



Agape Herald

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

www.huntingdonpresbytery.com

**December 2007/
 January 2008**

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WALKING THE CHRISTIAN PATH...TOGETHER

*It is not for these alone that I pray,
 but for those also who, through
 their words, put their faith in me.
 May they all be one; as you, Father,
 are in me, and I in you, so also may
 they be in us, that the world may
 believe that you sent me.*

John 17:20-23

(Jesus' "Great High Priestly Prayer")

Every year my husband, Bill, and I try to take one extended vacation trip far away from home. This year's trip was with Bill's mom to the nation of Turkey. Layers of culture, history and religion are part and parcel of the national scene. Turkey has more Roman ruins than Rome, and the footprints of the Apostle Paul are everywhere in evidence.

In addition, a lot has happened in Turkey since New Testament times. Turks have made some interesting decisions based upon their history. Having seen the bloodshed of thousands during religious wars, the "new" Republic, now 84 years old, is intentionally secular, although all religions are protected by law. While most of the population is Muslim, they are almost all proud of being a *non-radical, secular*, predominantly Muslim country. This was a very different setting for those of us accustomed to a predominantly Christian, and frankly, often overtly religious country.

Christianity flourished in Turkey for many centuries following Paul's

preaching ministry until the advent of first the Seljuk and then the Ottoman Turks. The branch of the Christian family tree most in evidence is Byzantine Orthodoxy, whose patriarch was/is in Constantinople (now Istanbul.) This eastern part of the Christian world divided with the Church in the west along largely theological lines in 1054 AD, and is only now entering into serious conversation with the Roman Catholic Church.

We saw one church/turned mosque/turned museum that spoke clearly and in a most compassionate way to Jesus' prayer for unity, part of which is quoted above. That is the church in Chora, a building constructed in the 6th century but treasured for the theological statements it still makes.

Inside the main entrance, the door is flanked on either side by Sts. Peter and Paul. Why? Because one represents the church in the west and the other represents the church in the east. The architect, benefactor and congregation were trying to say that Christians from both the east and the west would always be welcome in this church. We could only think that such a statement could well be made today, as so many different denominations compete for members in our own country.

As we approach Advent and anticipate celebrating the birth of Christ into this world, may we,

like the people of the Church at Chora so long ago, welcome all who would follow him into our fellowship and worship.

Love in Christ,

Joy K.

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NOTES FROM OUR TREASURER....

- The Presbytery Directory is printed each spring. At every Presbytery meeting after publication, we include a Directory corrections sheet to keep everyone up with the changes. Please watch for these sheets. If you are listed in the directory, please let us know if there are changes.
- The Presbytery Office has changed its mailing address. Please use the street address and delete the PO Box number. We also have new email addresses for Joy, Ginny, Liz and Marie.

Joy joyk2@verizon.net

Ginny vfrainey@verizon.net

Liz Larmstrong8@verizon.net

Marie mariecarlson1@verizon.net (that's a one after her name)

- Treasurers and Ministers – Please remember to send in your new ENR-100 “Salary Change” forms to the Board of Pensions. Everyone will have a change each year as we give cost of living increases that are included in the Terms of Call. If you neglect getting these changes sent in, it will adversely effect the minister’s retirement. Please make sure this is done by the end of the year.
- Did you know that a minister’s housing is exempt from local taxes? You only have to pay PA state taxes for housing.
- At the Presbytery meeting on Nov 13, we took up an offering for 2 cents a meal. We collected \$4,442.42 from the attendees and their churches! Thank you all so much for sharing so generously.

Liz Armstrong Larmstrong8@verizon.net

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

NOVEMBER 13 PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS

The November 13 presbytery meeting began with glorious worship, as presbytery enjoyed the new organist at First Presbyterian, Hollidaysburg, listened to the Word preached by the moderator, Kathy Colebank, and joined one another at the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. In ecclesiastical business, the Presbytery examined and welcomed Rev. Helen Young as interim pastor for Reedsville East Kish. It adopted two important policies—a Sick & Family Leave Policy, which will be optional for 2008 and mandatory for 2009. (Churches may adapt or craft their own policy but must have a policy in 2009.) Responding to a request from the Snow Shoe Church, presbytery also set aside \$30,000 from the Presbytery Revolving Loan Fund for emergency loans

for capital needs to churches with fewer than 30 members. Steve Cort lifted up the need for volunteers for Krislund Funding the Future projects, while Dawn Garrity shared the busy schedule of the Presbyterian Homes in our area. Rev. Ernesto Badillo of the Board of Pensions explained how to determine effective salary. Presbytery established the following meeting dates for 2008:

- January 26 at State College
- April 1 at Bellwood
- June 17 at Winburne
- September 16 at East Kish
- November 18 at Broad First

Ginny Rainey vfrainey@verizon.net

2008
Presbytery
Meeting
Dates:

NEW AT THE RESOURCE CENTER!

Now available to borrow is a DVD player!

If you would like to use a program/movie for a Sunday School class, Youth Group gathering or church event and your church does not have a DVD player, please inquire about borrowing the new one available in the Resource Center!

GROUP-TERM LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MINISTERS



100 Witherspoon St. * Louisville KY 40202-1396



"Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." Luke 8:8

PRESBYTERIANS FIND WAYS TO EARN A "MISSION" RETURN

There has been a lot of press in the last few years about Socially Responsible Investing or SRI. A growing number of individuals, churches and religious organizations are investing in a manner that expresses their heartfelt values – not just high returns. They are increasingly concerned about where their investment "seeds" are sown.

For more information about the Presbyterian Investment & Loan program visit their web site at www.pcusa.org/pilp.

The IRS has decided that the Board of Pensions is really offering "group-term life insurance" coverage through the death/disability benefits. Therefore, Ministers have to pay imputed income on the value of that insurance. This is calculated using a complicated form from the IRS. The Board of Pensions has simplified that form and you can find it in their "Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches" booklet. The cost of coverage in excess of \$50,000 is taxable for the Federal Government. Basically, it is double the amount you are paying for death benefits (shown on your monthly bill). The amount at the bottom of the BOP form is the amount of income that is taxable - not the tax due. Make sure that this taxable amount is added to your income in Box 1 for the W-2 and also is listed in Box 12 coded "C". This is for Federal taxes only. State and local governments do not include this imputed income as taxable income.

THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND!

At our November 13th meeting of the Presbytery of Huntingdon we were called to worship by the words of Paul to the church in Rome: "How are people to call upon One in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in One of whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?"

Many of our churches can relate all too well to Paul's question, especially those engaged in a search for new pastoral leadership. Sometimes it takes a vacancy in our pulpits to help us appreciate the ways in which God is calling people to ministry today, and the ways in which our denomination faithfully educates and develops strong pastoral leaders. Most often this education takes place in our seminaries. Just as we depend on our seminaries to fulfill their ministry of preparation, our theological schools need our gifts of support.

Your church can help to keep our seminaries vibrant by making a generous contribution to The Theological Education Fund (TEF). The TEF is the only means of denominational support that reaches all of our seminaries. For our larger seminaries the TEF allocation amounts to only 2 or 3% of their budgets, but our smaller

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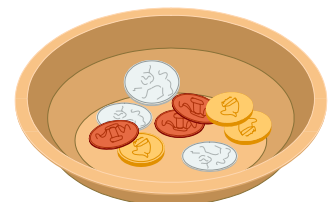
schools depend heavily on the TEF to supply over 15% of their budgets.

The ideal goal for each congregation is an annual gift that amounts to 1% of your operating budget. If you are not able to give at that level, please be prayerful in discerning a gift that fits your congregation's budget and expresses the value you place on the development of church leadership. Last year 12 churches in our Presbytery contributed to TEF. Let's increase that number as a sign of our faithfulness and gratitude!

If you haven't submitted your congregation's 2007 TEF contribution, please have your session prepare a check marked "Theological Education Fund, account #7999999."

Your prayers and gifts are needed to secure our denomination's ministry for generations to come.

Tom Poole & Anne Ard
TEF Advocates
Presbytery of Huntingdon
tgpoole@comcast.net



Presbytery Calendar

DECEMBER

- Dec. 4** 1:00pm - Committee on Ministry (COM)
meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Dec. 5** 2:00pm – Nominating Committee meeting
- Dec. 6** 9:30am - Discipleship Umbrella Team (DUT)
at Pine Grove Mills Church
- Dec. 7** 6:00pm - NW Clergy & Family's Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 11** 1:30pm – Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT)
at Presbytery Offices
- Dec. 12** 9:30am – Quarterly Staff meeting & lunch
at Presbytery Offices
- Dec. 13** 10:45am – Personnel Committee meeting followed by lunch
- Dec. 18** 6:00pm – Special JCCC meeting at Camp Krislund
- Dec. 24 – Jan. 1** Presbytery Offices closed for the Holidays

JANUARY 2008

- Jan. 1** Presbytery Offices closed for New Years Day
- Jan. 8** 1:00pm – Council meeting at Presbytery offices
6:00pm – JCCC meeting at Camp Krislund
- Jan. 11-13** General Presbyter at Reforming Ministry Conference
- Jan. 14** Noon– NW Clergy Cluster at DuBois Church
- Jan. 15** 1:00pm Committee on Ministry (COM)
meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Jan. 18** Agape Herald Deadline
- Jan. 19** Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) Training in Pittsburgh
- Jan. 21** Presbytery Offices closed for Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 26** 9:00am Presbytery Meeting at State College

FEBRUARY 2008

- Feb. 18** Presbytery Offices closed for Presidents' Day
- Feb. 21-22** Noon - Synod meeting, Cannonsburg, PA

Prayer Request Calendar

- Dec. 2007**
- 2** **Westminster Woods**
Mrs. Deborah Barefoot,
Administrator
- 9** **Self-Development of
People Committee**
Rev. Elaine Africa, Chair-
person
- 16** **The Lay Pastors of Hun-
tingdon Presbytery**
- 23** **The Pastorless Churches
of Huntingdon Presby-
tery**
- 30** **Presbytery Administra-
tive Treasurer**
Elder Elizabeth Armstrong
Mission Treasurer
Elder Joann W. Kimmel
- Jan. 2008**
- 6** **Personnel Committee**
Rebecca Young,
Chairperson
- 13** **Presbyterian Women**
Elder Virginia K. Maddox,
Moderator
- 20** **Candidates and Inquir-
ers for Ministry of Hun-
tingdon Presbytery**
- 27** **Honorably Retired and
Non-Parish Clergy of
Huntingdon Presbytery**

The Summer Collegium

The Summer Collegium, a project in support of small congregations, is now accepting applications for the Summer 2008 event, which will take place at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA, from June 25-July 3, 2008. Applications may be downloaded from the website, www.vts.edu/education/collegium or contact Marilyn Johns (mjohns@vts.edu or 703-461-1760); applications must be postmarked by December 15, 2007.]

Krislund Korner



TO BUILD IT, THEY MUST COME

Calling all carpenters, drywallers, painters and electricians. Camp Krislund is in full-blown building mode. The new 20 room Adult-Family Lodge is scheduled to start construction in late November using mostly volunteer labor. There is a more immediate need. The Croda House is a new building that has been erected and Camp Krislund needs our help to complete that building. Once completed

the current office will move from the Brown House to the Croda house. The Brown house will then be used to house volunteers who will be working on the Adult/Family Lodge. All of that has to happen before construction starts on the Adult/Family Lodge. If you can join us any

time during the next few weeks, call Dan Alex at 691-1471(h) 717-599-4283(cell) or email danalex@comcast.net.

- Please consider making Krislund Camp Adult/Family Lodge your volunteer mission project in 2008. Sign up now for this exciting new era in the life of Krislund.

THE “GENTLE WHISPER”

Elijah discovered God, not in the spectacular wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a “gentle whisper” (1Kings 19:11ff). Our loud and hectic culture misses, but deeply needs, the gentle whisper of God’s Presence revealed once in a manger. Krislund seeks to be a place where hard-of-hearing people of all ages may listen and follow the Word made flesh. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry of Good News.

WHAT’S NEW THIS SUMMER?

The new lodge design has prompted the need for a lake. A two-acre lake will be ready for canoeing this summer. Since this lake will cover the eastern portion of the field across from the Retreat Center, a new 150x150yard recreation field has been prepared below the Mini Adventure Play area. Soccer and large group games will be held here. Look for more “What’s New” information in January’s Korner.

FtF BENCHMARK REACHED / GOAL ACHIEVABLE

The Funding the Future (FtF) capital campaign reached the October 27th benchmark of 1.5million dollars in pledges and gifts. Less than one quarter of the two million dollar goal remains. Churches and individuals are needed to complete this vision for spreading the Gospel and bringing renewal to all ages at Krislund. Please contact Steve Cort at 814.422.8878 or e-mail info@krislund.org in order to participate. (Ask how your donation/pledge can be designated as a Christmas gift in someone’s honor.) Thank you.

COOKS: THE SEARCH IS ON

Our special cook, Carol Gipe, retired at the end of the summer and returned home to be near family, especially grandchildren. Krislund is looking for part time cook(s) for our off-season program (primarily weekends) and for a head cook for the summer. Experienced cooking for large groups is necessary; ServSafe certification will be funded by the camp. Contact Sharon at the camp office for more information.



’08 SUMMER CAMP; NOW’S THE TIME TO SCHEDULE

Old and familiar, new and different are all available in the 21camps of 2008. Camp info and application are on our website, www.krislund.org. Go to “summer program” and click on the picture to download the brochure.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ‘08
*visit our website at www.krislund.org
and watch for more information on these events:*

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT

January 18-20 ‘08

VALENTINE’S BANQUET

February 16 ‘08

FISH BAZAAR & FRY

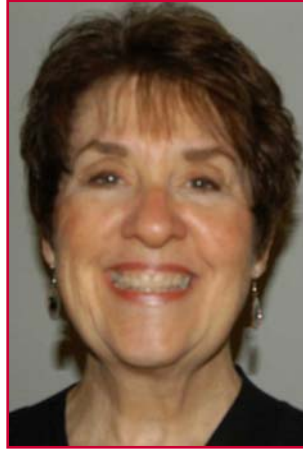
April 19 ‘08

MOTHER’S RETREAT

September 19-20 ‘08

REVEREND CAROL EVANS LEBLANC

The Rev. Dr. Carol Evans LeBlanc was born in 1944 in Findlay, Ohio to parents Ray Evans, owner of an office equipment business, and Elsie Evans, a dedicated housewife and mother. Carol attended Findlay High School and was very active in church during her formative years.



After graduation, she enrolled in Bowling Green State University in Ohio and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree with a music major. A life-long Presbyterian, Carol was a music teacher and mom before discerning a call to become a minister. Her first husband was a pastor. Her own desire to enter the ministry only intensified as she became more involved in church work.

Carol graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1985 with her Master of Divinity degree. She was ordained in the Riverview Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh on December 15, 1985 where she served as an assistant pastor. In 2004, she continued her education, graduating from San Francisco Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree.

Carol met her husband Hugh

LeBlanc when she was a pastor in Jamestown, NY. Several community groups, of which he was a part, met in her church. Over time she became good friends with Hugh before they solemnized their marriage vows in the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Jamestown in 1994,

where she was the minister. Carol has two children – Andrew Watkins and Allison Watkins Foye. Hugh has a son, Ryan LeBlanc. There are three grandchildren.

Carol has served five churches as an interim pastor and has had two pastorates in her distinguished career before accepting her current position as Designated Pastor at the Broad First Presbyterian Church in Altoona. Her hobbies are reading good novels and trying new recipes when she has time. She also enjoys having fun with her grandchildren. She and Hugh have a boat and enjoy using

it. They have a yellow Lab named Daisy that brings much happiness to them.

Carol has always felt that the ministry is a calling, not a career. She believes that our churches need to stop “playing church” and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ more. She feels that fear, too often, dominates what we do instead of a vibrant faith. Carol believes that our church should not worry so much about numbers but faithfulness. Too often, churches adapt their services to what the world expects instead of following what God expects of us. However, she does see many places where the church is offering real hope to people in today’s world.

Carol felt called to Broad First Church because they were looking for a transitional minister and she preferred that kind of pastorate, having much experience and training in it.

Carol felt called to Broad First Church because they were looking for a transitional minister and she preferred that kind of pastorate, having much experience and training in it.

May Carol, Hugh and their family receive God’s richest blessings as Carol serves the members of the Broad First Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by Bill Croyle

Curwensville Presbyterian Church has the following items to give away:

We have 23 light yellow choir robes in good condition with stoles that are reversible being yellow with green trim on one side and solid green on the other. Two of the robes are cuffed for the director and accompanist.

Please contact the church office at (814) 236-1060 or Jeanne Eshelman at (814) 236-2905 for further information.



Contact the church office at 814-236-1060

The Bedford Presbyterian Church - Honoring our Past – Building our Future

The Bedford Presbyterian Church is located in the heart of Bedford's beautiful Historic District. It is a wonderful location and has served well over the past two hundred and twenty-one years. The present church building was built in 1829 and is in good repair. However it is land locked. If the church is to expand, it would have to purchase an existing building.

In 1954 Rev. Ira Reed came to Bedford. With a new young and energetic minister, new jobs coming to Bedford and the Baby Boomers coming to Sunday school, it was decided that room for expansion was necessary. The building next door was purchased in 1958. The first floor was used for SS and the second floor was rented to help make the mortgage payments. Because the building was located across an alley, parents and children had to be very watchful of traffic.

Eventually all SS classes were moved to that building and it became known as the Christian Education Building. Although there was more space, the alley was always a concern and the building was showing much wear! Another sentiment was also obvious; the church family was not connected. It would be nice to have everyone under one roof.

In 2004 we started to seriously consider our options. First we tried to purchase the land and building behind us, thus eliminating the concern for traffic. That deal fell through so we decided to renovate the CE building. Since it was in ill repair and we wanted to reach out more to the Community, we had



plans drawn up for a three story building. Of course, with new building codes and being in the Historic District, this project turned into a major challenge....with a price tag beyond our means...sooooooo back to the drawing board. Frustration loomed. Rev. Friant and his faithful Building Committee started over again. Finally the title was changed to "Office Building," the codes were dealt with, and the Historic Review Board was happy. It took time but we now have a plan to get excited about!!

In Sept. 2007 ground was broken. We are well on our way to a bright future. The renovated building will house the pastor's and secretary 's offices, the choir room, and a few weekday community meeting rooms. The Sunday morning SS classes will be moved over to the main church building and we will once again be a church connected.

Through this entire project we had to keep reminding ourselves that "God works in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform." It has been a struggle at times but we continue to be a church overflowing with God's blessings, honoring the past and excited about the future.

Submitted by: Shirley Stuby
Bedford Presbyterian Member
sawnsew@pennswoods.net

Through this entire project we had to keep reminding ourselves that "God works in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform."

Presbyterian Homes Presents 2007 Meritorious Service Award

Each fall Presbyterian Homes in the Presbytery of Huntingdon holds its annual Benevolent Care Dinner. For 17 years, this has been an inspiring gathering of individuals that clearly illustrates the spirit that exists within the four communities of Presbyterian Homes. Attendees include dedicated volunteers and board members, generous friends, and faithful residents. Over \$8,000 was raised toward benevolent care provided by the Homes this year at the event held on September 16th at Westminster Woods in Huntingdon.

In addition to a lovely meal, warm fellowship, entertainment, and a speaker, the Meritorious Service Award is presented. This year the selection committee had a difficult decision as there were 19 nomi-

nations received representing all four Presbyterian Homes communities. We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Jane Illingworth, formerly of Shade Gap, received the 2007 award.

Mrs. Illingworth was the first president of the Woodland Retirement Center Auxiliary in 1985. She served two, three-year terms on the Presbyterian Homes Board of Directors in the 1980's. On the Presbytery level, she was president of the Huntingdon Presbyterian Women for two years and served on two other committees – Leadership Umbrella Committee and the Nominating Committee. She has been an active member of Mount Union Presbyterian Church for 65 years, serving as an elder and a member of the choir. Mrs. Illingworth is the widow of Ted Illingworth and mother of three children, and now resides in Mount Joy, PA. Mrs. Illingworth's is just one of many extraordinary stories of dedication and

commitment to the Presbyterian Homes' mission of serving seniors. Our volunteers bring the flavor of the family of faith reaching out in love and compassion to our residents. These special friends influence the very character of care and compassion of Presbyterian Homes. They inspire residents, family members, and staff as they work together in this ministry. In many respects, volunteers are the leaven in our loaf.

For more information on volunteer opportunities or ways to support our mission at any of our four communities – Presbyterian Home at Hollidaysburg, Westminster Woods in Huntingdon, Windy Hill Village in Philipsburg, and Woodland Retirement Center in Orbisonia – please contact us at (800) 242-4037.

dgarrity@phi-preshomes.org
(814) 695-6371(Mgmt Serv. Office)
(814) 696-7591(direct)
(814) 777-3605 (cell)

Mrs. Illingworth was the first president of the Woodland Retirement Center Auxiliary in 1985

Agape Herald Editorial and Production Team

2008 Publication Schedule:

Submission deadline:	Publication:
Jan. 18	Feb./March
March 19	April/May
May 16	June/July
July 18	Aug./Sept.
Sept. 19	Oct./Nov.
Nov. 14	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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