



Agape Herald

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

September 2004

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The Resource Center
has officially closed!

Many thanks to Jean Haynes for her years of service and to Marie Carlson for her work in operating the Center recently and for helping in the transition to the Presbytery Office in Bellwood.

Do We Have a Vision?

Joy Kaufmann,

General Presbyter

As a young person, I often heard one of the older members of our congregation quote scripture to the effect that, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." As an adult I realized these words are thousands of years old, but just as true now as they were when first set down in print.

In the life of our presbytery, we have been discerning a vision: Task Force 2000 saw that our presbytery could strengthen its churches if it deyoked from a long time relationship with the Presbytery of Northumberland. We saw that small church assessment teams could provide feedback about a vision for mission to our numerous smaller congregations. We saw that teams to provide seminars for training and persons with special skills to strengthen those churches that wanted to be strengthened, could follow the small church assessment teams. All of this is with a mind to following God's guidance and reaching out to our unchurched neighbors with Good News.

Recently I have become aware of three important areas of ministry that seem to be converging in the life

By

More Highlights from General Assembly

By Joy Kaufmann

* The YADS elected co-moderators, Anthony Elfering from Maple Grove, Minn. and Helen Halverson from Cape Coral, Fla.

* The Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church issued its interim report, and the second in a three-video series. Mark Achtemeier of the task force said the church often frames the current debate as a continuum between peace/unity and the opposite "end of the spectrum", purity. The task force concludes this is a false continuum, because Jesus Christ has completely short-circuited our attempts to justify ourselves in terms of purity. Decisions about who is acceptable are nailed to the cross with Jesus. Our faithfulness is not an entrance exam, but a thankful response. Thus the focus shifts to self-examination, repentance and a covenant to live together in faith.

* The task force asks that sessions and presbyteries study a series of affirmations the task force has crafted together.

* Task force member Stacy Johnson pointed out that church-wide dialogue is necessary, but not sufficient. Each one of us needs to ask if the present climate of hostility is something we enjoy and want to continue or if we are willing to let God guide the church.

* Commissioners and advisory delegates divided into computer-assigned committees and spent several days doing the business of the General Assembly. Reports came from each committee back to the GA in plenary session, and

Continued on page 7

I am convinced that with God's vision and some intentional planning, the three areas will be a blessing. But without prayerfully discerning God's will and deliberately planning, we could find ourselves at cross purposes with each other and in the midst of a fiscal train wreck. The choice is obvious, I think.

What are the three important areas of mission? Simply put, our relationship with The Presbyterian Homes within Huntingdon Presbytery, our relationship with Camp Krislund, and our very, very preliminary examination of whether or not we are called to plant at least one new church where there are new populations of people in our presbytery and no Protestant churches available for them in which to worship. Any one of these areas could provide sufficient mission for our presbytery by itself. We face all three, I hope joyfully.

In last month's issue, I wrote about our relationship with The Homes, and we hope as many of you as possible can take part in a conversation about this at the Tyrone Church on September 21 at 7:00 pm.

Just so you know, we and the other two presbyteries that jointly own Camp Krislund signed loan papers a couple of years ago to the tune of a million and a quarter dollars. I say this not to frighten you, but rather to refresh your memory about what you have already voted. Further, the Joint Camp and Conference Committee realizes that national trends in Christian camping necessitate moving from a three-month per year children and youth program toward a 12-month per year program that includes children and youth and all other generations as well. To choose otherwise will mean a slow decline in ministry, based upon national child bearing trends and trends within our own churches. The enhanced mission will likely cost a few more million dollars,

Krislund Korner

The "Post Camp" Edition

DAKs, Hogan Hangout, & Rain Games: A Big Success

Senior highs all agree the DAKs (short for "Adirondack Shelters") were an excellent replacement for the traditional tipis. Each DAK had 3 built-in bunks and each of the 4 structures remained dry during the many summer storms. The 3rd-4th grade campers gave high marks to their own, special team-building course, called the "Hogan Hangout." Crawling through big barrels and tires, climbing across a cargo net, and swinging between platforms kept them busy and laughing. Everyone knows this summer was one of the wettest in recent years. Remember the old adage, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em"? The summer was full of water slides, rain games, and lots of creative indoor fun. The only things that suffered were the clothes; we're sorry for all the mud.

* * * * *

Fall Work Day Needs YOU

Saturday, October 1st, is the day and Krislund Camp needs your help to prepare. There is always a lot of help to get it done. Plan on joining us at 9:00 and try to stay until 3:30 when we will have a special treat for all who joined us that day. Call the camp to register or e-mail us to get more information (krislundsec@juno.com).



everything for the winter. There is a lot to do and we need lots of help to get it done. Put us on your family calendar and bring the whole family, or the youth group, or the couples group, or the whole church for great food. This is your day of fun work and (prepared by the Camp).

Plan on joining us at 9:00 and try to stay until 3:30 when we will have a special treat for all who joined us that day. Call the camp to register or e-mail us to get more information (krislundsec@juno.com).

* * * * *

Hey, Grown-ups! Check in now for some wonderful volunteer opportunities at Krislund next summer. Call for a packet of information. **(814-422-8878)**

and is not to be entered into lightly.

Finally, there is the issue of our new neighbors. A small team of presbyters have gone to a New Church Development conference and have done considerable work about demographics in our presbytery. There is at least one area of genuinely robust population growth, and several other areas of modest but steady growth. Will we have a plan for reaching out in love to our new neighbors, or will it be business as usual?

would have us do. So brothers and sisters in Christ, please pray with me. Pray that God will bless us in a mighty way with clarity of vision, courage of character, and the love of Jesus Christ so that together we can discern God's will for us at the beginning of the 21st century. It is an exciting time to be in ministry with you, and I am grateful.... even as the words of my older friend from 40 years ago ring in my ears. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." God be with us in the days ahead *Rev. Kauffmann may be reached at 814-742-2200*

"Asia in a Nutshell"

by Inquirer Barby Mosch

"Visiting Asia this summer was truly an experience of a lifetime. I was moved by the beautiful scenery, cultural uniqueness, and constant presence of God through travels in Japan, Korea, and China. Prior awarenesses were confirmed:

- 1) It's not about me--God has plans and purposes far greater than any expectations I may have preconceived.
2. God loves people and people love God everywhere.
3. Western Christians can learn much from the devotion and practices of Korean and Chinese Christian churches.
4. Amity Foundation and other mission-minded groups provide opportunities for service that enrich lives in unbelievable ways.

To learn more, please attend one of the presentations offered at area churches--State College, Phillipsburg, or Upper Spruce Creek. Call them for dates.

Nature's Metaphors

Submitted by Lynn Illingworth, Pastoral Care

Consultant

A choice starting point for the journey of the human soul are the metaphors of nature. Job sensed this after enduring negative therapeutic darts from pastoral counselors and forthrightly informed them, "*But ask the beasts and they will teach you; the birds of the air and they will tell you; or the plants of the earth and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and breath of all mankind.*" Job 12:7-10

Bringing summer to its inevitable close and preparing for the changes of nature offers us an opportunity to discern the beckoning of God to look outward, inward, and upward. We should be overwhelmed by the joining of all nature's attributes. As nature is united so too are spirit and soul. With its produce and panoramic display one can't help but believe we mortals are loved by nature, though at times threatening. We are invited to appreciate, not just its riches, but even more, the riches of our own souls. Taste succulent red tomatoes or juicy pink peaches. Not only do they satisfy our physical hunger but render a spiritual tranquility to the human soul.

Perhaps the great Indian Chief Crowfoot of the Blackfoot Confederacy conveyed this relationship between nature and human life best when he said, "What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is as the little shadow that runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset."

The metaphors of nature are also the prologue into that eternal Love that doesn't die; the love that was lived out in the ministry, the crucifixion and resurrection of the Risen Christ.

Rev. Illingworth may

be reached at

News From Altoona Area Churches

Submitted by Nancy Kraybill

Hollidaysburg: The theme for the fall schedule of Sunday School at the Hollidaysburg Church is "Lord of All Things, Fellowship of All Things". On Rally Day, September 12, the congregation will share breakfast together at 9:00 a.m. and at 9:30 will celebrate their theme with a petting zoo.

Broad Avenue: On September 5 the Broad Avenue church will hear from a missionary family that they support. Mark and Nancy Smith and family will tell of their experiences relating to their work with Native American Adult and Youth Ministry in Arizona. Rally Day will be observed beginning at 9:00 a.m. September 12.



We are Invited!

The Hollidaysburg Church is hosting a concert by the Manhattan Music Ensemble from the Julliard School of Music, Saturday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m. The cost for adults is \$10.00; children ages 12-18, \$5.00; children under 12, free. A reception will follow the concert.

"The Harvest is Plentiful but the Workers Are Few."

Matthew 9:37b

Kay Lewis

Submitted by

The above verse was the theme verse for the 99th New Wilmington Missionary Conference held at Westminster College July 23-30. Carol Wilson, PCUSA missionary to Avalon Girls School in Pathankot, North India, having completed 41 years of service there, and I attended the conference. Carol was the mission hour speaker to the high school delegates, and I attended as an adult delegate.

Our institute hour speaker was Moses Pulei, whose dream was to become a Maasai warrior. He became a Christian at a World Vision -sponsored youth camp in his senior year of high school. Now he is working toward his PhD at Fuller Seminary in California, following which he will become an ordained pastor with a mission calling in the PCUSA in Kenya. Now many years later, he dreams of helping other African communities benefit from the transformation his community experienced. The need for clean water, a stable food supply, education, healthcare and economic development, things we take for granted, are important to Moses and his people.

Moses believes that it is not God's church that has a mission in the world, but in fact, it is God's mission that has a church in the world. We are all called to mission, whether it be at home or abroad.

The theme verse for the 100th NWMC July 22-30, 2005 is "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Mark your calendar and plan to attend it!

Elder Lewis may be

Have You Seen the Mission Vision Video?

By Jim Hanly, Chair, Discipleship

Umbrella Team

A copy of the video is available for each church or yoke or larger parish. If your church did not receive its video, please contact the Presbytery Office for your copy.

The Mission Vision Video is 6 minutes long and can be used in a variety of settings such as a Session meeting, Sunday school classes, church family gathering, new member meeting, and worship as "6 minutes for mission". It interprets the Mission and Program Projects supported by the Presbytery Mission and Program Budget.

TITLE: HUNTINGDON PRESBYTERY MISSIONS "REACH OUT"

By Harold S. Kimmel, Mission Reporter

The various mission programs of Huntingdon Presbytery are local, national, and far-reaching. One very unique mission of our Presbytery reaches out to Thailand. There we have a partnership with Presbyterians of Pahk 5 Nan.

Our Pahk 5 Nan mission program is a good example of a mission that is with a far-distant area that used to be known as Siam. However, not only is this effort reaching out to a foreign land, it has recently turned out to be both local and national.

Huntingdon Presbytery has been involved with the Pahk for quite a while. However, through the work of the Potter's, Betty Jo and Taylor, it has emerged as a unique mission program for our Presbytery. The Potter's have moved to California, but maintain their ties with Huntingdon Presbytery. So that has put our Pahk program on a National scale reaching from Huntingdon Presbytery to California.

Recently the Pahk mission took on a new emphasis, again on the National scale. This time from the state of Washington. Joann Kimmel, Treasury Service Finance Director for our Presbytery, received a letter from a June Eva Peoples of Redmond, Washington. It turns out that Ms. Peoples's great grandparents, Dr. Samuel Craig Peoples and wife, Sarah, founded a mission in Nan in the 1880's. Ms. Peoples has been in e-mail contact with Nanantarak Chaiboonruang and learned of the recent efforts to establish a meeting house in the Mae Sumarn village.

We are not certain just how Ms. Peoples learned of Huntingdon Presbytery's involvement with the Pahk. She sent a copy of the Peoples's family record of Dr. Samuel Peoples's mission work in Thailand from 1882-1921.

In response to Ms. Peoples's interest, all this information has been given to Rev. Hanly, Chairman of the Discipleship Umbrella Team. Those interested in learning more may contact Rev. Hanly or Joann Kimmel.

Elder

Kimmel may be reached at

Rev. Douglas Friant: Clergy Profile

*Submitted by Lee
McCardle*

Rev. Douglas J. Friant was born in Lancaster County. Doug grew up in the First Presbyterian Church, Strasburg. After 2 years at Case Western Reserve, Doug acknowledged his call to the ministry. He transferred to Westminster College and graduated with majors in Religion and Physics. He designed accounting software for a company until he attended Princeton Theological Seminary. While a student at Princeton, he taught "Computers in Ministry."

Doug and Christine were married in Johnstown. Their children are Catherine, Alexandra and Graham. Chris is a substitute teacher and horse breeder with about 15 horses on their farm outside Bedford.

Doug was installed as pastor of the Bedford Presbyterian Church on August 5, 2001. He serves our presbytery as Chairperson of the Committee On Representation. He is on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. He works with a group on new church development.

When asked what he thinks is a major issue facing our congregations, Doug replied, "The Presbyterian Church today is like the auto industry in the 1970s. We are surprised to learn that the world has changed, and we are out of touch with the needs in our communities. We can retool and refocus our ministry or we can do what the Tucker and DeLorian car companies did, make good cars and bad decisions."

Doug goes on mission trips. His daily devotions include quietly sitting in the church sanctuary. He welcomes others to share study of the Greek New Testament. Doug plays golf, which he says is a spiritual game because it is an exercise in self-humiliation and patience! He also plays the guitar. He is reading "Managing in a Time of Great Change" by Peter Drucker. He is a regular reader of Zyon: The Journal of Religion and Science.

May God bless Doug and Chris and family and their ministry with the Bedford congregation.

be reached at:

Rev. McCardle may



Thoughts on Reformation

Submitted by Doug Friant

In an interesting book on the Reformation the authors suggested that "The Reformation" was just one aberration of a trend inherent in Christianity and that Christianity constantly turns over structure and seeks a fresh awareness of the presence of God. This is nothing new to us. The Presbyterian Church has always affirmed, "the church reformed, always reforming."

We believe that the church should look towards the past and move into the future. We seek to balance tradition and renewal.

In our rapidly changing world, our reformed approach offers a needed stability. Our educated pastors can reflect upon classical theology and historical criticism to keep us from following the latest fad. The ever-increasing Book of Order helps to keep us decent and orderly.

But what are we doing to be reforming? What processes do we have to reflect upon and incorporate change? What goals do we have for starting new churches? what requirements do we have for reaching new members? Are we praying for God to do new things in us or just praying to survive? For my entire life, the Presbyterian Church has declined and though we can blame this on other people and factors one fact seems to have become clear. Denominations that prayerfully plant enough new churches- grow! and those that do not- do not.

As pastors and leaders in the Presbyterian Church we can pray for and work for new churches and new members. We can stay as we are or change our churches and our Presbytery back to what they were intended to be: the church reformed AND always reforming.

*Rev. Friant may be reached at:
dfriant@yahoo.com*

NOTICES!

Board of Pensions dues will increase from 18.5% to 19% for the medical coverage benefit, as of 1/1/05.

Highland Park Church has 4 black cartridges of Ricoh FT Toner—type 410 for Ricoh FT4415 or FT4421. Call Virginia McLaughlin at 717-242-0176 if you can use it.

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Presbytery Calendar

Sept. 6	Holiday Presbytery office closed
Sept. 7	10:30a.m. Nominating Committee
Sept. 14	5:00p.m. Krislund Board meeting at Camp Krislund
Sept. 15	1:00p.m. Ministers to Congregation Meeting at Presbytery office
Sept. 18	9:30a.m. - 3:30 Clergy/Lay Pastor training at Tyrone Church
Sept. 19	Ordination of Mark Whitsel at Broad Avenue Church
Sept. 25	10:00a.m.-1:00 Sexual Conduct Training at Milesburg Presby Church
Sept. 28	3:30p.m. Mission Festival at McVey- town
	6:00p.m. Presbytery Meeting at McVey- town .
Oct. 6	10:00a.m .Clerk's training at Bedford Church

State College Presbyterian Church will have a drama at its September 5 morning worship at 11 a.m. "Hotel Heaven" will challenge each member of the congregation to look at themselves and determine whether they would be welcome guests.



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Presbytery of Huntingdon
323 Main Street Box 99
Bellwood PA 16617

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Tyrone, PA
16686

Krislund Camp to Celebrate Donors of "An Acre"

Donate and Acre Banquet, Oct. 17

Have you participated in the Donate an Acre Campaign? Do you know others who might like to join this special group making the Camp's purchase of 1,500 adjoining acres possible? If so, come and join us for a special celebration of ministry and music on Sunday, October 17, from 4:00-6:00pm. A tasty supper and interesting presentations are in store. Call the Camp office to find out more about this unique event: 814-422-8878

You are invited!

An Evening Service of Music

The Cluster of Altoona Area Presbyterian church choirs and musicians will present its second annual evening worship service of music at the Broad Ave. Presbyterian Church, Altoona on October 10, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to enjoy this special worship service and the fellowship to follow.

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 month's publication.

MISSION FESTIVAL

Submitted by Alice

Meloy, Chair

Leadership

Umbrella Team

Celebrating our love for Jesus Christ through our service to the little and least, we will gather together for a Mission Fest preceding our Presbytery meeting on September 28th. Let's see how many pins we can place on a world map, marking our ministry to other peoples. The threads stretch between our communities and the world as we forge friendships around the world. The response to participate has been most encouraging. This is a great opportunity to share knowledge, vision, and recognize the importance of our work in promoting peace, justice and mercy in the name of Christ.

Each church should be prepared to make a brief three to four minute presentation. Displays will be arranged in various areas in the church. Presentations begin at 3:00, followed by supper between 5:00 and 5:30.

Presbytery meeting begins at 6:00 with communion. Our Thailand friends will participate. We eagerly await their visit with us.

Prayer Needs

Phyllis Hinderliter: Fractured wrist
Geth Garrod-Logsdon's husband, Josh: Recently released from the hospital
Dave Benfer: Needs further therapy

Prayers of welcome and support for new pastors and their families:

Rev. Dr. Gary Callif at DuBois
Rev. Charles Monts at Hollidaysburg

Remember!

The following ministries of the Presbytery depend upon your church paying your Mission Pledge for 2004: BreezewoodTruck/Traveler Ministry, Krislund Camp, Presbyterian Homes, Counseling Ministry, Pastoral Care Consultant, Several Social Service efforts and the Office of the General Presbyter.

General Assembly (*Continued from page one*) while most majority committee reports were accepted, some were modified or even overturned in favor of minority reports. Among the decisions were these:

- * The Alpha Program was affirmed and found "not in any way outside the concerns of the Reformed tradition". A document titled "The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit" can be found on the GA website as a supplementary document to be used with the Alpha Program so that a Reformed Church understanding of the Holy Spirit is available.

- * Our presbytery's overture, originally submitted by YAD Norm Hesser concerning a youth mission magazine written for and by young persons, almost lost support for financial reasons in committee, but commissioners overturned that thinking. The recommendation from the committee, adopted by the commissioners in plenary, asks the General Assembly Council to investigate what it would take to make this dream a reality and report back to the next GA two years from now about how to make the financing happen.

- * Some new members were elected to the General Assembly Council.

- * Our denomination's membership in the National Council of Churches was reapproved, an investigation of the current state of affairs at the NCCC having been carried out. (Commissioner Dan Ledford's list of questions on the floor of the plenary session may be found in a recent issue of "The Presbyterian Layman".)

- * New media evangelism materials are available, targeting a younger, multi-ethnic and non-Presbyterian audience. These materials are available for TV, radio and print media. You can review them by going to www.pcusa.org/media. The presbytery staff has ordered a special introductory sample.

- * Voted to recognize as elders those leaders within immigrant fellowships who already meet criteria of Reformed Church traditions.

- * Voted down changing our denomination's abortion policy, but ordered a pastoral letter on problem pregnancies and adoption.

- * Viewed a new video related to the mission initiative "Joining Hearts and Hands" - it's great!

- * Approved the paper called "Transforming Families" (with none of the rancorous debate of last year).

- * Reelected Clifton Kirkpatrick Stated Clerk following his nomination by the General Assembly Nominating Committee and from a field of four candidates. This election was one of the hotter topics during the GA. It became obvious that politicking went on behind the scenes for all candidates, but in particular, practices by some of Mr. Kirkpatrick's supporters were publicly questioned. The commissioners voted to ask the Committee on General Assembly to investigate the integrity, openness and fairness of our stated clerk election process, and make suggestions for rules of behavior for possible adoption. As a denomination, we have such rules for the elections of moderators but have not yet developed such rules for stated clerk elections.

- * Supported raising funds for HIV/AIDS prevention and medical care in Africa through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

- * Recommended 11 changes to the "Book of Order" based on sexual abuse of children that took place in the Congo. These changes have to do with victim impact statements; grounds for appeal; making accusations; censure, rebuke and supervised rehabilitation and related topics.

- * Approved part of an overture to "re-examine and strengthen" the relationship between Christians and Jews, but rejected another part that would have cut off funding for future "Messianic" congregations. The funding issue will be looked at again following the study.

- * Voted to divest from certain companies contracting with the government of Israel.

- * Confirmed Iain R. Torrance as president of Princeton Theological Seminary and Dean Thompson as president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

- * Voted 328 to 173 to ask the Board of Pensions to explore the feasibility of making the same benefits available to domestic partners as are currently provided to married couples. Study results will come to the 217th GA in 2006. Commissioners also voted to take no official position on the Federal Marriage Amendment.

- * Recognized the first three missionaries funded by the Joining Hearts and Hands \$40 million mission fund.

- * Retained the 1978 "authoritative interpretation" of the constitution of the church that forbids the ordination of "self-affirming, practicing homosexuals" as officers of the church.

- * Heard plans for a national "Pastor's Sabbath", slated for May 27 - 30, 2005 in Salt Lake City, UT and open to all pastors in the denomination. It will be an occasion for prayer, worship, rest and renewal during the year between General Assembly meetings. You may register by going to www.pcusa.org/pastorsabbath.

Thank you for the opportunity to be one of our presbyters present at the 216th General Assembly.

Joy Kaufmann, General Presbyter