



# Agape Herald

The Newsletter of the Presbytery of Huntingdon  
Mission: Loved by Jesus Christ, called to love others.  
[www.huntingdon.org](http://www.huntingdon.org)

## July 2005

General Presbyter :  
Joy Kaufmann  
gnrlpres@atlanticbbn.net

Treasurer:  
Liz Armstrong  
treasurer1@atlanticbbn.net

Mission Treasurer:  
Joann Kimmel  
hsk235@innernet.net

Stated Clerk:  
Virginia Rainey  
statedclerk@atlanticbbn.net

Pastoral Care Consultant  
Lynn Illingworth  
814-234-2415

Resource Center Coordinator  
Marie Carlson  
admina@atlanticbbn.net

Presbytery Office  
Phone: 814-742-2200  
Fax : 814-742-2214

## WHO ARE WE REALLY?

*Submitted by Joy Kaufmann, General Presbyter*

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." Romans 12:1-2*



Recently I took part in a conversation about the church. Not surprising for a General Presbyter, you say? This particular conversation will extend over the next four years, include other church body leaders, pastors serving with congregations and professors. It is all about the nature of the church at the beginning of the 21st century and what type of pastoral leadership will be needed to best serve the church. If we can figure out what type of leaders will be needed, then seminaries can determine what they ought to teach in order to form such leaders, and presbyteries will be able to supplement the seminary preparation with supports for pastors once they enter life with a congregation. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

But the Lilly Foundation, funder of this particular extended conversation, believes the culture around us is shifting so rapidly and so drastically that the church can hardly keep up. Someone(s) needs to spend the time to think about all of this, preferably with other persons of faith. And different kinds of insights about what it means to be "Church" might come to persons in different kinds of callings. The Lilly Foundation has funded many projects over the past decade or so about the nature of the church. This particular project is through the Presbyterian Church (USA), and is called "Reforming Ministry". You can find information about it on the denomination's website. Four clusters of persons, each including pastors, professors and church governing body leaders have already been formed, a core cluster last year and three others this year, with four more clusters to be formed in year four. We will pray about, read about, think about and talk about "Church".

It is an honor to be included in the "Church Body Leaders' Cluster" of the four clusters of persons already formed. Our presbytery's Personnel Committee approved my use of two three-day blocks of time per annum for four years, plus some study leave money to pay for a portion of the costs of the participation. The Lilly Foundation will fund the bulk of the costs, thus freeing pastors, professors and GPs/synod executives to take part who otherwise might not have had the funds to do so.

So what, exactly, are we doing? First, we pray together. Right now we are talking (electronically) about covenanting to join something called "The Company of Pastors", a set of daily and weekly prayer and study disciplines. We will read texts in common. We will think deeply about the texts. And we will give conversations together our best effort for the sake of serving Jesus

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## WHO ARE WE REALLY?

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Christ and his church. We won't share the content of our conversations until we have produced a final product to which we all can assent. But I will cheerfully let you know some of what we are reading, in case you want to read any or all of the texts with us.

For our first meetings, we started with some basics. We shared a lectio divina (Don't know what that is? Give a call and we'll chat.) Bible study on Romans 12. Then we moved to John Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion. Specifically, we read and talked about the sections having to do with the nature of the church, the nature of ministry, and the sacraments. Finally we moved to discussion of the book by Jill Hudson about which I wrote in this month's "Book Nook".

Please pray for us in this endeavor. From my perspective as a General Presbyter, the main goals of a presbytery need to be serving God through the strengthening of congregations and the strengthening of pastors to serve with those congregations. There are major cultural shifts occurring around us, and while most of our pastors and congregations are doing much faithfully and a lot of things "right", I believe it is also the case that we have much to learn about being transformed for a new day. For this little project to be in any way helpful to the church, we truly will need God's Spirit blowing among us.

Thanks for "listening in" about the Reforming Ministry project. I hope you have a refreshing, relaxing summer.

*Rev. Kaufmann may be reached at [gnrlpres@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:gnrlpres@atlanticbbn.net) or 814-742-2200*

## Presbyterian Homes ROAD RALLY... ready to roll !

*Submitted by Jim Steiner, Presbyterian Homes Regional Dir. of Mission Support*

Seemingly unrelated terminology: Presbyterian Homes and Road Rally...yet the two unite on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005, when gleaming paint and sparkling chrome will cruise throughout Central Pennsylvania in a charitable event designed for fundraising and friend-raising **to benefit residents who are no longer able to afford their own healthcare.** In 80 years, we have never asked anyone to leave for financial reasons.

All five of our retirement communities from Philipsburg to Orbisonia, will become starting lines as well as destinations for vehicular thrill-seekers and food-lovers. **Each facility will host Rally participants 8:30 am through 2:30 pm** on the 16<sup>th</sup>, providing a fun atmosphere with food, music, games, tours, and activities all individually themed to a decade... the '20's, 30's, 40's '50's, or '60's. Rally drivers are encouraged to visit as many of the Homes' campuses as time and their machines will allow! To see all five, one would travel approximately 200 miles depending upon the route the driver chooses. Entry vehicles may include: Antiques, Classics, Hot Rods, Trucks, Motorcycles, and even the family sedan!

We encourage you to "run whatcha brung!" By the way, speed and competition have nothing to do with this Rally...a leisurely weekend drive through the country used to be a tradition. This might just bring back the appeal...or, at least some memories!

**THEN... all participants as well as the public at large are invited to meet for our "Victory Lane" celebration from 3:00-6:30 pm at The Railroaders Memorial Museum** in Altoona for a car / motorcycle show, drivers' VIP buffet dinner (served from the newly refurbished Dining Car), awards, gifts, door prizes, and entertainment. A la carte food and beverages will also be available for purchase on premises.

**Early bird entry fee is \$25** through July 8<sup>th</sup> ...for which drivers will receive dinner, an official Rally t-shirt, entertainment, gifts, and eligibility for door prizes. After that, the fee is \$30.

On-site Rally-day entries will be accepted at each facility and at The Railroaders Museum. A second facet of the fundraising component to the event is the solicitation of "Pit Crew" donations obtained in various amounts by each driver as a show of support for his / her vehicle from friends, relatives, co-workers, and others.

Road Rally **sponsorship opportunities** are available at many levels, for businesses, groups, and individuals, offering high geographic visibility to a defined target audience.

Information is being distributed throughout our region to clubs, stores, churches, and organizations. If you can participate on any level, or can volunteer your services, our residents would be most appreciative. Please talk with the folks at Moshannon Heights, Windy Hill Village, Hollidaysburg, Westminster Woods, Woodland Retirement Center, or let me know... I'm sure we can get you in on all the fun !!!

*For further information, to procure sponsorships, or to register for Rally participation, Please call **Jim Steiner** at: 1.800.242.4037*

*[jsteiner@presbyhome.com](mailto:jsteiner@presbyhome.com).*

*"and the Lord said...Go forth and make joyful rumbling noises", or something like that !*

## Retired Clergy to Meet

*submitted by Lee McCardle*

Our Retired Clergy Group will meet Thursday, July 21st at 11:30 a.m. in Perkins Restaurant at State College. We each will order from the menu and pay for our own meal.

We are beginning our second year as a group. Our present activities include story-telling, show-and-tell, and the loan of books and various articles among our members. Come and tell us one thing about yourself, that we don't already know!

We seek to build relationships with one another as we live into the season of life we call retirement.

All retired clergy are invited to attend our informal luncheons.

For more information, contact the group coordinator, Lee McCardle at 814-235-0676 or [leemccardle@adelphia.net](mailto:leemccardle@adelphia.net).

### Still time to Join in the Fun!

The Broad Avenue Church cruise to Bermuda still has openings. The cruise is on the *Norwegian Crown* and will be Oct 2-19, leaving from Philadelphia.

The cruise is a fun fund raiser to help defray the costs of a number of necessary improvements to the building and also assist in financing the church van.

*For information call Shirley Long at 814-941-4855 or the church office, 814-943-8459.*

### Brief Update about Haiti

Missionaries to Haiti, Rodney and Sharyn Babe have been called home for six months due to the unrest in Haiti. They will be assigned other responsibilities as well as share their experiences. Pray for calm in Haiti and support for the families and children who need stability.

## WHAT IS A SMALL CHURCH? *Submitted by Jim Kimmel*

You have heard it said, "God must certainly love the poor because He made so many of them". Let me paraphrase that to "God must certainly love small churches because He made so many of them". But, what is a small church? Most attempts to define a small church have used only numbers as their sole criterion. In fact, just recently a flier came from General Assembly advertising a celebration of small churches that they defined as being churches with 100 members or less. How many Huntingdon Presbytery churches fall in that category of 100 members?

To me numbers alone do not adequately define a small church. I know what small is --- if numbers are the sole criterion. A recent issue of Readers Digest listed the best of almost everything. For the best preacher, they listed a preacher I never heard of but his claim to being the best preacher was that he had a congregation of over 5000. I guess by numbers that is a big church. The big question I want to ask myself is how large is their budget and what percentage of that budget is pledged for mission work? Perhaps even more important is what percent is spent on local needs? Of course with 5000 --- what makes up the area that needs local mission giving? If you think 5000 is a big church, then get this---a church is South Korea has 700,000 members. Now, That's big! How many Presbyteries does it take to claim 700,000 members? If we continue to lose members, the Presbyterian Church may fall below 700,000 members.

I guess I need to point out that I'm a small guy, except on the scales. I was born and reared in a small rural town of less than 300 people. I attended a small high school with only 28 in my graduating class. I went to a small college of less than 800 students. I began teaching in a high school of less than 350 students. I was born and reared in a small church of less than 50 members and I still am a member of a small church of less than 50 members. So I know what small is.

As a small church in a small community, we have addressed any tragedy in this small community. We have bought washers and dryers, paid electric bills, paid for medicines, assisted with hospital and surgical costs, paid water bills and much more. So I wonder, does that 5000 member congregation know the needs of its community? I would hope so. No, I would expect so.

In other words---numbers alone do not designate a big church or a small church. It's how that church addresses the needs of its community over and above what it pledges to Presbytery and Synod missions. A small church may be big in its mission programs and a big church may be small in its mission programs, percentage-wise. Big or small is not what is important. Results are what are important! Results are a better criterion for identifying big and small churches.

*Elder Kimmel may be reached at [has235@innernet.net](mailto:has235@innernet.net)*

## Presbytery Calendar July

July 4	Office Closed for Independence Day
July 6	1:30 pm Administrative and Discipleship Umbrella Teams at Presbytery Offices
July 9	9 am Certified Lay Pastor Training on Weddings and Funerals at Belleville Church
July 12	5 pm Joint Camp & Conference Comm. at Krislund
July 14	Noon 717 Clergy Cluster at McVeytown Church
July 20	9:30 am Staff meeting

### August

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

Joy Kaufmann will be on vacation from July 2 - 27. For "Book of Order" interpretations, please call Ginny Rainey, Stated Clerk. For matters related to pastors and congregations, please call Sam Strohm, Chair of Committee on Ministry. For matters related to Personnel issues, please call Phyllis Hauenstein. The GP asks for your prayers for traveling mercies! Thank you.

### MULTI-MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

*Submitted by Marie Carlson,, Resource Center Coordinatior*

#### When Better isn't

Enough: Evaluation Tools for the 21st-Century by Jill M. Hudson.....

*This Book is featured by Rev. Joy Kaufmann in the Book Nook on this page.*



Many sociologists and a growing number of church scholars have noted that we live in a time of transition—from the modern era to the postmodern. Whenever a shift of this magnitude occurs, it leaves all of life, including the church, in flux. We instinctively strive to stabilize the situation by re-establishing what has worked in the past. Increasingly, however, congregations are finding that the same old things done harder or better don't seem to make a difference. Approaching the postmodern era as a tremendous opportunity, Hudson identifies 12 characteristics by which we can measure effective ministry for the early 21st century. Based on those 12 criteria, Hudson has created evaluation tools, "an early measuring stick" to help congregations evaluate their work in this new era. 170 pages.

*Contact Ms. Carlson at 814-742-2200 or at [admina@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:admina@atlanticbbn.net)*

### BOOK NOOK

*submitted by  
Joy Kaufmann, GP*

#### When Better Isn't Enough: Evaluation Tools for the 21st-Century Church

by Jill M. Hudson is an almost good book. Ms. Hudson, a former presbytery executive, makes astute analysis of the situation in which churches find themselves at the beginning of the 21st century in our country. She also notes that simply doing things better and better when those things haven't worked for a while is neither wise nor serves Jesus Christ particularly well. So far, the book is good. But the second half of the book, 12 tools for analysis of various aspects of ministry, would guide us to do just what the author has denied as a valid way to proceed: to do better and better what may not be working. At any rate, this book is an interesting read, makes many astute observations, and is almost right.

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

## Presbytery Prayer Calendar July

### 3 Mount Union Congregation

**Neelyton Pine Grove Congregation**  
*Rev. Merry Hope Meloy, Interim Pastor*

### 10 New Millport Fruit Hill Congregation

*Rev. Duncan Nichol, Pastor*  
**Osceola Mills Congregation**  
*Rev. Duncan Nichol, Moderator*

### 17 Orbisonia Congregation

*Rev. Alice M. Meloy, Moderator*  
**PA Furnace Upper Spruce Creek  
Congregation**  
*Rev. Carl D. Campbell, Moderator*

### 24 Petersburg-Bethel Congregation

*Rev. David L. Benfer, Pastor*  
**Philipsburg Congregation**  
*Rev. Tracie A. Bullis, Pastor*

### 31 Pine Grove Mills Congregation

*Rev. Carl D. Campbell, Pastor*  
**Port Matilda Bald Eagle Congregation**  
*Rev. Paula Curtis Burn, Moderator*

### Other Prayer Concerns

Les Papp has undergone heart surgery. He covets all our prayers. Pray for his quick recovery.

"Please start praying now for *The Magnetic Church Event* to be held by our presbytery October 14 - 15, 2005. Andy Weeks will teach us about hospitality and evangelism from a mainline perspective.

Dave Benfer began a new series of Chemo in late June. He and Louann appreciate your prayers.

Jeannette Mater's father who had undergone hip surgery has improved following a setback with blood clots. Jeannette sends many thanks for prayers.



**Agape Herald**

Presbytery of Huntingdon  
323 Main Street Box 99  
Bellwood PA 16617

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## West Kish Coffeehouse will present:

Saturday, July 23, 2005.

*Submitted by Tom Schaeffer*

- \*Music with PaPa - Guitarist/piano player sharing tunes from the last century and beyond with a sprinkling of originals
- \*Luke Yocums - original blues inspired songwriter
- GC&T - roots music

The show starts promptly at 7:00pm.

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. The food and drink available are also free of charge, although donations are accepted.

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

## Self-Development of People Committee Announces Availability of Funds

*Submitted by Kay Lewis*

Funds have been made available to The Huntingdon Presbytery SDOP Committee through our One Great Hour of Sharing contributions. In 2005 we will be receiving \$5673, which is to be used by our presbytery for projects in the presbytery that enable disadvantaged people who are trying to help themselves.

In previous years, we have made grants to youth ministries such as The Teen Ministry project in Mt Union, The Joshua House Ministry in Tyrone, and a teen ministry program in Altoona. If any Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon Presbytery knows of a project in their community which fits the criteria and needs funds, please ask that organization to contact Dr Kathryn Lewis and the committee will be happy to review a group's request.

*Dr. Lewis may be reached at 814 684 3761.*

## Congregations Rewarded by Union-PSCE for Excellence in Education Ministry

Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education each year awards congregations in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for outstanding programs in early childhood education, excellence in Christian education, effective youth ministry and outreach and social concern. These four Congregation Awards are presented at the annual Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference (APCE). Since 1991, 55 churches in 24 states have received these awards. Each award carries a \$1000 contribution to assist the congregations in their ministries. If your church would like to apply for one of the Union-PSCE Congregation Awards, please call April Swofford for an application at (804) 254-8047 or 800 299-2990 ext. 747 or e-mail [aswofford@union-psce.edu](mailto:aswofford@union-psce.edu). The deadline for the 2006 Awards is November 1, 2005.

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### Editorial and Production Team

Linda Vance, ([lindaleevance@aol.com](mailto:lindaleevance@aol.com)) 814-632-3804  
Spence Hauenstein ([spencerw@atlanticbb.net](mailto:spencerw@atlanticbb.net)) 814-742-8207  
Jim Davis-Petersburg ([jimandbarbara621@aol.com](mailto:jimandbarbara621@aol.com)) 814-669-4519  
Peggy Kendall ([pkendall@penn.com](mailto:pkendall@penn.com)) 814-238-7875  
Bill Conway ([4conways@adelphia.net](mailto:4conways@adelphia.net)) 814-342-5930  
Jake Wagner ([jacobew@acsworld.com](mailto:jacobew@acsworld.com)) 814-717-543-5726  
Sara Guy ([sguy@penswoods.net](mailto:sguy@penswoods.net)) 814-236-2658  
Nancy Kraybill ([wkk1@psu.edu](mailto:wkk1@psu.edu)) 814-944-3141  
Janet Brallier ([presby12@penswoods.net](mailto:presby12@penswoods.net)) 814-652-2925  
Jane Illingworth ([jti14@earthlink.net](mailto:jti14@earthlink.net)) 814-259-3136  
Bob Himes ([blkpatch@acsworld.com](mailto:blkpatch@acsworld.com)) 717-667-9673  
Chuck Hayes ([chayes@clearnet.net](mailto:chayes@clearnet.net)) 814-378-8162  
Alice Meloy ([ammrem75@innernet.net](mailto:ammrem75@innernet.net)) 717-349-2685  
Mary Frances Jaymes ([mfjaymes@yahoo.com](mailto:mfjaymes@yahoo.com)) 814-259-3256  
Jean Haynes ([jeaness@earthlink.net](mailto:jeaness@earthlink.net)) 814-387-6753  
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](mailto:wecm7@earthlink.net)

Following the special presbytery meeting at the Houtzdale Church on May 5, someone's brown-framed sunglasses were found in a pew. They are now at the presbytery office. To claim them, please call 814-742-2200 and make arrangements.

## Clergy Profile

*submitted by Dave Benfer*

On Election Day 1936 Franklin Roosevelt was elected for a second term. The White House sent a letter thanking the parents of our guest this month for adding a second middle name, "Franklin", to their newborn son's name.

Hailing from Western PA., Leslie R. F. Papp graduated from McKeesport High School, earned his B.A. from Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois and his M. Div. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. As far back as he can remember, God's call was upon his heart. When asked, "What are you going to be when you grow up?" the reply was, "A minister!" Ordained in 1961, Les retired in 2002, having served 41 years in full time ministry.

Married in 1960 to Patricia Brooky, Les and Pat are parents of three children and grandparents to four grandchildren. Pat has been a very important ingredient in Les' ministry, and as he states, "Pat and I collected a lot of people to love and we still remain in contact with many to this day."

It was in his first pastorate that Les discovered a God-given skill of working with troubled, problem filled churches. Serving as a re-development pastor, he would complete his assignments of bringing life to one church, healing to another, and then move on to the next. His ministry journey has covered several states – Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Rhode Island and Michigan.

Les has served on various COM's for 35 years, at one point was elected to a General Assembly Task Force, and has served as a Moderator of the Synod of West Virginia. His claim to fame was his suggestion for setting minimum wages for pastors. His suggestion was first adopted by the Synod of West Virginia and later adopted by all the presbyteries.

Humor is another of Les' God-given gifts. He loves to make people laugh and allow people to laugh at themselves, and to laugh or at least smile, even when they'd rather cry. As part of his sermon presentations, Les works hard at talking with people, using illustrations and stories about events in his own life that touch on the fact that the pastor is a human being struggling with the same things many people struggle with.

Les considers that the greatest compliment he has received in his years of ministry is, "What you see in Rev. Papp is what he is!"

*You may reach Rev. Benfer at 814-669-8883*

## MINISTERS ARE HUMAN

*Submitted by Leslie R.F. Papp*

I have been given a high and holy calling, and have accepted this sacred responsibility. Check out the Apostle Paul's definition of ministry in Colossians 1:25,28 and in 1 Thessalonians 5: 14b-18. It is my prayer that people will see the love of Jesus given to me as I share it with them in word and deed. I am also aware of another reality: I am a human being, who has a number of imperfections, just like everyone else. If I should ever forget, my wife Pat is sure to remind me. However, we can take heart, because God has chosen to work in and through human beings.

When my mother realized I was serious about becoming a minister, she sat me down and said, "Leslie, (she always calls me this) let me tell you that being a minister isn't easy. I think you should work in the steel mill where you'll only have one boss. In the church, everyone will be your boss and everyone will have different idea of what you are to do as a minister." My mother was right.

Just after my ordination in 1961, I came across this ad:

### WANTED: A MINISTER FOR OUR CHURCH

*A real challenge for the right person. An opportunity to become better acquainted with people. Applicant must offer experience as a worker, preacher, office manager, administrator, typist, Educator (for all age levels), artist, visitation specialist, salesman, diplomat, writer, theologian, Politician (better be the right party), Boy Scout and youth leader, psychiatrist, funeral director, wedding consultant, master of ceremonies at many varied types of functions, circus clown, missionary worker, social worker, custodian and coordinator and in his spare time to be in the office to visit with people. Helpful, but not essential also to be: butcher, baker and candlestick maker.*

During my years as a minister, I've found this tongue-in-cheek ad only dents some of the expectations some people have. Of course, these many varied standards are used to determine whether the minister is doing a good or bad job, regardless of how unrealistic some expectations are. So I find myself praying, "God guide me and use me to show and be your instrument of love and service."

Some principles that have guided my role as a minister:

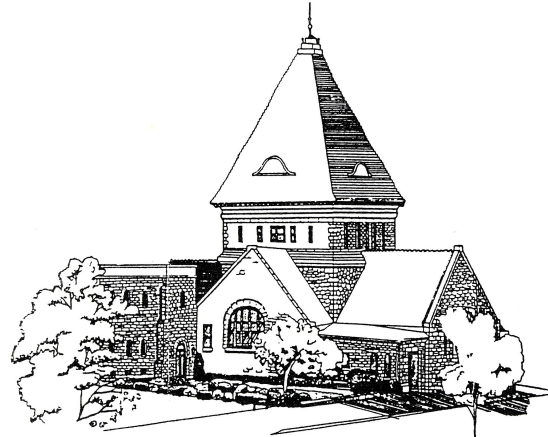
- When there is something to do – do it.
- When you are doing one thing, you can't do something else at the same time. (I've tried)
- Planning ahead is important.
- I will never ask anyone to do what I wouldn't do myself.
- Always leave it better then I found it.
- Communication is important so everyone will know what is happening.

Be dependable, because you are not indispensable.

*Rev. Papp may be reached at 814-632-7327*



The Broad Avenue Presbyterian Church



The First Presbyterian Church

### **Broad Avenue and First Presbyterian Churches to Merge**

At the June 28 meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery the Presbytery affirmed the decision of the congregations of the Broad Avenue and First Presbyterian Churches to formally join together. The congregations of both churches had approved the decision at congregational votes during the previous weeks. The Presbytery has established an Administrative Commission to assist the churches in this exciting process.

The decision has followed many weeks of prayer and planning with the assistance of Rev. Earnest Walls, Moderator of First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Joseph Tagliaferre, Interim Pastor at Broad Avenue.

Both churches have long histories. The First Presbyterian Church of Altoona was built in 1851 on the corner of 12th Avenue and 13th Street. The original members included thirty communicants who transferred from the Hollidaysburg congregation. Since it was the first Presbyterian congregation in the community, the membership petitioned the Presbytery of Huntingdon to recognize them as The First Presbyterian Church of Altoona. Although the original building was damaged by fire in 1854, a new building was erected by 1855. However, after several decades during which the church membership grew rapidly, the old building was determined to be inadequate and a new larger church was erected on the corner of 14th Avenue and 12th Street.

The Broad Avenue Presbyterian Church was finished in 1892 after the Presbytery determined the need for a mission plan to serve the population of Altoona, which had tripled since 1870. It's original membership included 36 charter members. The original pipe organ at Broad Avenue was made possible through a grant from Andrew Carnegie and was dedicated in 1905. That organ was replaced in 1957 and the new organ was again rebuilt for the Centennial year in 1992. One of the traditions at Broad Avenue has been it's inspiring music.

This new merger will bring many changes for the resulting congregation and its members. The prayers of Presbyterians throughout Huntingdon Presbytery will be with these church congregations as they transition to new worship experiences and ministry in the community of Altoona.