



Agape Herald

The Newsletter of the Presbytery of Huntingdon
Mission: Loved by Jesus Christ, called to love others.
www.huntingdon.org

April 2004

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"Church Transformation"

By Joy Kaufmann
General Presbyter



"Why can't we grow our church like the evangelicals do?" "How come we don't have more children in our Sunday School?"

"Our church should have one goal: more new members!"

All around our presbytery, people are saying the same kinds of things. Whether based in zeal for the gospel or just fear that a beloved congregation may be in jeopardy, people seem to be waking up to a reality among us: grow the church or the church is at risk of death. Put a bit more theologically, the church of Jesus Christ is always (and has always been) one generation away from death.

The truth is, friends, that WE bear, you and I, the responsibility for being the church in our time and place. "The evangelicals" to whom some of our brothers and sisters refer don't have a special magic answer. They simply take very seriously a gospel mandate to reach out in the name of Jesus Christ. A certain percentage of persons reaching out in the name of Christ are bound to reach some people for Christ. Voila! Church growth. So how do we, mainline Christians who traditionally count on the pastor to do all the evangelizing, effectively transform our congregations in ways that have integrity?

SHARE AGAPE *By Al Wilson*

We all are Huntingdon Presbytery! And, although the Media Committee would like to mail Agape Herald to as many of us as possible, including Session members, Sunday School Teachers and others in our churches, our limited budget just won't permit this.

We are presently mailing out about 300 copies and plan to go up to 400 - 450, but that's as much as this year's budget will allow. Since we all are Huntingdon Presbytery, we encourage Pastors, Clerks, church office people and anyone who receives it to make copies of each issue and share the good news of our Presbytery.

God is at work in great and wonderful ways among us. Share the good news.

Rev. Wilson may be reached at alwwilson@verizon.net

Prayer Request

Brandon Adams, son of Elder Carol Adams of the Broad Avenue Church, Altoona, was wounded seriously, including head injuries, while serving in the United States military in Iraq. Brandon was treated in Iraq, then transferred to Germany and will be sent to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. for additional treatment and recuperation. Let us keep Brandon and his family in our prayers.

[What's in This Issue?](#)

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There is Always Resurrection

*Submitted by Lynn L. Illingworth
Pastoral Care Consultant*

A doctor friend and elder of mine where I was pastor in Needham, MA shared this experience with me.

A couple from the backwoods of Maine brought their gravely ill nine year old daughter for tests. Once the doctor and his staff examined the little girl they concluded that she needed surgery. The parents said "No." They thought it was too risky, so back they went to Maine. Needless to say, the doctor and his staff were sad as well as perplexed. (The doctor is a nephrologist—kidney specialist)

Then one bright sunny spring Monday morning, the doctor was amazed when the parents walked into his office and asked that the surgery be performed. He wondered what caused them to change their mind for they had been adamant on the original decision. They replied, "Yesterday was Easter Sunday and we went to church. We heard about the resurrection of Christ the courage he had being crucified on Friday and the promise he made to his disciples and loved ones that he would rise and come back. It gave us the courage and the faith that we want our little girl to have the operation trusting that whatever happens God in Christ will be with us and her and you when you perform the surgery and that God's will be with us."

The doctor was grateful. The operation was successful.

Here was a family for whom the power of the Lord's resurrec-



Krislund Korner Summer Camp Questions? Go to: www.krislund.org

Summer camp registrations, schedules, staff and adult volunteer applications, and lots more are available at the remodeled website. Visiting the site is a good way for parents and potential campers to see what is available.

New Hiking Trails

Thanks to Eagle Scout Sean Brown and members from his troop from Berwick, Krislund will soon have a complete system of marked and interconnected foot trails atop the new camp property. Summer campers will be among the first to experience their beauty. Interested day hikers may call the Camp office to request trail brochures and access information.

Adult Volunteers Have Too Much Fun!

Laughter, singing, marvelous views, and making a difference in the lives of youth are some of the benefits of volunteering for a week during Krislund's summer camps. Modern lodging is available in the Lower Lodge and help is needed in the kitchen, maintenance, office, camp store, or with transportation. Work was never this much fun! Call 814.422.8878 to sign up for an unforgettable week of giving and receiving.

Retreat Center Nears Completion

The historic Retreat Center's facelift will soon be finished. Thanks to generous gifts and wonderful work groups from churches in Allensville, Lewistown, and Mechanicsburg the list of remodeling projects is quickly dwindling. Come and see our new look.

T-shirt for Ten

Send us information on 10 potential campers and receive a "thank you" t-shirt this summer. Send names and addresses to: krislndsec@juno.com

Thanks

tion became a reality. We, too, can experience that force in our own lives. The Resurrection of the Lord is a reality alive today as it was to the women when they went to the empty tomb and later to the disciples. It is power of love over fear and death. All we need do is go to the empty tombs in our souls and on some Easter Monday morning we too shall be affected by that event so many years ago. **There is always resurrection.**

Rev. Illingworth may be reached at: 814-234-2415

Church Transformation...

continued from page 1

Here's the good news: it's not rocket science. Now the tough news: church transformation is not for the faint of heart - or the pastor alone. Lots of sociological work in the past couple of decades proves a couple of things. First, those of us in mainline churches have defined ourselves in such a way that we are better at reaching out in mission than reaching out in evangelism. Second, in every congregation that has successfully transformed

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Church Transformation

continued from page 2

itself into a more vital, growing congregation, there are five steps that took place.

Put simply, we need to make an attitudinal shift and we need to pray about/think about/implement the five steps to church transformation. The attitudinal shift is from one of quietness about our faith to one of excitement about our faith.

The five steps are these:

1) Creating spiritual energy - Discover what nurtures your church members and empowers them to become energized about their faith. Then do it! Then do it again. And again. This enables the leadership team to "hang in there" for the long haul.

2) Re-entry into the community - This is the tough one. None-the-less, successful church transformation always includes a component of reaching out to "the neighbors", either old ones or new ones, in the name of Jesus Christ. This can be through a childcare center, through neighborhood block parties or old fashioned picnics. But it has to happen. Think, "If you build it, they will come...."

3) Congregational identity - The congregation needs to be identified by neighbors as open to visitors, with a vision for mission.

4) Development of a congregational leadership team - Those people with gifts for leadership need to use their gifts for outreach and mission enhancement. The leadership team needs to include more people than the pastor.

5) Development of a ministry plan - Intentional ministry is a good thing. Practical planning is essential.

There you have it: five seemingly simple steps for church transformation. Will we, in our congregations, rise to the Biblical challenge to know Christ and then to share the good news about him with our neighbors? In times such as these, that is the only faithful option.

Rev. Kaufmann may be reached at
gnrlpres@charterinternet.com

Janet Brown to Speak

*Submitted by Holy Kithcart
Moderator, Presbyterian Women*

The Huntingdon Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering will be held Saturday, April 24 at the Winburne Presbyterian Church. Janet Brown, the Synod Presbyterian Women Peacemaking/Hunger Coordinator, will be the speaker. Janet will tell about the 2004 Synod PW Mission Project—"Improving Women's and Children's Health in Rural North India"

Janet will report on her conversations with Dr. Ann Thyle, Reproductive Health Coordinator in Uttaranchal, India. While in the United States recently, Dr. Thyle was a guest for six weeks in Janet's home. The two discussed the health conditions facing women and children in rural north India, especially problems that pregnancy presents for these women and their unborn babies.

The Spring Gathering will begin with registration at 9:00 a.m. followed by worship at 10:00 a.m.. A workshop on the Biblical Principles of Mission will held and lunch will be served at a charge of \$3.00.

Please make reservations by Friday, April 16 by contacting Holly Kithcart. She may be reached by phone at: (814) 345-6667 or by email at: hollyk@penn.com.

Plan ahead for the **13th Annual Synod PW Gathering** at Waynesburg College. It will be June 17,18 and 19 during which several workshops and discussions are planned. More about Spring Gathering next month, but make a note in your calendar now and contact Holly Kithcart if you know someone who could use a scholarship for this event.

A Cantata Tradition

Submitted by Nancy Kraybill

For most Presbyterians, music is an important part of the worship service. Third Presbyterian Church in Altoona celebrates the music emphasis by presenting a cantata each Christmas and Easter.

In 1946 the congregation installed a new Mohler Organ, with Marjorie Bennett as the organist. Never one to avoid a challenge, Marj soon became the choir director also. Having grown up in a church that presented Easter and Christmas cantatas, she decided to try it at Third Church. The members of the choir at Third Church produced their first cantata around 1950, and have been doing so ever since. Marj has now "retired" to the piano and Dick Miller is now organist and choir director.

This Easter's cantata will be Sunday, April 11, 11:00 a.m. at Third Church. Members of the Juniata choir will join Third Church in the presentation.

Those folks who attended the Altoona Presbyterian music festival last October at the Broad Avenue Church would remember the piano and organ duet played by Marj and Dick....it brought a standing ovation! Praise God for the gifts of musicians such as Marj and Dick.

Elder Kraybill may be reached at wkk1@psu.edu

CLERGY PROFILE

by Lee McCardle

Rev. Kathy Davis Colebank was born in 1954 in Minnesota to Kenneth and Hazel Davis. Kathy and Bruce were married in 1977. Their children are Christopher, Nathan and Sadie.

Kathy earned her BA and MBA degrees from the University of Minnesota, and her MDiv from Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul. Kathy was installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Altoona in November 1997.

"I had a rocky relationship with God for the first three decades of my life," Kathy said. "My years away from God were angry and destructive. Only through God's persistent love and unrelenting grace did we get back together. That was 15 years ago. I am grateful for God's healing work in my life. It has resulted in a peace I've found nowhere else."

Kathy describes her call to be a pastor in these words: "When God called me into relationship through Jesus Christ, I knew immediately, I was called to be a pastor. Within 6 months, I was enrolled in seminary. I took the slow route through seminary to have time for my children."

How does her calling as a pastor impact the life of her family? Kathy says, "When I accepted the call as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Altoona, Bruce left his 18-year marketing career and became a househusband. I began working long, full days. It had a significant impact on our family. Bruce learned new skills. His care for our family allowed me to do my more-than-full-time job. Our children learned to rely more on their father and less on me. There was both good and bad in all that we experienced. In the past year and a half I have begun to seek a better balance between my work, my personal and my family life. Balance is critical to a successful ministry and healthy family."

She says, "I have learned that I must follow God's call wherever it takes me. Regardless of the circumstances – regardless of how attractive something else might appear or how unlikely I might think the place to which God is calling me, God is never wrong. It doesn't matter whether it is central Pennsylvania, central New York City or Fort Lauderdale, FL. When God calls us to go, we will not be sorry if we answer that call. I believe God is calling good, strong Christ-centered pastors to Central Pennsylvania. It is a call that will bring blessing to those who answer affirmatively."

Kathy serves on the Committee On Ministry for our Huntingdon Presbytery. Her hobbies are reading, knitting and riding and training horses.

Rev. McCardle may be reached at: leemccardle@adelphia.net



You Must Give Me Your Face

Submitted by Kathy Colebank

Spice is the lesson horse at the stable where I take riding lessons. To put it politely, Spice has an attitude. It's no wonder, she has a dozen gangly, awkward, inexperienced, rude riders on her back each week – pulling on her face, acting like hungry restless predators.

As I lunge Spice, (to lunge a horse is to move it through exercises in a circle while on a lead line,) she often chooses to place her attention outside the circle. She cannot be ready for my next request if she is not paying attention to me. She is not carrying her weight correctly if she is not looking into the circle toward me. It is hard on her body. For her own good, for our relationship, she must look at me. Sometimes, I have to take measures so that she will look at me – click to her or shake my line, all of which say clearly, "Pay attention to me, Spice."

Hummmmm . . . Where have I seen that before? There are times when we have to do the same with our children. When we want their full attention, we say to them, "Look at me. Pay attention."

Is it so with God? When we choose to enter into an intimate dynamic relationship with God, it is as though there is this spiritual tether or lead line with which we are connected. Just like Spice, in the beginning, we run out there in the circle around God and all too often we turn our faces away from God, distracted by the stuff outside the ring. All too often, truth be known, we look away out of defiance or simply the desire for independence. And God has to click and shake his rope saying, "Look at me, now. Pay attention. Our relationship cannot grow if you will not look at me. I have things to teach you."

How well we respond to God's call for our attention depends on a lot of factors --factors inside of us. Can we find God at least as interesting as all the distractions outside our circle? Are we willing to surrender our perceived independence for a relationship dependent upon God's goodness, grace, mercy and wisdom? Do we trust God enough to look full in God's face? For our best good, for our relationship with God, for the peace that passes all others, we must look into the circle, into the face of God.

Rev. Colebank may be reached at KDCNPA@cs.com

Easter and Pancakes!

After the Maundy Thursday darkness and the sorrow of Good Friday remembrances, it is comforting to know that Easter brings the joy of the risen Lord. As we rise early to join with our church families in singing "He Lives!" it is comforting to know that our brothers and sisters in the faith are lending their voices throughout the presbytery. For example:

- At Upper Spruce Creek, people will gather at the Graysville Cemetery to see the sunrise, read scripture and sing hymns. After the service, they will return to the church for...pancakes!
- At Osceola Mills, the people will sing praises and hear the message of resurrection. Following their service, they will join as a church family in breakfast...pancakes!
- The Petersburg Bethel congregation holds a SON-RISE service early on Easter morning. Then they gather forpancakes!...and, most likely, some of that delicious sausage.
- The Mountaintop Larger Parish will continue a long-held tradition of an early youth-led sunrise celebration followed by a breakfast ofpancakes!

These are just a few examples. Many churches will celebrate the Son's rise and punctuate it with the fellowship of breakfast. Allensville Presbyterians, for example, will join with their Lutheran neighbors for a special service; Bedford will have a light breakfast, and Milesburg, Sinking Valley, Bellwood and many others will partake of food and fellowship. And Jesus said, "For where two or three meet together in my name, I am there among them."

The Revised English Bible Matthew 18:20

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPERIENCE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING?

This year General Assembly will meet in Richmond, VA, a reasonable drive from our presbytery. We would like to organize vans to take those of us who wish to be present for the opening of GA on Saturday, June 26, the election of the moderator that evening, and the opening worship on Sunday, June 27. Our vehicles would then head back to the Huntingdon Presbytery in time for people to be home by the evening of the 27th.

You would need to be prepared to pay for one night in a local hotel, with arrangements to be made by the presbytery staff, and to cover all meals while we travel. But transportation would be free and the company will be great!

If you would like to take part in the "Huntingdon Presbytery GA Caravan", please contact the presbytery office at 814-742-2200.



Rodney and Sharyn Babe Return to Haiti

After several weeks in the States, Rodney and Sharyn Babe anticipate returning to Haiti on April 5, 2004 to continue their work with the Comprehensive Development Project (CODEP) in the upper valley of the Cormiers River.

Rodney and Sharyn Babe have been missionaries in Haiti since 1987, working with the people in the mountains where severely deforested land has been eroding.

With a BS degree in agriculture and dairy husbandry from Delaware Valley College and several years experience in farming with his parents and brother in Sinking Valley, Rodney has worked with the 4500 residents of the area in reforestation and agriculture as well as in developing fishponds to provide protein for their diets.

Sharyn, with a BS in fine arts and a Masters of Education from Penn State, has become an educational advisor, assisting in teacher training and formation of rural teachers. She also counsels students and teachers.

With their strong faith and training in education, Rodney and Sharyn have witnessed to many about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Rodney received his Masters in Religious Education from Manahath School of Theology in Hollidaysburg.

In a recent letter posted on the PCUSA website, the Babes indicate that, although they have had minimal news from the CODEP project area, they understand that the CODEP project area has not experienced the massive civil disobedience and looting which has occurred elsewhere. They said, "Because it is still dry season, much of the work our cooperator/farmers do cannot be done. However, tons of fish continue to grow, a quarter million trees in family nurseries are being cared for, and schools continue to function. As people await our return, they do not sit idly wasting their time."

As Presbyterian missionaries, they work under the invitation of the Episcopal Church of Haiti. The Babes asked for continued prayer for the Rt. Rev. Zache Duracin, the bishop of the church and a personal friend. Rev. Duracin oversees more than 185,000 members. Pray, also, for security, renewal, peace, real leadership and that through suffering, the people will learn where to look for their Hope; that, during these times of disruption and soaring food prices and shortages, they would be able to find the Source of all good things."

The Babes maybe reached at codephaiti@yahoo.com

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Presbytery Calendar	
April 3	10:00-2:00 Presbyterian Women Training @ Tyrone PC
April 9	Good Friday, Presbytery Office and Resource Center Closed
April 13	5:00 p.m. Joint Camp @ Conference Committee Mtg. @ Krislund
April 19	News Deadline for Agape Herald
April 21	9:30 a.m. Presbytery Office Staff Meeting @ Presbytery Office
April 22	12:15 p.m. Special Presbytery Meeting @ Bellwood/Logan Valley Church
April 22	1:00 p.m. Committee on Ministry Meeting @ Presbytery Office

Check out this new and helpful website for Huntingdon Presbytery's Multimedia Resource Center:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~resourcemedial/>



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GAP Teams

*Submitted by Greg & Chris Callison
Missionaries to Kurdish Refugees*

We have recently learned of an exciting opportunity for short term teams to serve in Iraq to help in the process of reconstruction. This is a unique window of opportunity to share God's love in a practical way. The PC (USA) Kurdish Partnership, in cooperation with Frontiers, is helping to recruit team members to meet this challenge. We have been told that it will be possible for these teams to serve in Kurdish areas.

Harold "Chappie" Chapman, chappie45239@yahoo.com, coordinator for the PC(USA) Kurdish Partnership, is your contact person. Participants will be selected, trained, directed and supervised by Frontiers. Rev. Bob Blincoe, who served many years in Northern Iraq and is a PC(USA) minister, is now the U.S. director of Frontiers. A DVD is available for promoting this program. If you would like one, please e-mail "Chappie" with your request. Also, please get the word out about this unique opportunity. *The Callisons may be reached callisons-news@yahoo.com*

LEAVE A GIFT THAT GIVES FOREVER

*By Vicki Thompson, CFRE
Director of Development, Presbyterian Homes*

My mother often wonders what will happen to her church when the older members have passed away. She knows they are the ones who tithe and provide a good portion of the financial support for the church. Recently, I was able to show her how she could make sure that her church continues to receive her support, even after she's gone, with a gift to her church's endowment fund.

Most charitable institutions have an endowment fund. The monies in this fund are invested and the income from the investments goes to benefit the charity, but the principle is never touched. This means the income from the endowment goes on forever, and your gift to the endowment fund continues to provide for the charity long after you are gone.

The easiest way to make a gift to an endowment fund is by designating the charity to receive a bequest in your will. Your will can list the charity as one of your beneficiaries, and you can specify that the bequest go to the endowment fund. You can either bequeath a specific amount of money or, if you aren't sure how large your estate will be, you can designate a percentage of the total amount to go to the charity.

How much should you leave? If you'd like the charity to continue to receive the same amount of support you've always provided, you can figure out how much of a bequest would produce that amount of income. Figuring a 5% return on average through the years, here's a chart to give you an idea:

If your annual gifts total:	You can perpetuate them with a bequest of at least:
\$100	\$2,000
\$500	\$10,000
\$1,000	\$20,000
\$5,000	\$100,000

If you would like more information about endowment funds, leaving a bequest, or any other type of giving, please contact the charity of your choice or Phil Blake from the Presbyterian Foundation at 888-221-3590.

Agape Herald is published monthly by the Presbytery of Huntingdon. It is the responsibility of the Communications Subcommittee of the Administrative Umbrella Team. **Editorial and Production Team**

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Submission deadline is the 3rd Monday each month for the following months publication.

Presbytery Prayer Calendar

April 4: Presbytery Office.

Rev. Joy Kaufmann, Executive Presbyter
Mrs. Janine Barony, Administrative Asst.

April 11: The Churches and Members of Pahk 5 Nan, Thailand

(Mission partners)

April 18: Nominating Committee of Huntingdon Presbytery

Rev. Daniel T. Ledford, Chairperson

April 25: Clearfield Congregation

Rev. Douglas S. Pride, Pastor

Clearfield Pine Grove Bethel Congregation

General Presbyter Announces First Annual Corn Chip Awards

Henry Brewster and William McNite: When Old Men Dream Dreams

*Submitted by Virginia Rainey,
Stated Clerk*

Who were Henry Brewster and William McNite, and why should Huntingdon Presbytery celebrate them?

Henry Brewster was a 1844 Huntingdon County state legislator. He served two terms on the Shirleysburg borough council in the 1840's and 1850's. He was the third elder of the Shirleysburg Presbyterian Church.

William P. McNite, M.D., was born in Shirley Township, Huntingdon County in 1832. He graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He returned to Shirleysburg to set up practice and served actively in local politics, holding the offices of burgess, town councilman, and treasurer, and more than 15 years on the school board, as a director and treasurer. He served as county coroner and like Brewster was elected state legislator from Huntingdon County.

Brewster and McNite valued their Presbyterian faith so much that they included their congregation and its successors in their wills with endowments "for the support and maintenance of Presbyterianism in this place, (Shirleysburg) ...so that Presbyterianism for all future time, may be represented and perpetuated in said town of Shirleysburg, at least in so far as this fund can do."

Eight years after Brewster left his bequest to Shirleysburg, the doctor left a sum of \$5,000 in 1888 "to be payed annually for the support of a Pastor for afore-said [Shirleysburg] church." Their contributions have been combined in a Huntingdon Presbytery restricted fund. The principal of the McNite Fund endowment has grown to over \$11,000 at the end of 2002. At a conservative estimate of \$300 annually, their gift has returned about \$34,500 to the Shirleysburg and Orbisonia congregations.

Would that more of our members would dream dreams of the future of the church and make provision for their congregations and the presbytery in their wills.

For more information about giving for future generations see the article about Gift Giving on page 6 of this issue. Thanks to Vicki Thompson for sending in the article and for her work at the Presbyterian Homes. Ms. Thompson leaves the Homes this month, and she is wished many blessings in her new position.

In the spirit of fun and rejoicing, Rev. Joy Kaufmann presented several Corn Chip Awards at the stated meeting of Presbytery on March 23. The General Presbyter took this opportunity to lift up the following congregations for various awards:

Gold Corn Chip Awards went to:

- Clearfield Congregation—Doug Pride, Pastor—for their ministry with children through their preschool program.
- Curwensville Congregation—Dan Ledford, Pastor—for their congregation led youth ministry.
- State College Congregation—Charles Curley, Pastor—for their mission tours over spring break by college age young people.
- Sinking Valley Congregation—Richard Gardiner, Moderator—for their Mission Fair and their support of International Missions.
- Upper Spruce Creek Congregation—Elizabeth Lake, Clerk—for their financial contributions to mission work that are quite impressive for a small congregation.
- Belleville, West Kish Congregation—Samuel Strohm, Pastor—for their welcome to all generations by providing handicapped accessibility and facilities for all generations.

"True Blue" Corn Chip Awards went to:

- Winburne Congregation—Linda Hendrian, Pastor—for their choir that sings like the angels.
- The small church assessment teams—Jim Hanley, Chair—for their work in visiting and supporting small churches throughout the Presbytery

The Red Corn Chip Award went to:

Petersburg Bethel Congregation—Dave Benfer, Pastor—for their excellence in ministry and mission as demonstrated in their outreach and growth.

(Pictured below) Rev. Kaufmann noted that this congregation consistently expresses hope through the Lord Jesus Christ.

