



# Agape Herald

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

## December 2005

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*For to us a child  
is born, to us a  
son is given...and  
he will be called  
Wonderful Coun-  
selor, Mighty  
God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of  
Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6*

## BITS AND PIECES FOR OUR TIME

*"You are, I know, eager for gifts of the Spirit; then aspire above all to excel in those which build up the church." I Corinthians 14:12*

*Submitted by Joy Kaufmann, general presbyter.*

This is a compilation of bits and pieces, each intended to up-build in some way.

### **A Season of Discernment: The Final Report of the Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church**

The Theological Task Force has offered its final report. If you hoped the Task Force would issue another opinion/ruling on the ordination of open and affirming persons who are homosexual, you will be disappointed. To their credit, the Task Force members always said this was not their purpose. They intended to focus on bigger issues, relying upon prayer, Bible study and a process of mutual invitation to speak.

Their report rests on our Christian identity based in "the triune God who loves us, saves and empowers us with a calling and a commission". The first part of the report describes what our Christian identity enables us to *know*, to *hope*, and to *do*. It should come as no surprise that we are enabled to proclaim the Gospel because of our Christian identity.

The Task Force had two remarkable experiences, those of pain and penitence and of gratitude and joy. Pain and penitence came from learning the ways in which we alienate one another. The Task Force affirms that the Presbyterian Church (USA) in its current fractionalized state "fails to offer a suffering world a sign of the peace, unity, and purity that is God's gift to us in Jesus Christ." But the Task Force members also became "increasingly grateful for the gift of the church and for the ways that other persons and perspectives make the whole body stronger."

As the report looks at issues of Christology, Biblical authority & interpretation



## Report on November Presbytery Meeting

*Submitted by Ginny Rainey,  
Stated Clerk*

Together the Presbytery observed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Krislund. Then, it endorsed Krislund's proposal to do a fundraising campaign in 2006 and listened to Alice Sturniolo report on last summer's Thai mission trip.

The mileage reimbursement rate for volunteers and terms of call was capped at \$.485 per mile. Per capita was approved at \$24.62 for 2006.

As the presbytery adopted a new sexual conduct policy, Anne Ard interpreted what it means to be a mandatory report of suspected child abuse.

We said goodbye to Joe Tagliaferre and received Roland Emond, who will serve Coalport & Irvona.

Retiring presbytery solicitor Bob Stewart was honored for 23 years of service.

Presbytery appointed Kathy Colebank as Stated Supply at Huntingdon and Dick Berggren as Temporary Supply at Osceola.

*Dr. Rainey may be reached at  
statedclerk@atlanticbbn.net*

Continued on page 2

## Presbytery-wide Officer Training

Submitted by *Tracie Bullis, Incoming Chair,  
Leadership Umbrella Team*

Training for new and experienced officers alike will be offered again this year at three geographically strategic locations. Please reserve NOW the date of Sunday, January 8, 2006, from 2-4 PM for your church officers to attend this excellent learning and dialogue time.

You may attend wherever you wish. LUT has set the following locations and general church attendance suggestions:

- For the 717 Area Code churches, along with Huntingdon County and the Eastern State College Area: Belleville West Kish Presbyterian Church
- For the Bedford - Altoona - Bellwood - Tyrone area, along with the Southern State College Area: Hollidaysburg First Presbyterian Church
- For the NW corner from DuBois SW to Philipsburg: Philipsburg First Presbyterian Church

*Rev. Bullis may be reached at [lstprespburg@verizon.net](mailto:lstprespburg@verizon.net)*

**Prepare ye the  
way of the Lord**

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

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

## BITS AND PIECES

*continued from page 1*

and sexuality & ordination it calls us back to some resources we have already. These are 1) the Reformed theology of church governance including the disciplines of patience, forbearance and communal discernment, 2) Presbyterian polity with the inherent tensions built into it and 3) communal discernment. Only after examining (and using) these conceptual and spiritual tools did the Task Force come to any conclusions.

I found the section on the tensions inherent within our polity particularly helpful as we continue to face tough decisions together amidst strong disagreements. If you want to read the full report of the Task Force, you may find it by going to [www.pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity](http://www.pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity)

### Free Website for the Church Home Pages

You may set up a free church website by going to [www.presbychurch.net](http://www.presbychurch.net) Thank you to Beth Garrod-Logsdon for finding this resource!

### Young Pastors Forming Networks

For pastors age 40 or younger, several collegial networks are available. They include clergy-women, rural pastors, 7% alumni and postmodern/emerging church, among others. For more information go to [www.pcusa.org/youngadult](http://www.pcusa.org/youngadult)

### Synod Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships are Available

The three undergraduate scholarships are for racial-ethnic minority students, the children of minimally salaried PC(USA) clergy and any Presbyterian student attending any college *or* members of any denomination attending one of the seven synod-related colleges. For more information call 717-737-0421 or go to [www.syntrinity.org](http://www.syntrinity.org) Graduate scholarships are also available.

### Good News about Archaeology from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Professor Ron Tappy, professor of Bible and archaeology at the seminary, recently unearthed a stone bearing the oldest reliably dated example of the letters of the alphabet written out in their traditional sequence. This provides the most specific evidence of written education in Israel in the 10th century BCE. On December 8, Professor Tappy will present a lecture about this at the seminary's Hicks Memorial Chapel.

Blessed Advent and Christmas to you.

*Rev. Kaufmann may be reached at  
[gnrlpres@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:gnrlpres@atlanticbbn.net)*

## Christmas Dinner at State College Church

*Submitted by Peggy Kendall*

The State College Presbyterian Church is hosting the 14th Annual Community Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 25 from 3:30-6:00 p.m. The Centre Region community is invited to join them for the holiday fellowship and a traditional holiday meal. There is no charge for the meal. Deliveries will be made to those who are unable to attend. For further information call Greg Elliot at 692 4267 or Richard Page at 235 1748.

*Elder Kendall may be reached at  
pkendall@penn.com*

## Clearfield Church Honors Rev. Earl Brooks

*Submitted by*

*Kay M. Robison, Church Secretary*

The Presbyterian Church of Clearfield recently nominated Rev. Earl Brooks Pastor Emeritus. Virginia Rainey, as Clerk of the Presbytery, recently sent along a very nice letter which was presented to Earl on Sunday October 23rd. Please contact Ginny Rainey about getting a copy of the letter or contact Kay Robison if you would like a faxed copy.

*Kay Robison may be reached at:  
814-765-3081*

## An Invitation to Upper Spruce Creek

*Submitted by Peggy Kendall*

The Upper Spruce Creek Presbyterian Church invites all to the installation service of the Rev. John T. Diller, to be held at 3:00 p.m. on Dec. 4. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Rev. Diller graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a degree in Music Education after which he accepted a teaching position in the Newark, Delaware Public Schools. After being called to the ministry he attended Lancaster Theological Seminary where he served as chaplain at the Dauphin County Prison.

Rev. Diller has experience in clinical pastoral ministry at Hershey Medical Center. He is married to Regina and they have 2 children, John 5 and Sara 6. He was ordained at the Octorora Presbyterian Church on Nov. 19. *Elder Kendall may be reached at  
pkendall@penn.net*



## How An About Electronic Agape Herald!

The Communications Subcommittee responsible for the publication of the Agape Herald is seeking to expand readership while staying within the budget.

One way to accomplish this is to send the newsletter electronic to all who would utilize this method. If you would like to receive the Agape Herald through your email, just email the Presbytery Office and give them your email. Also, if there are people in your church who would like the newsletter, they can get it by notifying the Presbytery Office. If it can be sent to them electronically, all the better.

*You may reach the Presbytery office at:*

## Prescription Plans for

**Retirees** *Submitted by Sam Strohm*

Medicare is offering prescription coverage for the first time. Retired clergy should have recently received two letters from the Board of Pensions regarding their prescription coverage and that being offered by Medicare. The word we have received is that the Board's program offers more comprehensive coverage for the majority of retirees.

The Medicare D plan might be beneficial for retirees who meet the eligibility guidelines which are based on income. This plan is for retirees on a limited income. Those who are determined to be eligible for the Medicare D plan by Social Security must present a letter of eligibility to the Board of Pensions.

Ms. Mindy Broad, who deals with Medicare issues for the Board, invites any retiree with questions concerning the prescription plan to contact her at 1-800-773-7752.

*Rev. Strohm may be reached at  
sstrohm@acsworld.com*

## Presbytery Calendar December

Dec. 2	6:30 pm NW Clergy Cluster at Bullis' home
Dec. 4	3 pm Installation at Upper Spruce Creek for John Diller
Dec. 6	noon Personnel Committee meeting
Dec. 8	4 pm Discipleship Umbrella Team at Pine Grove Mills
Dec. 10	EP's & Spouses retreat in Clarion
Dec. 13	5 pm Joint Camp & Conference Committee
Dec. 13-15	Denominational Mission Funding Conference in Dallas, TX
Dec. 19	7 pm Commissioned Lay Pastor Cluster meeting at Presbytery offices
Dec. 21	9:30 am quarterly Staff meeting
Dec. 23, 26 & 30	Presbytery Offices closed for Christmas & New Years

2006

## January

Jan. 3	1:30 pm AUT at Presbytery Offices
Jan. 4	12:30 pm COM at Presbytery Offices
Jan. 8	2 pm Church Officer Training at 4 different locations
Jan. 10	1 pm Council meeting at Presbytery Offices
Jan. 12	2 pm Pastors Training with Randy Yoder at Presbytery Office
Jan. 19	Leadership Umbrella Team at Presbytery Office
Jan. 24	Mt. Top Parish kicks off 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary activities
Jan. 28	9:30 am Presbytery Meeting at State College Church
Jan. 30	Presbytery Media Mission in Pittsburgh

### Retired Clergy Group

*Submitted by Lee McCardle*

All retired clergy are welcome to participate in the Retired Clergy Group which meets each month for fellowship. The December meeting will be Christmas luncheon on Monday, December 19, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. The group will meet at the Autoport Restaurant at State College. Each participant is invited to bring a spouse or friend. We will order our food from the restaurant menu or partake of the luncheon buffet. We each pay for our own meal.

Please contact Lee McCardle for reservations by Friday, December 16.

*Rev. McCardle may be reached by [Leemccardle@adelphia.net](mailto:Leemccardle@adelphia.net) or by phone at 814-235-0676 or by postal card at 12 Hampton Court, State College, PA 16803-2114.*

*I came  
that they  
may have  
life  
and  
have it  
abundantly.  
John 10:10*



### West Kish Coffeehouse Program

*Submitted by Tom Schaeffer*

On Saturday December 3, 2005, promptly at 7 p.m., West Kish Coffeehouse will present its annual Christmas Show. The show features:

**Good News** (gospel quartet from Maryland)

**Chris & Tom**

**Mike Bratt**

**Elaine Mercer**

All performers will present songs and stories celebrating the Christmas season followed by a carol sing with the audience..

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.

Call 717-935-5065 for more information.

*Tom Schaeffer may be reached at [westkishch@earthlink.net](mailto:westkishch@earthlink.net)*

# Prayer Calender

## DECEMBER

- 4 Woodland Retirement Center**  
*Mrs. Joanne Wible, Administrator*
- 11 Westminster Woods**  
*Mrs. Deborah Barefoot, Administrator*
- 18 The Lay Pastors of Huntingdon Presbytery**
- 25 The Pastorless Churches of Huntingdon**

## JANUARY

- 1 Self-Development of People Committee**
- 8 Personnel Committee**  
*Elder Phyllis Hauenstein, Chairperson*
- 15 Presbyterian Women**  
*Mrs. Dorothy Rudy, Moderator*
- 22 Candidates and Inquirers for Ministry Of Huntingdon Presbytery**
- 29 Honorably Retired and Non-Parish Clergy of Huntingdon Presbytery**

*For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*



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## Four attend Wee Kirk Conference at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center

*Submitted by Duncan Nichol, Pastor, Mt. Top Parish*

John and Donna Dean of Alexandria, Christina Trimble of Lewistown and Duncan Nichol of New Millport attended the October 17-19 Wee Kirk Conference at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center at Mt. Pleasant, PA. The conference is sponsored by Presbyterians for Renewal.

This year's Wee Kirk Conference featured Professor Bob Kelley of Pittsburgh Seminary, Don Dawson, and Jim Farrer with their plenary addresses, and Pastor Linda Jagerberg, who preached the Tuesday evening Communion Service. Our song leader was Carey Anne LaSor of Westminster College, accompanied on the grand piano by Charla Dryburgh.

Some of the workshops were led by James Farrer, a professional consultant on church vitality and growth; Mary Lou Ferris on Christian Education in small churches; Elder Janet Jones on evangelism; Bob Kelley on the parables of Jesus; Bill Reinhold on missional churches; Betty Stull on Reformed spirituality; and Bill McSwegin on families. Other teachers offered other subjects of interest.

The Wee Kirk at Laurelville offers the opportunity to center on ministry and mission in a very beautiful setting, to relax and enjoy the conversations around the tables, and to sing in a magnificent choir or just listen to it. Ministers and their spouses, members of churches and their spouses were welcome.

*Rev. Nichol may be reached at:  
[Duncnjean@aol.com](mailto:Duncnjean@aol.com)*

## CALLING WOMEN OF ALL AGES

*Submitted by Mary Frances Jaymes*

The Shade Gap Presbyterian Church is sponsoring an Early SPRING spiritual retreat on March 3, 4 & 5, 2006 at Lane's Pine Lodge in Cassville. The fun begins at 6:45 PM on Friday, March 3 with registration. Cost is \$70 (lodging and meals) for the entire weekend; \$30 for those who can attend Saturday only. First come, first serve for reservations. 1/2 payment (\$35/\$15 for Saturday only) for registration is due 12/15/05; the remainder is due 2/1/05.

Checks made payable to "Shade Gap Presbyterian Church" and registration form should be sent to PO Box 114, Shade Gap, PA 17255. The mission of this retreat is

- to relax
- to praise and worship our Lord
- to provide fellowship
- to increase our spirituality
- to learn more about women in the Bible

### **Tentative Schedule - Friday, March 3 -**

Registration, Hymn Sing and Movie

### **Saturday, March 4 -**

Study of Women of the Bible instructed by Rev. Alice Meloy and Rev. Michelle Zearing

### **Sunday, March 5 -**

Early Morning Worship Service  
Casual Dress for the weekend

*For further information please call  
814-259-3256 or 814-259-3796.*

## Perceiving Perception... *Submitted by Jim Steiner, PHI / Presbyterian Homes Regional Director of Mission Support*

Perception has a lot to do with reality, as is always said in the advertising game. For many, perception IS their reality. What you see presented in today's media may or may not be accurate. It may even be somewhat accurate, but colored to suit someone's bias. I guess it's sort of like witnesses at an auto accident, each later recounting his separate recollection of the incident...you wonder if they were seeing the same crash! And why can't those referees see what's going on on the football field? I'm sitting hundreds of miles from the stadium and I can see that the guy's foot was out of bounds. It happens right in front of the ref and he needs a summit conference, a half-hour review of the instant replay, and two seeing-eye dogs to decide what the call should be!

Our state legislators obviously have a different view of how a 2 a.m. pay-raise vote looks to their constituents. Some who have never run a business find corporate profits outlandish. Those with the shoe on the other foot look at increased taxes as punishment for success. Once in a while you'll hear political ranting and raving against our country while others are literally dying in their conviction that they are protecting our unique way of life...and most people haven't seen what it takes to make a true non-profit organization fulfill its mission.

Did you ever try that exercise in school where everyone lines up along the chalkboard and the teacher whispers something in the first person's ear and says pass it on? That person then whispers the same message to the next person, and so on and so on, down the line. By the time it reaches the last student, who proudly recites what he was told just seconds ago, you can hardly recognize the original message! *Continued on page 7*

## Krislund Korner Advent Edition

### Hike of Five Million Steps Supports Donate An Acre Campaign

Beginning March 15, Robin and Steve Cort will start their hike of the 2,179-mile Appalachian Trail in the hopes of raising \$100,000 for Krislund's land purchase loan. "I'm a little nervous but the self-challenge is exciting," said Robin Cort. The pair will hike from south to north ("northbounders"), starting at Springer Mountain, Georgia and ending at Mount Katahdin in Maine, hopefully ending in late September. They plan to visit churches partnering with Krislund Camp when the trail is nearby, and to send newsletter accounts to friends and sponsors throughout the trip via the camp office. If you would like more information regarding Krislund's Donate an Acre campaign and the hike, please call 814.422.8878.

### Tim Halteman: New Program Director

Tim will begin January 15<sup>th</sup> as Krislund's program director. He will be responsible for overseeing summer and off-season camp events, recruiting summer staff, promoting camper registrations, and developing new opportunities for growth and renewal at Krislund. Tim comes with two years prior experience on the summer's Leadership Team and with lots of great experience in outdoor programming and activities. Youth group leaders and Sunday School directors are encouraged to call the camp to schedule a time for Tim to visit with potential campers, parents, and congregations. He will tailor a program to each group's needs and especially enjoys building excitement about Krislund's summer camps.

### Looking for Summer Camp Skill Instructors and Medical Personnel

A number of '06 summer camps need the involvement of short-term ministry volunteers with training and experience on a wide variety of topics, listed below. If you are interested in hearing more about these needs, please call 814.422.8878 or e-mail [info@krislund.org](mailto:info@krislund.org).

drama	soccer	environmental education
choral singing	archery	astronomy
whiffle ball	cycling Pine Creek	EMTs, LPNs, or CNAs

### Valentines Supper & Dance, Feb. 11 (Saturday)

Back by popular demand, this is a romantic evening for couples in the Camp's spacious and beautiful Retreat Center. Hors d'oeuvres begin at 5:00, followed by an optional wedding vow renewal ceremony, a four-course meal, and dancing. Ending at 9:00, this is a night to remember. Discounted motel accommodations are also available at the nearby Comfort Inn at Lamar for interested couples. The Camp's winterized apartment is also available to rent by the first interested couple wishing to spend the night. For information or to make a reservation, e-mail [info@krislund.org](mailto:info@krislund.org) or call 814.422.8878.

### Give the Gift that Keeps on Giving

Krislund Camp's Christmas Gift List is an excellent way to give something unique to special people on your list. If they like Krislund and enjoy seeing the lives of children changed, then choose one of the various items on the Gift List and buy a portion of that item in their honor. They will receive a beautiful card describing your gift to the Camp on their behalf, you will receive charitable gift recognition, and campers will begin enjoying your kindness this summer. Items on the Christmas List include new wagon and tent canvas, a digital camera, and a DVD duplicator. To receive gift information, please e-mail [info@krislund.org](mailto:info@krislund.org) or call 814.422.8878. Don't delay, and make this an extra special present for someone special.

**Oops! Summer Brochure Mistake: Mini Camp 'C' is 8/6-8 & 'D' is 8/10-12.**

# Get the Early Bird Special. Register for Camp Early!

Early Bird Registration Deadline: December 31, 2005

## Greetings from the Synod of the Trinity!

Submitted by Marcia R. Humer, Resource Support, eNews Editor

We are pleased to offer our newly revised e-News and hope that you will enjoy it. Please encourage others to sign-up today by sending them to the following link: <http://www.syntrinity.org/email/pagename.asp> or they can click on the mailbox icon on our main page: <http://www.syntrinity.org> Remember – your email is always secure with us!

Contact our Co-Executives - Tom Robinson and Bruce Stevens - (or any staff member) - by clicking on web page: [http://www.syntrinity.org/about/Staff\\_033104.htm](http://www.syntrinity.org/about/Staff_033104.htm) and you'll not only get our email and phone numbers but you'll see a picture too!

Partnership for the Missional Church-What is it? Who is it? What's it got to do with me? View this power-point presentation [http://www.syntrinity.org/home/executives/Mission\\_Church\\_PPT.htm](http://www.syntrinity.org/home/executives/Mission_Church_PPT.htm) - by Bruce and learn about the direction that our Synod is headed. Questions? Please contact either co-exec.

Need a vacation? Take a mini-mission trip with our 2005 Mission Travel Grant recipients and re-live their exciting adventures as they worked, lived, and prayed with others in Zambia, Ethiopia, Texas, Haiti and all over the globe. God's presence was certainly with these groups:

[http://www.syntrinity.org/home/good\\_stories/MTG\\_05\\_award\\_stories.htm](http://www.syntrinity.org/home/good_stories/MTG_05_award_stories.htm). The Synod is excited to have been a small part of each trip. Blessings!

Applications for 2006-2007 educational scholarships and 2006 Mission Travel Grants are NOW available: <http://www.syntrinity.org/Programs/ScholarshipsGrantsLoan.htm>. The Synod offers 3 undergraduate and 2 graduate awards for students who qualify. Details are online or by calling the Synod Office. Apply now for mission travel in 2006 but please note the NEW forms.

Interested in joining a Mission Network or maybe forming one? Or possibly you'd like more details? Jump into the Networks at: [http://www.syntrinity.org/Programs/Mission\\_Network\\_firstpg.htm](http://www.syntrinity.org/Programs/Mission_Network_firstpg.htm) and become involved. The Synod recently approved The Presbyterian Lay Academy Network of Western PA and the Presbyterian Medical Equipment Delivery Network and these two join our current networks: Adults with Disabilities, Eastern Church Transformation, Peacemaking Ministries, Resource Centers, and Trinity Youth Conference. Read about each of them today!

It is my pleasure to bring this first revised e-News to you. Please email me items of interest from your congregation, your Presbytery, or your local area as I update our website and attempt to stay abreast of happenings in and around our Synod and all of God's creation. I trust that you will feel as much a part of this effort as I do. Visit our website (<http://www.syntrinity.org/index/index.htm>) often and if you can't find what you looking for, let Marcia Humer know.

*Marcia Humer may be reached at 717-737-0421*

## Perceiving Perception... *Continued from page 5*

Amazingly enough, I sometimes confront similar situations that relate to the Presbyterian Homes. After a Minute for Mission or a community group presentation, I field questions that sometimes make me wonder who whispered what... in whose ear... how many generations ago ! More often than not, though, the reaction is : “ I didn’t know you had that many facilities !...and that range of services !...you mean I can get rehab there?...and you have cottages and apartments where I can come and go as I please ?... and you spend how much on taking care of folks who have outlived their assets ?...” The award-winner in the category of Most Frequently Asked is: “it’s good to hear that the Foundation assures that our donations directly benefit residents here in the Huntingdon Presbytery and you’re investing for the future. “

Perception, I think, has a lot to do with where you’re standing. Are you at the crest of the hill gazing down ? In the valley looking up ? Or maybe on the fence with a view in both directions ? There are lots of perceptions I have had to revise and of which I have to be aware every day. I can’t always take things the way they might appear, or the way they’ve always seemed to be. Learning to maintain a positive attitude, a faith in people, and fighting off some born-in and acquired perceptions of the world out there and the world close at hand help us to cope every day to find the right direction.

This discretionary thought process usually comes in handy at those family dinner discussions over the holidays. Now, that’s where perception truly is reality. Right ?

All the best of the season to you and yours. *Mr. Steomer may be reached at 814.695.5586 jsteiner@presbyhome.com*