



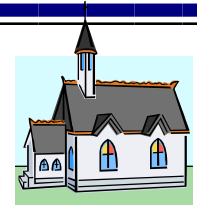
Agape Herald

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

www.huntingdonpresbytery.com

August/September
 2007

STRENGTH FOR TODAY & BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW



**"Since God in his
 mercy has given us
 this ministry, we
 never lose heart."
 II Cors. 4:1**

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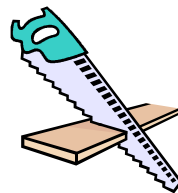
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Christians seem to come in two sorts these days. No, I don't mean liberal and conservative. I mean those who see the mainline churches dissolving into chaos and loss of meaning and those who see the hand of God moving in our times of denominational numeric decline, even though not sure of the outcomes. You can probably figure that I am part of the latter group.

In meeting with our church sessions, worshipping with our congregations and listening for God as many of you share what is happening in your lives and your home churches, I sometimes catch a glimpse of heaven on earth.

Here are just a few examples of the kinds of faithfulness that give me hope.

Our church at Snow Shoe needs a new roof and repair of their front steps. The church is just over 20 members strong, so a major capital campaign is beyond their reach. But they believe God wants them to be a beacon of hope in their community, and they are being revitalized. What to do? They applied for a presbytery revolving loan, only to be told that this isn't the most cost effective way for them. They met with the presbytery's administrative treasurer, Liz Armstrong, and they thought of a better way – that is to borrow from their own parish fund at no interest. But here is the exciting part of the story. They also want to bring a proposal to the presbytery about creating a special gift fund for our very smallest churches. This fund, if created, could help in real, practical ways that the churches



with under 30 members could never achieve on their own. We are not talking about Welfare.

This would be one-time, ministry-enabling gifts. We'll see what happens with this proposal. It's exciting to hear of faithful elders thinking about helping our smallest churches so they can remain vital in their communities.

Bedford Presbyterian, our only congregation in Bedford County, is deep in the midst of a capital campaign and building project. The session and congregation realized that in order to meet the needs of their expanding multi-generational church, and in order to better provide a center from which to launch community mission, they needed to upgrade their facilities. After a few years of refining various ideas, they are launched in providing the kind of building complex that will enable more robust ministry for Christ's sake.

Our Little Valley Church in Vira will soon launch a new adult Bible study. Four church leaders have agreed to receive training in Bible study leadership, and 29 members have indicated interest in being part of the Bible study group. For a congregation with just under 40 members, this is a phenomenal show of interest and support. May God be glorified through their efforts, and may they better learn how to reach out in the name of Christ to their unchurched neighbors through this Bible study. (cont. on page 2)

The Small Church Assessment Team Pre-Presbytery Enrichment Event

STRENGTH FOR TODAY & BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW (CONT. FROM PG. 1)

Who? The Sessions of the Presbytery of Huntingdon are invited.

What? The Small Church Assessment Team Pre-Presbytery Enrichment Event

When? Tuesday, Sept. 25, 4 p.m.

Where? Osceola Presbyterian Church, Osceola Mills, PA.

Why? To learn how the Small Church Assessment Team is able to:

1. assist your church in assessing your needs and opportunities for transformation and renewal; and,
2. assist your church in developing a plan for transformation and renewal

How? Register through the Presbytery Office in Bellwood, 814-742-2274

For further information contact:

Elder Dan Mertz, Reedsville, 717-231-5764, dmertz@earthlink.net

Rev. Duncan Nichol, New Millport, 814-672-3026,

duncnjean@aol.com

Rev. Joy Kaufmann, staff advisor, General Presbyter, Bellwood, 814-742-2200, gnrlpres@atlanticbbn.net

The congregation in State College has recently received a grant called Campus to College Bridge for Theological Discernment. That's a lengthy title for helping college students discern whether or not they might have a call to pastoral ministry. The church will create a small group of students for a semester-long discernment process, do monthly meals with speakers who are already engaged in ministry, create a library of resources and enable field trips to see seminaries.

Each of these congregations is faithful in its context. No one of us has the authority to determine what happens to the mainline churches. But every one of us has a calling in our own place to be faithful, to show Christ's love and to share it with those around us. I rejoice in those who do so in such an abundantly joyful way.

In Christ's love,
Joy K.

A Tribute to Sara Ruth Wertman Backus

Ruth Backus

May she be remembered as one
Who gave much and asked for little-

Whose kindness to every person
and animal who entered her life
was a natural extension of her loving soul--

Whose appreciation for nature
made her kin with the Earth;
As one who did not respond to
hardship and tragedy with bitterness,
but with strength and compassion--

Who uplifted and inspired us with
the music she so beautifully
played--

**Faithful Servant of Jesus Christ
and a Member of the First
Presbyterian Church, Alexandria**

**"Well done, thou good and faithful
servant..." (Matthew 25:21)**

Who added to the goodness of this
world, rather than diminishing it.

-Kathy (Backus) Renninger

The Juniata Valley area lost one of its more loveable residents on May 27, 2007. Sara Ruth Wertman Backus having been born in McKee, Blair County entered into the Church Triumphant on a Sunday morning at the age of 89. Ruth was married to William G. Backus in 1942 in Martin, MS just in time for Bill to go off to war. He preceded her in death in 1960. She is survived by her two daughters, three grandsons, a great-granddaughter and three great-grandsons. Ruth became a member of the Alexandria Presbyterian Congregation through Affirmation of Faith on April 7, 1928, where she eventually served as organist for 66 years, was active in the W.E. Stewart Missionary Society, served on the Social Committee of the church, served as a Sunday School teacher, and was ordained as a Deacon in 1991.

In September, 1999 Ruth was

recognized for twenty-nine years of regular attendance, many of these years having perfect attendance at Sunday School. She was an integral part of our Sunday School Program having taught in the Kindergarten and Primary Departments for approximately thirty years, and having served as pianist for the Youth and Adult Departments.

Ruth was loved and admired as a faithful servant of the Lord. We of the Juniata Valley are confident that when Ruth meets our Lord she will hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." (Matthew 25:21)

Rev. Earnest C. Walls
First Presbyterian Church,
Alexandria



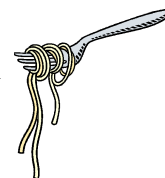
Mountain Top Presbyterians Schedule Spaghetti Supper

The Mountain Top Larger Parish of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has scheduled a Community Spaghetti Supper for Sat., Sept. 29, from 4-7 p.m. at the Glen Richey Fire Hall. The fire hall is located on the Clearfield-Glen Richey Highway, five miles south of Clearfield. Carry-outs are available. The meal will consist of spaghetti and meat balls, sauce, salad, fresh tomatoes, bread, beverage, pies and cakes.

The Mountain Top Larger Parish is composed of the Fruit Hill Presbyterian Church, near Ansonville, the Glen Richey Presbyterian Church and the Pine Grove Bethel Presbyterian Church of Clearfield. Those serving on the spaghetti supper steering committee are Elder Bob Peters, chair, Pine Grove Bethel Church, and Bonnie Winters and Barbara Johnston, both of the Glen Richey Church.

The Rev. Duncan H. Nichol is the pastor of the Parish.

Submitted By: Rev. Duncan Nichol, Pastor,
Mountain Top Larger Parish



**There will be a
50/50 drawing.**

Elder as Spiritual Leader... Reclaiming the Call.

**August 29-31, 2007.
Nashville Convention Center &
Renaissance Hotel
Downtown Nashville, Tennessee**

\$250 Registration fee, includes 5 meals.
Rooms are available at the Renaissance
at the special conference rate of \$99/night.

Speakers

Melva Costen – Elder as Worship Leader
Corey Schlosser-Hall – Elders and Mission
Ann Weems – Elders and Prayer and Spiritual
Life
Freda Gardner – Elder as Bible Teacher
William Winter – Elder as Leader

Workshops. Two sessions on Thursday
afternoon, with a variety of topics of special
interest to elders.

Register NOW!

For more information and on-line registration,
Go to www.pcusa.org/eldersconference
Or call the G.A. Meeting Service at 888-728-7228,
ext. 2417.

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

August 31 – September 3

**Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention
Center, Nashville, TN**

Dynamic keynote speakers: Jim Wallis, Virstan Choy,
Martha Sadongi and Jerry Cannon, paired with emphases
for just about every kind of church: small, rural, urban,
multicultural and new, add up to a fabulous opportunity to
be revived in zeal for evangelism. Congregational
transformation will also be an emphasis. For more
information, please go to www.pcusa.org/evangelism or
e-mail npec@ctr.pcusa.org

6TH ANNUAL PRESBYTERIAN HOMES GOLF OUTING

**Monday, September 24
Iron Masters Country Club, Roaring
Springs**

If you like to golf and want to pair your hobby with a
wonderful cause, come to the golf outing. This year's goal
is to raise \$25,000 for Charitable Care. Individual golfers
and 4-somes are welcome, and there are ways for
congregations and the "golf challenged" (non-golfers!) to
take part. For more information, please contact Dawn
Garrity or Jim Steiner at 814-695-6371.

Presbytery Calendar

AUGUST

- Aug 4** 6:30pm – Funding the Future Advocates’ Training at State College Church
- Aug 10** 6:30pm – 717 Clergy Cluster potluck dinner at Jeanette and Kevin Mater’s home
- Aug 14** 5pm – Joint Camp and Conference Committee (JCCC) at Krislund
- Aug 15** 9:30am – Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Aug 16** 9:30am – Discipleship Umbrella Team (DUT) at the Waffle Shop in State College
- Aug 21** 9:30am – Personnel Committee meeting at Presbytery Offices
1pm – Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Aug 23** 6:30pm – 717 Clergy Cluster at McVeytown Church
- Aug 28** 1:30pm – Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT) at Presbytery Offices
- Aug 30** 1:00pm – Leadership Umbrella Team (LUT) at Presbytery Offices

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 3** Presbytery Offices closed for Labor Day
- Sept. 4** 1:00pm – Council meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Sept. 5** 9:30am – Quarterly Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
3:00pm – Nominating Committee meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Sept. 11** 5:00pm – Joint Camp and Conference Committee at Krislund
- Sept. 17** Agape Herald articles due
- Sept. 18-21** AEPS and GA Council
- Sept. 22** 10:00am - PJC training at Camp Hill
“Fall Work Day” at Krislund
- Sept 25** Osceola Mills Church:
4:00pm – Enrichment “Small Church Assessment”
4:00pm – Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting
5:00pm – Dinner
6:00pm – Presbytery Meeting
- Sept. 27** 10:00am – Judicatory Heads Meeting at Mt. Aloysius College
- Sept. 28-30** EP and Spouse Retreat

OCTOBER

- Oct. 2** Records Review at various churches
- Oct. 5-6** Gatorbrain Leadership Retreat at Camp Krislund
- Oct. 9** 5:00pm – Joint Camp and Conference Committee at Krislund
- Oct. 10-12** Fall Polity Conference
- Oct. 11** 9:30am – Discipleship Umbrella Team (DUT) at Pine Grove Mills Church
- Oct. 16** 1:30pm – Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT) at Presbytery Offices
- Oct. 17** 9:30am – Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Oct. 18-19** Synod Meeting at Greensburg
- Oct. 23** 1:00pm – Council meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Oct. 24** 1:00pm – Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting at Presbytery Offices

Prayer Request Calendar

AUG. 2007

- 5 Petersburg-Bethel Congregation**
Rev. Les Papp, Moderator
Philipsburg Congregation
Rev. Tracie A. Bullis, Pastor
- 12 Pine Grove Mills Congregation**
Rev. Carl D. Campbell, Pastor
Reedsville East Kish. Congregation
Rev. Carl D. Campbell, Moderator
- 19 Sinking Valley Congregation**
Rev. John C. Dean, Moderator
Rev. Paul Pease, Stated Supply
- 26 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

SEPT. 2007

- 2 Tyrone Congregation**
Rev. Douglas McGaffin, Moderator
- 9 Administrative Umbrella Team**
Rev. Alfred Wilson, Chairperson
- 16 Committee on Ministry**
Rev. Charles J. Curley, Chairperson
- 23 Committee on Representation**
Chairperson – Vacant
- 30 Nominating Committee**
Elder James Crawford, Chairperson

Krislund Korner

FAMILY CAMP AUG. 19-25

Come for a week or any portion thereof. Housing options include bringing your own tent or RV, or staying in one of the Camp's cabins, covered wagons, or DAKs. Singles are welcome too. Family talent night, climbing the new wall, hikes, volleyball tournament, arts & crafts, swimming, picnic, and mountain top campout are just some of the fun

activities. Worship each night around our bonfire, enjoy delicious camp meals, and relax watching the stars Camp '07; costs will be posted on the website (www.krislund.org).

For more information call the office at (814) 422-8878



MOM'S RETREAT MOVED TO NOV. 2-4

The extended forecast predicts unseasonably high temperatures, beautiful fall colors, and exceptional renewal at the '07 Mom's Retreat. Mark your calendars; more information on speaker and schedule is coming later.

DON'T BE A GATORBRAIN!

A retreat for members and families of the Presbytery of Huntingdon

When: October 5-6, 2007

Where: Krislund Camp

What: Get away from your routine, share in some fun activities, and consider the gifts of the Spirit.



Retreat Schedule (slight possibility of minor changes)

Friday, October 5

4:00 PM Frisbee Golf (Early-Bird Activity)

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Registration-Sign in

Social Hour

Settle-in-time

7:30 Activity/Ice breaker sort of thing

8:15 Campfire Worship (weather permitting)

Saturday, October 6

8:00 AM Breakfast

Registration for Day-arrivals

9:15-10:00 Morning Workshop

10:00-12:00 Break/Reflection time/Explore

12:00 Cookout Lunch at Pavilion

1:00 Initiatives Course with Camp Staff

3:30 Debrief

Worship

4:30 Departure

What else do you need to know?

- You may come for the whole retreat or for Saturday only.
- For those staying Friday night, we will use camp lodges.
- Children are welcome
- You are encouraged to pinpoint those elders/deacons/teachers/other movers and shakers who would benefit from examining our tendency to become stuck in our routines and learn about ways to break free from our self-imposed cages.
- You are not too old or too young to attend.
- Please use the Registration Form On-line at:

www.huntingdonpresbytery.com/GatorBrain.html

Or Call the office at (814) 742-2200

YOUTH MISSION TRIP—FIRST CHURCH BELLEFONTE

Eleven youth and youth leaders from the First Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte will travel to Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, to serve the community through a mission group called "YouthWorks" (www.youthworks.com).

Schuylkill County lies in east central Pennsylvania near the Pocono Mountains. The discovery of coal in the area in the 1800's brought many changes to Schuylkill County, making it a classic "melting pot" of multi-ethnic immigrants and industrial employment. Since the end of the Industrial Revolution, this area has faced problems typical of smaller, booming coal towns; the Revolution took a toll on the environment, the end of reliance on the railroad

ended its rapid growth and the country's lack of dependence on coal led to unemployment. Our ministry to the community will be through kids programs, painting houses and loving the people we meet. We will be staying at the United Methodist Church in Mahanoy City and serving throughout the area.



Agape Herald Editorial and Production Team

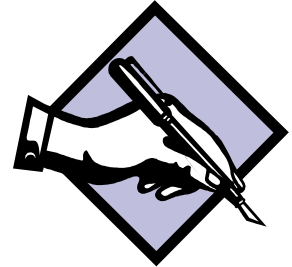
2007 Publication Schedule:

Submission deadline:	Publication:
Jan. 15	Feb/March
March 19	April/May
May 21	June/July
July 16	Aug./Sept.
Sept. 17	Oct./Nov.
Nov. 19	Dec./Jan.

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Please send all information and potential articles/photos to Al Wilson - alwwilson@verizon.net or 1449 Curtin St., State College, PA 16803 by the submission deadline. We also need additional persons to serve on the Editorial Team which gathers information on congregational events, ministries and missions to share through the newsletter. Please contact Al if interested.



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