



Agape Herald

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

www.huntingdonpresbytery.com

*August
2006*

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Summer Camping Edition

Dear Friends,

Here are parts of the sermon from the Wednesday, June 21st, evening's service, preached by The Rev. Dr. Henry Bradford of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the historically African-American denomination of the "Cumberlands". He said a lot more - the sermon went for 40 minutes! But it was quite good. My favorite quote was, "I am only one. But I am one. I must not let the things I cannot do stop me from doing the things I can do, with God's help."

Blessings, Joy



"You can't know what Jesus would do if you don't know Jesus," the Rev. Henry Bradford Jr., a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America pastor from Huntsville, AL, told a throng of Presbyterians at the last of three historic joint worship services of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). "A real witness has a strong, personal, emotional connection to who's being witnessed to," Bradford said. "For Christians, there's no proxy witnessing, there's no vicarious witnessing. A real witness has to know things personally. You can't be real unless you know what you're talking about."

Citing the prophet Micah, Bradford said, "Witnessing with our mouths isn't enough. On Sunday we raise our voices vociferously and raise our hands vigorously, but then, too often, we go home satisfied, petrified about the human condition. We must go beyond praise to save. "Salvation is our primary Christian imperative all over the world."

And that imperative starts with individual Christians. "Every movement in this nation and this world started with one person who realized that God requires mercy and the application of it * I am my brother's keeper." The church is comprised of individuals and together they have enormous power, Bradford said, repeating over and over: "I am one. I am only one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do prevent me from doing what I can do."

This story available online at:

*<http://www.pcusa.org/ga217/newsandphotos/ga06129.htm>
GA06129*

June Presbytery Meeting

Exclusive to the Agape Herald

The June 13 meeting of presbytery got off to a cheery start with welcome glasses of lemonade and chocolate chip cookies at Mountain Top Parish. Rev. Dick Austin led worship with a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Parish. Presbytery certified two new lay pastors, Leanne Gill Peters and Carol Wyerman and approved the commissioning of elders Gary Jewart and Martha Bloom as co commissioned lay pastors of the Moshannon Valley Parish. We dissolved calls of Barry Vance at Logan Valley and John Becker at Milesburg. Session records review was set for October 10, with make up date October 17 at Pine Grove Mills. A first look at the 2007 budget was presented. We commissioned folks to attend General Assembly on our behalf. We encouraged youth to apply for Triennium slots for next summer's event. A Continuing Membership Policy was adopted.

Ginny Rainey

Upcoming "brown bags" for the North West Clergy Cluster

Lunch AND Friends

Mon., Aug. 21 - 12 noon - DuBois Presbyterian, Gary Califf & Beth Garrod-Logsdon, hosting.

Mon., Sept. 11 - 12 noon - Pine Grove Bethel Church of Clearfield, Duncan Nichol, hosting.

Mon., Oct. 9 - 12 noon - PROPOSED BROWN BAG AT PHILIPSBURG with the 717 group. Details TBA.

Chuck & Sallie Swenson and Duncan & Jean Nichol are teaming up for a Christmas season NW Clergy/Spouse get together in the Fruit Hill Parish Hall in the manse. The group will help determine the day and time soon.

Tracie did such a good job on the 2006 Christmas season get together, we're proposing to go for a second year.

Take care, Duncan

P.S. I've really enjoyed our conversations and the ability to bring things up to talk about. It's like recess for me in that I get to play with my friends.

Peters Becomes Certified Lay Pastor

50th anniversary of Mountain Top Larger Parish,

Leanne M. Gill Peters, an elder of the Pine Grove Bethel Church of Clearfield, has become a Certified Lay Pastor of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The action was taken by the Presbytery of Huntingdon at its Tues., June 13th meeting at the Fruit Hill Church of New Millport, near Ansonville. This puts Mrs. Peters one step from becoming a "commissioned" lay pastor.

When Mrs. Peters receives a call to serve a church, and it is approved by the Presbytery, she will become a commissioned lay pastor in the 2.2 million member denomination. The commissioned lay pastor is an elder of the Presbyterian Church (USA), who is granted a local commission by the presbytery to lead worship and preach the gospel, watch over the people, and provide for their nurture and service. A commissioned lay pastor is able to administer the Lord's Supper and baptism, moderate the session of the congregation, have a voice and vote in presbytery meetings, and to perform Christian marriages.

Mrs. Peters teaches US history at Clearfield Area High School and is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Clearfield/Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission. She is married to Robert Peters who is also an Elder at Pine Grove Bethel Church and who teaches science at the Clearfield Area High School. They have two children, Andrew and Adrienne. Mrs. Peters is the daughter of Lee and Ann Gill who are both Elders at the Pine Grove Bethel Presbyterian Church.

The occasion of the Presbytery meeting was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mountain Top Larger Parish, which is composed of the Fruit Hill Church, the Glen Richey Presbyterian Church and the Pine Grove Bethel Church.

*Duncan Nichol, pastor,
Mountain Top Larger Parish
814-672-3026*

Transformation is not a simple process

Change is complex

BIRMINGHAM, June 20 * "Churches provide an extra level of complexity when we talk about change," said Mike Bonem, President of Kingdom Transformation Partners and co-author of *Leading Congregational Change: A Practical Guide for the Transformational Journey* during the Churchwide Transformation luncheon held Tuesday.

One reason change is so difficult in churches is because they are "volunteer dependent," Bonem observed. "If they don't like the direction of the change, they can leave. Or sometimes, to make it worse, they can stay."

Another reason is that the church has rich traditions, and people fight over those traditions. "What kind of hymnal to use, how you will worship . . . all those tradition questions are complicated by a theological overlay," said Bonem, "it can be experienced as changing how we relate to God, and people internalize it more deeply."

Other reasons Bonem gave for the complexity of change in a church include unclear motivations for change, confusing governance structures (just how do decisions get made here) and churches tend to be notoriously poor at giving and using feedback.

"So we say, 'Tom just loves God.' And what we're not saying is that Tom is a terrible Bible teacher. Or 'Sally just loves children.' And we're not saying, 'But the children don't love her.'"

"Transformation is not a simple five-step process," Bonem cautioned listeners.

"When we started in Houston we said let's get a plan, be clear about that plan and follow that plan," Bonem explained. "We failed miserably."

Bonem shared a model of transformation that takes into account the levels of complexity associated with change in a church. Central to that model is "spiritual and relational vitality."

"Change will always produce conflict." Citing the food distribution conflict in Acts 6, Bonem explained, "When you have a healthy level

of spiritual and relational vitality, when conflict emerges it can be life-giving. When you don't have it, conflict becomes life-threatening."

"Spiritual vitality produces a holy dissatisfaction with the church where members are not going to accept the status quo. However, many changes do not grow out of spiritual vitality," Bonem warned, "they grow out of a survival mentality."

Second, after spiritual vitality, Bonem said another key to leading people through change is personal preparation. We need to be asking ourselves, "God, what are you calling me to do? How are you equipping me to help make this change?"

A third key element of helping to lead congregational transformation is developing the vision and the vision path. Vision is capacity to see the big picture. "Vision path is the steps to move toward the vision."

Bonem took pain to warn transformational leaders not to settle for compliance with the vision : "Just tell me what to do and I'll do it," but to seek commitment, "I'm willing to take this hill with you."

Finally, he noted that leadership teams need to be learning together. "It is far better to go to one conference with five people than to have one person go to five conferences. If we're not learning together," Bonem reflected, "it's far too easy to fall into the posture of 'Pastor, you tell me what to do and I'll do it.'" Instead, Bonem suggested, "Begin asking the hard questions together: Why are we declining? We've had 25 visitors who have never come back. What does that mean for us?"

"Church is not a business," Bonem argued, "it's a spiritual journey." And we're all along for the ride.

by Corey Schlosser-Hall

To learn more, visit <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/>

Presbytery Calendar

AUGUST

July 30-Aug.5 Trinity Youth Conference
Aug. 8 5pm -Joint Camp and Conference Committee at Krislund
Aug. 10 4pm - Discipleship Umbrella Team at Meyer Dairy
Aug. 15 1pm - Committee on Ministry at Presbytery Offices
Aug. 21 Noon - Northwest Clergy Cluster at DuBois Church
Aug. 23 9:30- Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
Aug. 24 1pm- Leadership Umbrella Team at Presbytery Offices
Aug. 29 1:30pm- Administrative Umbrella Team at Presbytery Offices

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 4 Presbytery Offices closed for Labor Day
Sept. 5 1pm - Council meeting at Presbytery Offices
Sept. 11 Northwest Clergy Cluster at Pine Grove Bethel Church
Sept. 13 Quarterly Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
Sept. 15 -16 EP & Spouse Retreat in Downingtown, PA
Sept. 16 Synod PJC Training in Bedford
Sept. 17 9:00am Vira/Burnham Church service of merger.
Sept. 20 1pm- Committee on Ministry meeting at Presbytery Offices
Sept. 21 2pm – Pastor Training with Randy Yoder
Sept. 26 6pm – Presbytery meeting at Philipsburg Church
Sept. 27 10am – Synod meeting about 1st call pastors
Sept. 28 10am – Judicatory Heads meeting

OCTOBER

Oct. 3 9:30am – Personnel Committee meeting at Presbytery Offices
Oct. 7 9am – Beyond Magnetism Event
Oct. 10 1:30pm – Administrative Umbrella Team at Presbytery Offices
5pm – Joint Camp and Conference Committee at Krislund
Oct. 11 9:30am – Staff meeting
Oct. 12 4pm – Discipleship Umbrella Team at Pine Grove Mills Church
Oct 17 1pm – Committee on Ministry at Presbytery Offices
Oct. 19-20 Synod meeting at W. Middlesex
Oct. 24 1pm – Council meeting at Presbytery Offices
Oct. 26 1pm – Leadership Umbrella Team at Presbytery Offices
Oct. 28 Krislund Capitol Campaign Kick Off Event
Oct. 30-Nov.1 – Fall Polity Conference and AEPS meeting

Prayer Request Calendar

AUGUST

6 Petersburg-Bethel Congregation
Rev. David L. Benfer, Pastor

Philipsburg Congregation
Rev. Tracie A. Bullis, Pastor

13 Pine Grove Mills Congregation
Rev. Carl D. Campbell, Pastor

Reedsville East Kish. Congregation
Rev. Charles W. McGaha, Pastor

20 Sinking Valley Congregation
Lower Spruce Creek Congregation
Rev. John C. Dean, Stated Supply, Moderator

27 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

SEPTEMBER

3 Tyrone Congregation
Rev. Robert E. Dunkelberger, Pastor

10 Committee on Representation
Rev. Keith A. Kensinger, Chairperson

17 Committee on Ministry
Rev. Charles J. Curley, Chairperson

24 Administrative Umbrella Team
Rev. Alfred W. Wilson, Chairperson

Beyond Magnetism Day Seminar

Saturday, October 7, 2006 9AM—2PM (lunch included) at the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church.

Come explore the challenges of incorporating the tools learned at the Magnetic Church Event in 2005. We will go beyond marketing tools to discuss what draws the non-churched into our churches. Whether you attended the Magnetic Church Event or not, plan to **come and investigate church life with us!** **We are requesting pre-registration by September 26, 2006.**

To register or for more info contact

the Presbytery Office at: 814-742-2200 or [Email: admina@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:admina@atlanticbbn.net)

2006 VBS A Visit to the U.S.A.

A look at the Wonderful World of Mission

Mission is to bear witness to God's love for the world in Jesus Christ. Mission is the grateful and enthusiastic response to God's grace. It gives hands, heart, mind, and spirit to faith. We tell the good news of Jesus Christ. We listen to others and welcome them in Jesus' name. We pray, connecting ourselves to God and others. We give cheerfully, sharing the abundance that God has given us. We act; in our time and place we do what is most needed and what we can do best. During the week of 'A Visit to the USA' we asked, "What does it mean to be mission-minded?" We discovered that being mission-minded is about: Evangelism, Hospitality, Prayer, Generosity, and Action

The Alexandria First Presbyterian Church and Petersburg Bethel Presbyterian Church joined together in June for their 2006 Vacation Bible School program. The program looked at the wonderful world of mission and was offered to all age groups from Pre-K through adult. The children aged Pre-K through 6th grade attended classes at the Petersburg Bethel Presbyterian Church in Petersburg. The Jr/Sr High students as well as the adults attended classes at the Alexandria First Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. A school bus was provided to take children from the Alexandria community to the Petersburg Church each evening and back again when the program ended.

The children and adults had a wonderful week and all enjoyed learning about Presbyterian mission in the US. They visited 5 states and can't wait to see where they go to next year. Collections for the week were dedicated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the adult group worked on PDA Kits as their mission project. In all there were more than 60 youth involved in the program and more than 30 adults either in the classroom or volunteering with the children.

Bounteous Blood Drive

Biggest & Best

Osceola Presbyterian Board of Deacons would like to thank all who helped with our most successful blood drive ever! We had 63 donors attend with 59 productive units given. This was a 35% increase from our normal goal. We had three first time donors as well.

With the blood donated at just this one sponsored drive up to 155 area patients will receive this gift. May we all prayerfully consider helping the Red Cross to continue giving the gift of blood.

Blood drives need sponsors - an organization that can provide the appropriate physical space and a coordinator from the organization to educate, motivate, and recruit donors and work with the local Red Cross.

Why do organizations sponsor drives? Because it is both a simple and a powerful way to serve your community and allow folks to get involved. Whether your organization is large or small, you can make a difference! WE DID!

If you or your organization is interested in becoming a blood drive sponsor, please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543) for details, or register online at:

www.givelife3.org/sponsor/register.asp

*Victoria Smith
Deacon's Moderator
Osceola Presbyterian Church*

West Kish Coffeehouse

presents:

Mike Bratt - singer songwriter , Thursday Harmony - male choral group, and Charles Ramsey - original acoustic
Saturday August 12, 2006 - show starts promptly at 7:00pm

West Kish Coffeehouse is located in the West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian church, 3821 W. Main St. Belleville, PA, 17004. The coffeehouse is a venue for local musicians and performance artists. The admission is free and coffee, sodas, and light fare are provided. Contributions are accepted to cover costs.

Call 717-935-5065 or e-mail at the address below for further information or directions

West Kish Coffeehouse: westkishch@earthlink.net

Krislund Korner for August 2006:

First note regarding Krislund :

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

MAY YOUR EYES BE OPENED to see the deep beauty and eternal value of Krislund Camp and Conference Center. It is a TREASURE God has given to each of us who have been called to lead and serve churches in the Carlisle, Huntington, and Northumberland Presbyteries. Many of you, and many in your congregations may not know much about Krislund. MAY YOUR EYES BE OPENED to see the deep beauty and the eternal value of our camp and conference center.

Over the next several months, **you** will be receiving e mails with information about Krislund from me. I am a pastor in Spring Run, serving a congregation in a rural setting. I know how much information you receive through snail and electronic mail. I know how difficult it is to prioritize and balance everything that comes at us. Let me help you and your congregation become better acquainted with a place to renew faith and energy for children, teens, and adults. Krislund is such a place. It is a TREASURE in our midst.

I hope that you will put the information I send into your bulletins. It will come in various forms. Sometimes it will come as a short paragraph, "Did you know that..." Sometimes it will come as a bulletin insert. My only request is that you read it, and then help us get the information to the right person who will put it in front of the EYES of your congregation.

Thank you, in advance, for choosing to move Krislund up a notch or two on your priority list. We have all voted to support it and our vision for its future. May God help us fulfill our commitment faithfully and enthusiastically.

*For Christ & the Church,
Rev. Dr. Meagan M. Boozer
Pastor, Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church
Spring Run, PA*

A message from a recent camper:

Dear Agape Heralders,

God is everywhere, but sometimes it's hard for one to open one's heart and feel His presence. The Krislund camp experience, to me, is epitomized by the camp song "Open the Eyes of my Heart" which derives its title from its softly spiritual chorus. Indeed, camp is dedicated to doing just that.

I recently returned from my 5th visit to Camp Krislund, feeling the usual spiritual renewal one encounters upon entering, for all intents and purposes, a large and very wooded church. (Slightly larger and wilder than the house of worship I call home, Bedford Presbyterian, to be certain.) The pine trees and opal sky form walls and ceilings more beautiful than any human could construct.

Krislund is marked by strange living spaces, and this year I had the fortune to sleep in a Conestoga wagon for a week while learning about God through various adventures. Like most main campers, I attempted—and for the first time, succeeded—in scaling a 50 foot rock wall: an almost perfect metaphor for continuing through the trials of life (the force of gravity and the desire to quit early) and trusting God (The belayer holding the harness that kept us from plummeting to the ground on a misstep).

Yet the blood-pumping adventure only serves to offset the quieter side of Krislund. By comparison to caving and hiking, campside discussion and hymn singing may sound quite gentle. But it is in this soft matter that my own spirit may be awakened. My counselors, Sarah and Ellen, gladly discussed our units' questions and misgivings with open minds, and through this practice I felt truly redeemed. Nor do I have any doubt that the rest of my unit felt the same.

Yes, Krislund Camp opens the eyes of my heart like a shot of intravenous caffeine. It's hard to leave, but I know that the flames have been fanned in my soul, and I've been taught the means to keep them alight until next time.

*Ona Hogarty, 15
Member, Bedford Presbyterian Church*

Small Church Ministry

Hope for rural churches

(BIRMINGHAM, June 21) Rural church fans at the Small Church Ministry breakfast discovered that not only can Gary Farley deliver a vision for the future; he also plays a mean harmonica.

Before his impromptu concert, Farley, who is the director of the Pickens Baptist Institute, spoke on "Re-Inventing the Rural Church."

"Recently, I took a trip on the blue highways through Appalachia," he said. "I was reminded of Carl Dudley's statement, 'God must love small churches, since God made so many of them.'"

Often these churches seem stuck in a time warp, Farley said, while the world has changed dramatically around them. But many have re-invented themselves several times during their histories, and now have a compelling opportunity to do so again.

Farley told the story of church leaders of several of the churches that were recently victims of arson. Out of terrible tragedies, church leaders are seizing the opportunity to move forward with their dreams, rebuilding for new mission. "Churches that re-invent themselves catch new vision and are amazed at how God can take something devastating and turn it into something good," Farley said.

"It's very helpful to understand there are two ecclesiologies * two visions of the church * at work in America. Most of the rural churches are what Lyle Schaller calls 'Made in America' churches. These churches are sectarian, revivalistic crusaders for outreach. 'European heritage' churches believe churches should come out of a national church connection. They're concerned about ministry, education, and serving the people in its traditional geographical bounds."

Noting that Presbyterians traditionally come out of the European-heritage tradition, Farley offered some observations about rural churches to help build new bridges.



"There's a myth out there that rural America is dying," he said. "The fact is that more people live in rural America than at any time in our history. Ministry in rural America can flourish."

"The old Jeffersonian paradigm of a church every six miles has been replaced. One of Presbyterian's own, Mr. Sam Walton, has something to do with that. Now there tends to be a strong town every 30 miles, where the Wal-Mart is. We need to think about doing rural ministry in different ways."

"While European-heritage churches have lost members since the 1950s, the American-made churches have gained members, even when the population is shifting. The drying up of main street and consolidation of schools means the populations Presbyterians have tended to attract to congregations aren't there. We need to find new ways to make connections."

But Farley still believes there is a need for a "Presbyterian church in every Wal-Mart town. There are people who need the preaching and emphasis on education the soundness that Presbyterians bring. You need to get going on church planting."

"We need to bridge the revivalist mentality of Made-in-America tradition with the care-of-souls emphasis of the European tradition. We need both, not either/or. We need outreach and formation."

Farley concluded by calling up Presbyterians to "believe the gospel and behave accordingly."

"In the mix of churches in rural America, I welcome the Presbyterians because of you," he said. "You need to be there. So many of those churches have a partial understanding of the gospel. They've taken part of the truth and gone to seed with it. We need people who understand the totality of the gospel."

by Erin S. Cox-Holmes

To learn more, visit <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/>



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