to which charity and for what purpose the income is to be distributed, or you may name advisors—family or friends, or other—who will make those decisions. Since

circumstances and the priorities of certain charities change as the years pass, advisors can adjust giving in the future to meet your goals. Assigning future generations this task also encourages them to develop their own habits of benevolence and involves them in the charitable missions that meant so much to you. Three generations from now, they'll also still remember your name and know what you considered important. This is a lasting legacy.

If you have questions, contact your attorney or Phil Blake at the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation at 1-888-221-3590.

Huntingdon Soup Kitchen Set Up

by Lesley Gardiner

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church had a successful first evening with its new Soup Kitchen. 28 members of the community partook of the free lasagna dinner provided by the members of the Fellowship and Outreach Committee.

Huntingdon Presbyterian Church plans to continue the Soup Kitchen on a monthly basis for several months. If interest continues then a more frequent meal will be served.

Submission deadlines for
Agape Herald:

June issue: June 8th

July issue: July 8th

August issue: August 7th

A Masterpiece for Human Feelings

By Lynn L. Illingworth
Pastoral Care Consultant

For me the most fascinating personality in the Old Testament is “Job”. Little is known about the author. There is no accurate date when it was written; in fact some scholars believe it to be the oldest written story on record. Maybe it is best to leave it at that. It is the ultimate masterpiece for human feelings. Alfred Tennyson calls it “the greatest poem of ancient and modern times”, for Job’s life is a paragon of ours. To really get a scintilla of what Job was like, one needs to read it over and over. Then it gets more interesting.

This pious human goes through a series of excruciating events, i.e., loss of loved one, possessions. He suffers greatly, has deep anger, feels utterly abandoned even by God. As for James in his letter referring to “the patience of Job” (James 5:11) forget it.

Only in the beginning does he even give an inkling. He even gets fed up with his pastoral counselors, and rightly so. All they did was mess up his life even more with their righteous sarcasm—“I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all” (Job 16:2).

It is in this whirlwind that God lets loose: “Gird up your loins like a man...” (Job 38:3). Now he gets a taste of

God’s reality. Now he knows God. A man named Joseph Fort Newton once wrote, “We cannot tell what may happen to us in the strange medley of life. But, we can decide what happens in us—how we can take it, what we do with it—that that is what really counts in the end.”

This is what Yahweh (God) was telling Job. It reveals our relationship to God. Job now, even in his moral torment, knows God as an act of personal faith, so that in the end Job prays not just for himself but also his friends. S

Some of our Presbytery Families are in the throes of whirlwinds. We need to open our hearts in love to them and assure them that through the Living Christ God’s Grace does bring healing as it did to Job. The words of our Lord ring true, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:29)

By experiencing Christ in our lives, our spiritual life can become healthier, more beautiful, and more complete despite our internal torments that may be haranguing to us and loved ones in our families. God’s grace will be with us.

Celebrate National Nursing Home Week With Us!

By Carol Berster, CEO
Presbyterian Homes in the Presbytery of Huntingdon

The week of May 11-17 is National Nursing Home Week, and we have many activities planned at our various facilities.

Woodland Retirement Center in Orbisonia is hosting an especially exciting event that is open to the public. At 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 17, the “Big Band Sound” will perform under the Big Top located in front of Woodland Retirement Center.

Woodland’s own “Gus the Gorilla” will be on hand to amuse young and old. We will have balloons and face painting for the children, and all are invited to participate in a cookout sponsored by Woodland’s volunteer Relay for Life team.

The Woodland Auxiliary will hold a bake sale from 2-4:00PM, and the proceeds will benefit the Home. We will also serve many delicious goodies throughout the day, including snow cones and cotton candy.

Reservations are not necessary, but please bring your own lawn chairs and come and join the fun!

May/June 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11	12	13 AUT Meeting, Ty- rone PC, 1:30 PM	14	15 LUT Meeting, Huntingdon PC, 10:00 AM	16	17
18 Joy Kaufman's In- stallation, State Col- lege PC, 4:00 PM	19	20 Personnel Com. Meeting, Presbytery Office, 9:00 AM	21 Staff Meeting, Pres- bytery Office, 9:30 AM	22	23	24 General Assembly begins, Denver, Colorado
25	26 Memorial Day Presbytery Office and Resource Center closed	27	28 DUT Meeting, Pine Grove Mills PC, 4:00 to 7:30 PM	29	30	31 General Assembly ends
1	2	3 Nominating Com. Meeting, Tyrone PC, 10:00 AM; Council Meeting, Ty- rone PC, 1:00 PM	4	5 COM Meeting, Tyrone PC, 1:00 PM	6	7
8	9	10 Task Force 2000 Re- view at Presbytery Office, 10:00 AM	11 Synod Meeting, Antiochian Village	12 Synod Meeting, Antiochian Village	13	14

Who Needs Armor?

by Lee McCardle

Who needs armor? In our 2003 war against Iraq, our troops used armor to protect themselves from the enemy. Their armor consisted of any fighting gear from camouflage clothing to helmets to our heavily armored M1 Abrams tanks. Soldiers relied on their armor for protection against enemy forces.

A few of our soldiers were captured by the enemy and taken as prisoners of war. The POWs were stripped of their armor leaving them vulnerable and helpless. Some were treated well, while others were shot, tortured or killed. Military history is storied with examples of POWs who were deprived of their physical and mental armor. In previous wars, some long-held POWs suffered weight and hair loss, emotional depression and disorientation, feelings of guilt for being captured, survivor guilt if their buddies were killed, and anxiety and a grave depersonalization of their life. The good news is that our armed forces have over decades developed therapies to help former POWs recover and re-integrate their lives. I pray for God to add healing and wholeness to soldiers who suffered in war.

Armor takes many forms. The entertainer Madonna recently made a music video in which she wore military camouflage to draw attention to herself as a powerful performing artist. She is not the first artist to use armor to convey the notion of power.

The famous Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn, born 1606, painted among other things Bible

scenes; for example, Christ on the cross, the stoning of Stephen, and the supper at Emmaus. While in his 20s, Rembrandt every so often liked to wear a gorget, (pronounced gor-jit). His gorget was a piece of hinged collar armor covering the base of his neck, collarbone and upper back. The shiny metal gorget looked good on him with a white silk scarf resting over the top edge around his neck.

It was not that Rembrandt was about to report for military duty, though at 23 he was of age to serve. His gorget was his social armor, a kind of military chic, like the meticulously laundered military fatigues we sometimes see on 21st century politicians or the imitation flak jackets we see on young people today. He liked the good feeling he got from wearing it as he painted in his studio. Rembrandt's gorget with the glinting studs gave him the proud bearing of a soldier without a soldier's obligation.

If you served in military service, you probably know that stand-tall feeling when in your freshly pressed class-A uniform. I was recently in a restaurant where I saw a Marine Pfc wearing his tan alpha uniform while eating with his lady. His smartly disciplined appearance brought a lump to my throat. Rembrandt was so taken with that stand-tall feeling in himself, that in 1629 he painted a portrait of himself in his gorget. You can see that painting in the 1999 book titled Rembrandt's Eyes by historian Simon Schama.

There was a day when the name Presbyterian was synonymous with character building

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Seven Percent Event

Are you a pastor and aged 40 or younger?

If so, there is an event designed just for you and your peers.

October 6 - 9 of this year in sunny (OK, it is often a bit wet under foot!) New Orleans, Louisiana, our denomination will host a "Seven Percent Event". You can engage in worship, connect and network with and just spend time with clergy in your age demographic.

Intrigued?

If you have yet to see the information, please contact Joy Kaufmann at the presbytery office: gp@huntingdon.org or 814-684-2803.

Presbyterian Communicators

If you are a Presbyterian Communicator and do not see your name listed below, please contact the Presbytery Office to have your name added to the list. If your congregation does not currently have a Communicator, you may have a volunteer contact the Presbytery office also to added to the Communicator list.

Janine Barony, Ruby Borders, Janet Brallier, Ed Bratton, Bruce Brower, Stuart Carlson, Caroline R. Colbert, Bruce Colebank, Bill Conway, Ann Davis, James H. Davis, Roland Fagan, Debra J. Fisher, Rev. Doug J. Friant, Barry E. Gaut, James Gearhart, Rick Ginter, Donald P. Goss, George Griner, III, Sara E. Guy, Phyllis G. Hauenstein, Spencer Hauenstein, Autumn Hawn, Charles Hayes, Jean E. Haynes, Rev. Linda K. Hendrian, Catherine Hutton, Mary Francis Jaymes, Arlene Kauffman, K. Joy Kauffman, Peggy Kendall, Nancy Kraybill, Lucy Lake, Rev. Daniel T. Ledford, Elvin G. Liebegott, Josh, Logsdon, Kathy Maier, Rev. Merry Hope Meloy, Barbara Messner, Donald Mitchell, Jr., John Munro, Claudia Myers, Mary Over, Pauline Piper, Charles Poust, Joan Shade, Cary Simpson, A. Keith Smith, Jacob E. Wagner, Helen Westbrook, Linda Y. Will, Alfred E. Wilson

New Wilmington Missionary Conference

Dear Friends in Christ,

How do you get involved in the 21st Century? One way is to send your youth to the New Wilmington Missionary Conference. (I know, mission trips are great too, and I'll be leading my senior highs on a trip this June.) Learning about mission locally and globally, talking to mission personnel face-to-face, singing, playing sports, Bible studying, praying and making friends with 1100 other folks has a major impact as well. That's only part of what we will offer at the 98th N.W.M.C. this summer on the campus of Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA: **July 26 – August 2, 2003**. At the N.W.M.C. high school and college-age folks—and people of all ages—hear the clear call of Jesus Christ to mission, to spiritual growth, and commitment to share the Good News through His Church.

Want to learn more? It's easy. Phone or email the Conference office, ask for our **brand new video**, "The Best Eight Days of My Summer". Want more posters and brochures? Just ask. Have questions? We have regional contacts (listed on the back) who are excited to fill in the gaps.

We'll be looking for you next July!

Yours in Christ's love,
Rev. David B. Joachim

PS—Check us out at:
www.nwmcmission.org

NWMC Office
724-946-7195

Creative Ministries Conference Presents

"Stepping Out of the Boat for Jesus"



June 20-21 in State College

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in learning how to use puppetry, drama, clowning, juggling and storytelling in presenting the gospel creatively.

20 Christian performing artists will be teaching 30 workshops and providing two evening performances. Many of the instructors are nationally known and include some traveling here from Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Washington D.C.

Early registration costs for those who register by May 1-- \$60
(Includes three catered meals)

Registration forms can be downloaded from the website

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preaching designed to equip young and old for battle with evil and sin. But that old style preaching is nearly gone from Presbyterian pulpits. We now practice a more egalitarian faith in which each person's opinion is equal to the preacher's. And some preachers preach like their personal opinion is equal to God's. Have we reached that enlightened place where we don't need a good word from the Lord God Almighty to defend us against what used to be named evil and sin? No! Therefore, I commend the following wisdom to you.

In the well-known passage from Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul summoned the saints at Ephesus to "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm." Paul urged them to use armor as a means of defending their Christian faith.

Paul also summons us to clothe ourselves with the armor of God, so we may withstand evil in our day. Fasten the belt of truth around yourself. The truth is that God loves us so much that God sent Christ to die for our sins. But when we play God, we deceive ourselves. And it leaves us defenseless against our enemy. When we are wounded, hearing the truth of God and telling that truth to one another helps maintain our integrity.

Put on the breastplate of righteousness. It is tempting to

imitate the world's mixture of moral and immoral behaviors. But right living always remains in favor with the Lord. Love the Lord, and give charity to your needy neighbor. Right living is a powerful protector of the human heart.

Wear comfortable shoes to proclaim God's peace in your travels. How sad it is to see humans hating and killing each other. We fight over power, property, sexuality, etc. We live like we are walking with a sharp jagged stone in our shoe, and we blame anyone in our way. May God help us smooth the edges off our jagged manners and learn of God's peace.

Take the shield of faith. We need a shield to protect us from evil. Some evil is so cunning that it surrounds us before we recognize it. We need to hold up our shield of faith: "I believe God because I believe God because I believe God! In the name of Jesus Christ, I rebuke you, Satan!" Though our faith may be the size of a mustard seed, God uses it to overcome the enemy.

Wear the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We

pride ourselves on making a better world, and living healthier and longer lives. And yet the death rate is still 100%. None of us will get out of here alive, save for the salvation, which comes from God. Remember, whether in life or in death, we belong to our Creator.

Oh, it's true that our nation's military power is the strongest the world has ever known. We are stronger than the German Wehrmacht of the 1930s and 40s. Our high-tech weaponry is superior to the armies of the Roman Empire. But neither our high technology nor our egalitarian life styles can erase our need for the sword of the Spirit, which is God's very word. So read it, pray over it, and let us do our best to live it each day. And being clothed with God's armor, we'll work for Christ to reveal God's blessing upon our lives.

Who needs armor? I do! Now where did I put my red Rumsfeld power necktie.

Agape Herald is published monthly by the Presbytery of Huntingdon. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. You may submit articles and photos to the Editor, Lesley Gardiner, at Gardinerfnp@yahoo.com or on a 3.5 disc in either Macintosh or Windows format. All discs and photos with a return address will be returned to the owner. Please note the submission deadlines located in the newsletter. Late articles will appear in the next published edition of *Agape Herald*. Questions and comments may also be directed to Lesley Gardiner or the presbytery office via the email address admina@huntingdon.org.

Installation of General Presbyter Joy Kaufman

Date: Sunday, May 18 at 3:00 PM

Place: State College Presbyterian Church

Special Music provided by the Presbytery of Huntingdon Combined Choir
Directed by Ned Wetherald, Music Director of State College Presbyterian
Church

Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Please join us in celebrating our new beginning with Joy Kaufmann as
our General Presbyter.

presented by the
Installation Planning Committee
Presbytery of Huntingdon



Presbytery of Huntingdon
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Tyrone, PA 16686

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