



Agape Herald

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

www.huntingdon.org

July 2005

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Go therefore, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19



Each year many of our churches do some things very, very right. They figure out the focus in mission God has for them at this time, they put plans in place, and they carry them out for Christ's sake. They look beyond themselves, first to God and then to their neighbors through mission. At the June 26 presbytery meeting, the churches described below received the "General Presbyter's Corn Chip Awards - 2005" for meritorious mission.

Why corn chips as an award? Corn is indigenous - it is an all-American crop. Good mission is indigenous too. Indigenous to the community of faith from whence it comes, and indigenous to the persons with whom it is carried out. Corn is nourishing, as is mission. And corn is wholesome, which faithful Christian mission is also.

THE THREE CHURCHES OF BETHANY PARISH - Neelyton Pine Grove, Shade Gap and Upper Tuscarora at Blairs Mills received a Golden Corn Chip Award for great generosity toward others, especially others who truly need both the message of God's saving love in Jesus Christ and a "cup of cold water in his name." When the three churches heard of the tsunami that struck on December 26, more than \$1,000 was quickly raised to help with disaster assistance. And when the Sinking Valley Church announced its mission trip to Haiti, Carl Jaymes of the Shade Gap Church responded in the affirmative. His congregation used its Easter offering, and the Parish Council offered the remainder of the needed funds, in order that Carl could join the larger group going to Haiti to work with the Babes. Congratulations to the three congregations of the Bethany Parish for loving people whom they will never see face-to-face so much that they were willing to raise exceptional funds for mission.

THE THREE CHURCHES OF WESTMINSTER PARISH - Vira, Burnham and Milroy Churches received a Golden Corn Chip Award for their exceptional care and concern for children, especially children not currently in their membership. When the Vira Church members realized they did not have children of their own to send to Camp Krislund this year, they took the idea to the Parish Council that perhaps they could help fund a child to go to Camp Krislund on scholarship. They offered sufficient funds so that not just one, but two children could go from Harrisburg City to the Camp this summer. That's two children whose names and faces may never be known to the members of the congregations, but whose lives will be touched by Jesus Christ in a lovely setting. The parish also sponsors a lively, faith and fun-filled Vacation Bible School in the Milroy Church

Continued on page 2

Blessings to
all congregations as
you approach the
fall time of Christian
education and wor-
ship leading toward
Advent and the cele-
bration of Christ's
birth

MISSION WITH MERIT *continued from page One*

building. The VBS attracts about 15 children, four youths help with leadership, and about 6 adults from the three congregations provide worship and craft leadership. Congratulations to the churches of the Westminster Parish for meritorious mission to children.

THE ALLENSVILLE CHURCH - has a multi-generational puppet ministry for which they received the True Blue Corn Chip Award. Yes, corn does come in blue! Adults of all ages, and some of the children and youth of the Allensville congregation use puppets in a winsome way to tell the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastor Geoff Huish also shared with the presbyters that the ministry is ecumenical, having performed at churches of many denominations... and yes, at some of the Presbyterian ones too! Congratulations to the members of the Allensville Church for finding a way to share the gospel message that is fun for all involved, charming in technique, and shows genuine care and concern for our neighbors.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF McALEVY'S FORT - exhibits exceptional hospitality to guests and great leadership ability among its members. For this, the congregation received the Red "Blood of Christ" Corn Chip Award (corn comes in red too!) The General Presbyter worshipped with the McAlevy's Fort congregation on a Sunday when the pastor was not present, so the GP simply "stayed under cover". She wanted to see how the congregation would treat a guest. It was wonderful! Numerous people greeted the guest, at least nine lay leaders had significant worship leadership roles, the sharing and checking in with each other time went to at least 15 minutes, the number of joys at least equaled the number of concerns during the prayer time, passing the peace was truly joyful, and the "Minute for Mission" lasted seven minutes, with a power point presentation about boxes of gifts for children (more than a thousand boxes were ultimately collected.) As the GP was leaving the church building, the people of the congregation even gave her a gift bag, complete with soft-cover Bible, list of Scripture passages appropriate for various life circumstances, a Bible bookmark and a warm letter of welcome from the pastor. Congratulations to the congregation of McAlevy's Fort for exceptional hospitality to "the stranger in their midst".

Thank you to the hundreds of you who have welcomed me in your pews and pulpits. It continues to be both an honor and a delight to serve God with you.

Blessings during these warm summer days!

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

Wee Kirk Conference at New Wilmington, PA

October 17 - 19 at Laurelville Conference Center will provide a refreshing break from day-to-day life, especially designed for those who are part of small churches. Presbyterians for Renewal are supportive of this event, as is George Gallup, Jr. To register contact The Rev. William M. Meyer at 724-946-8557 or wecm7@earthlink.net

Huntingdon Presbytery's Self Development of People Committee has approximately \$5500 from the Self Development of People Funds to distribute in 2005 to worthy projects. If you know of worthy projects that may need funds and meet the qualifications for SDOP grants or have questions, please contact Rev. Elaine Africa at jmafrica@haz.us.

Retired Clergy to Meet

submitted by Lee McCardle

The Retired Clergy Group will meet Wednesday, August 24th at 11:30 a.m. in the Perkins Restaurant at State College. We each will order from the menu, and pay for our own meals. All retired clergy are invited to attend.

This meeting will focus on stories from history, and what lessons we learned, which may apply today.

We will continue our tradition of sharing our books, articles, and travel stories. We are a chronologically advanced group of people, which means we have a unique appreciation for history because we lived through some of it ourselves!

Although retired, many of us are still serving God's people in one way or another.

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

West Kish Coffeehouse Presents

Submitted by Tom Schaeffer

Saturday August 20, 2005.

The show starts promptly at 7:00pm.

Hannah Bingman - folk/singer/songwriter
SYFT - original contemporary
Christian music

Curtis Rockwell - luthier/singer/songwriter
Sara Bargo - southern gospel

West Kish Coffeehouse is located in the West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian church at 3820 West Main Street, Belleville, PA 17004. The coffeehouse is open to the public free of charge. There will be food and drink available also free of charge though donations are accepted.

Tom Schaeffer may be reached at:
westkishch@earthlink.net

GOING TO SEE GRANDMA *Submitted by Jim Steiner,* *Regional Director of Mission Support at the Presbyterian Home*

I remember, as a kid, 8 or 9 years old, not being too keen on visiting my grandma on Sunday afternoons. After trying to behave in church all morning the 20-mile drive into Pittsburgh was OK, but the anticipation of having to be angelic for a couple more hours was anything but exciting. Neither was grandma. All she wanted to do was talk with Mom & Dad, hear the local and family news of the week, and find out when we were coming back.

Her "roommate" liked to pinch cheeks and neither lady was big on playing catch or chasing squirrels, or much of anything my little brother and I were into. But those two had some of the best candy a kid could want! A few sweets sort of made the trip worthwhile. We didn't mind so much getting hugged, being bored, sitting and reading, or drawing and coloring after the goodies came out of the drawer.

It took quite a few years for me to figure out why grandma seemed so content in a quiet place called the Presbyterian Home, right there on Penn Avenue.

She had her "buddies", they played games and sang. Visitors came and performed for them, read to them and prayed with them. Good food, excellent medical care, and nurses all in white considered each person to be family, treating everyone accordingly.

Grandma was lovingly attended to at every level, till the very end...something I guess we took for granted in those days. We didn't think of what was really involved in providing comfort, sustenance, dignity, and a quality of life beyond what "older folks" could provide for themselves.

Now, our Senior Citizens have even more to look forward to as residents of Presbyterian Homes. Seeing things from the inside out gives one a much different picture, and an appreciation for the emotional, physical, and material requirements that are satisfied everyday, around the clock.

This is where you come in. We need you. Our residents need you. Not only in short term with visits, volunteering, and financial support, but for the long term, as well. Your legacy in the form of a bequest, a trust, or an income-producing annuity can perpetuate the mission of the Presbyterian Homes in providing the best environment, whether a resident is dependent upon skilled nursing care, or completely self-sufficient in one of our cottage neighborhoods. I'd be pleased to discuss the possibilities with you.

When I was nine, I thought grandparents were really old...now that I am one, I realize that was totally erroneous. Boring? Hardly.

Maturity brings out the best in us...wouldn't you say?

Mr. Steiner may be reached at:
814.695.5586 or jsteiner@presbyhome.com

July

Aug. 2	Noon-Council meeting at Presbytery Offices
Aug. 4	10am Media meeting
Aug. 9	1pm Special Presbytery meeting 5pm Joint Camp & Conference Comm. At Krislund
Aug. 15	10am Leadership Umbrella Team at Huntingdon Church
Aug. 16	Noon-State College Clergy Cluster at Milesburg Church
Aug. 17	9:30am Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices 1:30pm Sub-Committee Ministry to Congregations meeting
Aug. 22	Noon- North West Clergy Cluster
Aug. 23	9:30am Personnel Committee at Presbytery Offices 1:30pm Administrative Umbrella Team at Presbytery Offices
Aug. 25	10am Committee On Ministry Training at Presbytery Offices 1pm COM Chair people meeting at Presbytery Offices 4-7pm Discipleship Umbrella Team at the Creamery on Penn State Campus

August

Sept. 5	Presbytery Offices closed for Labor Day
Sept. 6	1pm Council meeting at Presbytery Offices
Sept. 8	1pm COM meeting at Presbytery Offices
Sept. 13	9:30 Nominating Committee meeting at Presbytery Offices 5pm Joint Camp & Conference Comm. At Krislund
Sept.14	12:30 Altoona Clergy Cluster at Bellwood Church
Sept.21	9:30 Quarterly Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
Sept. 23-25	Annual Executive Presbyter & Spouse Retreat
Sept. 24	Lay Pastors training on Church History
Sept. 27	6pm Presbytery Meeting at Belleville W. Kish Church

BODY BUILDING

Submitted by Don Goss

The Apostle Paul writes to the Colossians, “.... *for the sake of His Body, which is the church.*” To the Ephesians, Paul writes that we are all members of that Body, and then in (4: 12-16) describes the relationship each of us has through gifts enabling service, to the whole. And in Romans 12 (4 +), Paul ties us all together with our various God given talents, skills and abilities. The Presbyterian Church is thus a functioning member of Christ’s Body; Huntingdon Presbytery becomes a bone of the skeleton of the member, each congregation, An enabling sinew..

If we accept that we are, collectively, but a member of the whole, His body, and that we were created for the purpose of rallying recalcitrant “others” (the Great Commission {Matthew 28: 19-20}) to function within the Body, if not the member, we thus undertake to build the whole Body of Christ. Let’s consider some ways to do just that:

First, let us recognize that in any community, the work of God to care for His people IS and will go on. Those doing the work may not even realize that what they do is God’s Holy Work. Let us also admit that the work they do is done best when it is done for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31). What can we do to bring that about?

Has your congregation ever officially supported or held a “thank you God” event for Volunteer Fire Companies? Or local EMTs, or local police, or Public School Teachers/Boards, or PTAs, or Social and/or disaster relief Volunteer entities, or Business Associations (job creation or social benevolence)?

Maybe a thank you and some appreciation will help them, and you, glorify the providence of God in caring for His people, maybe even encourage “cross training” re: proclaiming the Gospel.

Elder Goss may be reached at casago@verison.net

Presbytery Prayer Calendar

August

- 7 Reedsville East Kish. Congregation**
Rev. Charles W. McGaha, Pastor
Shade Gap Congregation
Rev. Merry Hope Meloy, Interim Pastor
- 14 Sinking Valley Congregation**
Rev. John C. Dean, Stated Supply
Snow Shoe Congregation
Rev. Chuck Swenson, Moderator
- 21 State College Congregation**
Rev. Charles J. Curley, Pastor
Rev. Joel T. Blunk, Assoc. Pastor
Mrs. Deannine Shipman, D.C.E.
Mrs. Diana Malcom, Youth Coordinator
- 28 Lower Spruce Creek Congregation**
Rev. John C. Dean, Stated Supply
Tyrone Congregation
Rev. Robert E. Dunkelberger, Pastor

September

- 4 Vira Little Valley Congregation**
Rev. Charles W. McGaha, Moderator
Rev. Wayne Mast, Stated Supply
- 11 Winburne Congregation**
Rev. Chuck Swenson, Moderator
- 18 Committee on Ministry**
Rev. Samuel G. Strohm, Chairperson
- 25 Administrative Umbrella Team**
Rev. Alfred Wilson, Chairperson

*It is good to give
thanks to the Lord.*



Agape Herald
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Krislund Korner

Hot, Humid, & Having Fun Edition

Record Attendance

Week #3, July 10-16, set a new record camper attendance with 163 participants. Part of the large turnout was due to this summer's reduction of main camp opportunities, from eight to seven. The week after July 4 is also typically well subscribed. Despite the large turnout, programs ran smoothly and camper response was strongly positive.

Total Camp registrations have reached 911.

Be an Adult Volunteer in '06

More than twenty adults will have joined us by the end of the summer camp for a week of fun and service. Opportunities for ministry ranged from the kitchen to maintenance, and from van driving to handing out ice cream at the camp store. Hard work, lots of fun, and exciting worship and interactions with the campers and staff abound. If you're interested in setting aside a week at Krislund next summer, call 814.422.8878 for an application to be part of Krislund's Adult Volunteer Program.

Preserve Wilderness / Donate an Acre

Krislund is seeking lovers of the outdoors to support the camp's acquisition of 1,500 acres of adjoining wilderness. Multitudes of donors are needed to participate in the Donate an Acre program. Acre subscriptions are \$800 apiece, and gifts may be designated "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone special. Contributions are tax deductible and donors are beautifully displayed on the "Land of Life" wall mural in the Retreat Center. More information and a gift form are available by calling 814.422.8878, e-mailing SharonRishel@Krislund.org, or through our website: www.krislund.org.

Jacki Rearick Departs for Virginia

Former counselor and Program Director for the past three years, Jacki Rearick is moving to Roanoke, VA in August, where her husband will begin his career as a college professor. Through her efforts, Krislund has provided regional youth retreats, women's retreat, the Night for Valentines, wilderness first aid courses, and many innovative summer ministry programs. We will miss Jacki and her marvelous family. She will continue to be involved behind the scenes over the next year. Please prayer for their transition and new home. Some of the youth programs and Fall Family Camp will be postponed until other arrangements can be made. For more information, call the camp office.

Fall Work Day, October 1(rain or shine)

Join us the first Saturday in October for the traditional Fall Work Day. The summer camp facilities are cleaned and stored away as we prepare Krislund for another winter of ministry. Persons of all ages are invited to assist with activities ranging from window cleaning to chainsawing and from wood splitting to painting. We begin at 9:00am and end by 4:00; lunch is provided by the camp. Bring your Sunday School class, a group of friends, or just yourself for an excellent time of fellowship and meaningful work. Call the Camp office to register your participation (814.422.8878).

Special Thanks to Camper Scholarship Donors

The generosity of many churches and individuals have made camping at Krislund a reality this summer.

Interested in scheduling a retreat, day event, or wedding in the remodeled Retreat Center? E-mail us at info@krislund.org.

