



Agape Herald

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

www.huntingdonpresbytery.com

**February 2008/
 March 2008**

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CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE ORDINATION OF PERSONS WHO ARE HOMOSEXUAL

Since the days when Paul wrote the above words, there have been very few times throughout the history of Christianity when all believers avoided divisions and were in complete unity of mind and thought. Our time is no exception.

The "Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church" report was approved by the General Assembly commissioners in June of 2006. While much hope accompanied this report's passage in certain circles, in other circles, the report engendered great anxiety. No one thinks the issue of the ordination of persons who are homosexual has gone away with the PUP report, and many think the report created less clarity rather than more. This in spite of the report itself upholding in writing the "Chastity and Fidelity" clause of our "Book of Order", section G-6.0106b.

As the months unfolded, it looked like nothing had changed. Not a single candidate came before a presbytery asking to be granted a scruple against G-6.0106b. A few congregations of the 11,000 in our denomination asked to be released to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, but no scruples were declared against our ordination standards.

On January 15 of 2008, San Francisco Presbytery accepted the recommendation of its Committee

on Ministry to find candidate Lisa Larges, a lesbian "ready for examination, with a departure." Thus the presbytery chose to use the process outlined in the Authoritative Interpretation of another section of the "Book of Order", section G-6.0108 adopted by the 2006 GA commissioners. The vote was 167 – 151 ruling that Ms. Larges' departure was not an "essential" departure from an ordination standard and thus, given her other qualifications, is not a bar from her being ordained as a minister. There are, of course, those who differ from this decision, and the case is even now being appealed using our denomination's judicial processes. We do not know how this case will turn out, but however it is ruled, it no doubt will be appealed all the way to our highest Permanent Judicial Committee, that of the General Assembly. As we live through this time of deep division in the body of Christ, Presbyterian (USA), please join me in prayer for our beloved denomination, for those who will rule on the various cases that will arise from this circumstance and for those on all sides of the issue. There

"I appeal to you, my friends, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: agree among yourselves, and avoid divisions; let there be complete unity of mind and thought."

I Corinthians 1: 10

will come a day, in God's good time, when we agree again, but we aren't there yet.

In Christ's love,

Joy K.

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REVEREND KAREN WILLIS

Reverend Karen Willis was born in Cedarville, New Jersey in 1956 to parents John and Thelma Willis. She attended school in nearby Bridgeton, New Jersey. A life-long Presbyterian, Karen was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Cedarville. She was the youngest deacon ever ordained in her church and served as an elder as well. Karen taught Sunday School for thirteen years and was a volunteer choir director and organist in the church.

Following graduation from high school, Karen held a number of jobs including employment at a department store and Thrift Drug store, being a secretary and receptionist and a CPA. She was hired by Newcomb Hospital as a medical lab technician. When a new pathologist was hired at the hospital, he would not employ anyone who did not have a medical laboratory degree, so Karen enrolled in Atlantic County Community College in New Jersey for two years and got her A. A. F. degree in medical lab.

One of Karen's professors at the Community College told her that she might want to look into the doctoral program in clinical psychology offered at the University of Delaware. Karen was very interested in psychology. The professor went along with her to the University of Delaware, but on the ride down and back, questioned why Karen wanted to pursue a career in clinical psychology instead of theology, since she was so active in and dedicated to working in the church. When Karen returned home, she

contacted her pastor about what would be involved in becoming a minister. She continued to be a medical technician and eventually attended Rowan University in New Jersey to get more experience in psychology, and graduated from a two-year program there with a B.A. Degree.

Karen never forgot what her professor had said about going into seminary to become a minister. A friend who had graduated from Princeton told her that she could apply for grants to attend Princeton since she lived in New Jersey.

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So at the age of 39, Karen entered Princeton Seminary living in a dorm to save money instead of looking for housing near the campus. After three years, she graduated in 1998 with her Master of Divinity degree. She was ordained at the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Elkins, West Virginia. Karen took an internship in a parish that served six small churches.

The first church she was installed in was the Elk Branch Presbyterian Church in Shenandoah Junction, near Harpers Ferry. She served that church for five years before receiving a call to come to Bethany Parish in May of 2007.

Karen was installed at the Upper Tuscarora Church in Blair Mills by the Presbytery of Huntingdon, moderated by Reverend Kathy Colebank. The other two churches in Bethany Parish are Pine Grove in Neelyton and Shade Gap.

Karen feels at home at Bethany Parish and lives in the manse with her mother Thelma, who is dealing with Alzheimer's disease. The manse has an of-



fice and conference room attached, which is a real blessing for Karen. This allows her to be near to her mother while doing office work and she is even able to hold session meetings in the manse.

She is also serving on the Self Development of People Committee of Huntingdon Presbytery.

Karen's favorite hobby is her two greyhounds, who bring great joy into her life.

Karen feels that one of the issues facing our churches is the difficulty of sitting down and really listening to each other due to time constraints. We all need to be more open to hearing each other's concerns.

Pastor Willis is an encourager – seeking to build people up. She believes that everyone needs to know that he or she is genuinely cared about. She is very glad she entered the ministry and looks forward to ministering to her parishioners.

May Reverend Karen Willis continue to receive God's blessings as she serves the members of Bethany Parish.

Submitted by Bill Croyle

Enrichment Event:

Journey with the Bible:
Genesis to Revelation in One Day
State College Church
Sunday, April 27, 2 - 4 pm
Chuck Curley, Facilitator

THE ELIAS BOUDINOT LIBRARY FUND

Boudinot Library Fund proceeds are funds to be used to purchase books selected by the pastor of a congregation of 150 or fewer members for the pastor's use, but, as the property of the church library, books purchased with Boudinot Library Funds remain with the church. Funds are allocated as one award per year, per congregation and may not be used in conjunction with or to supplement a Continuing Education Grant.

How to Apply: Visit our website at www.huntingdonpresbytery.com for more information and an application. Check on "Small Church Library Grants".

PRESBYTERIAN HOMES ANNOUNCES 2008 MISSION SUPPORT

Happy New Year from your friends at the Presbyterian Homes in the Presbytery of Huntingdon. We appreciate your prayers, financial support and compassion for those we serve. Below are important dates to keep in mind:

- **John P. Martin Mailing 2/15/08**
Information mailed to individual homes. This appeal is a tribute to Reverend Mr. Martin and helps to raise money for facility capital projects.
- **Spring Offering Mailing**
Information mailed to:
 - Churches for distribution 3/18/08
 - Individual Homes 4/18/08
 - Dollars raised support auxiliary activities and resident needs.
- **Golf Tournament “Spring Event” 5/30/08**
Proceeds from this annual event benefit benevolent care for residents who have outlived their financial resources.
The Church Challenge provides an opportunity for your church’s golfers and non-golfers to be recognized for supporting our Charitable Care Mission.
- **18th Annual Benevolent Care Dinner 9/21/08**
(tentative)
Invitations will be mailed by: 8/15/08
This event brings people together to support benevolent care for our residents and to honor an individual with the Meritorious Service Award.

- **Harvest Home**

Information mailed to:

- Churches for distribution 10/1/08
- Individual Homes 11/1/08
- Dollars raised support benevolent care for residents.

Our Auxiliaries are the connection between our residents and community, including churches. New members are welcome to join at any time during the year.

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activities to spending time with residents, there’s a role for everyone. Please consider how your talents may make a difference.

Please contact Dawn Garrity, Presbyterian Homes Foundation Director, at (814) 695-6371 to schedule a Minute for Mission, join the Auxiliary, or if you’d like to receive any additional information or communications, including bulletin inserts for your church.

Dawn D. Garrity
Foundation Director
Presbyterian Homes in the Presbytery of Huntingdon
dgarrity@phi-preshomes.org
(814) 695-6371 (Management Services Office)
(814) 696-7591 (direct)
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WHAT HAVE YOU READ LATELY?

“Creative writing teachers always include a sentence similar to this one in their arsenal of advice: ‘To be an excellent writer, you must be an avid reader.’ Consider the idea that reading is not only for writers, but for anyone who deals in the exchange of ideas. That includes every pastor, session member, Sunday school teacher, elder, deacon and greeter.” (Paraphrased from an article by Mark Taylor in the *Christian Standard*, Jan. 07)

That paraphrase inspired me to write this article this month, and to ask you the question: What have YOU read lately? Do you need something to read? Then please come to the Presbytery Office to browse through our Resource Center. If you can’t make it to the offices to browse around, please call me at 814-742-2200 and let me help you find something that I can mail to you (you also can return items by mail) or you can search the database

and request to borrow items on line at:
www.huntingdonresources.org.

In addition to the data base you will find other useful information on the Resource Center website such as: a calendar of events and meeting dates for the Presbytery of Huntingdon, the Prayer Calendar, -New!, the Manual—New!, archived newsletters and information on how to contact both the Huntingdon Resource Center and the Northumberland Resource Center.

The Multi Media Resource Center serves all the churches, pastors, and members, so please let your congregants know that they may borrow items.

Submitted by Marie Carlson
mariecarlson1@verizon.net

**“TO BE AN
EXCELLENT
WRITER, YOU
MUST BE AN AVID
READER.”**

Presbytery Calendar

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 6** 9:30am – Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
Feb. 7 Noon - Women's Clergy Meeting for Altoona clergywomen
2:00pm – Christian Coalition in Altoona
Feb. 11 Noon – North West Clergy Cluster at Woodland U. Methodist Church
Feb. 12 Noon – Special Presbytery Meeting at Bellwood, Logan Valley Church
1:00pm Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting at Presbytery Office
Feb. 14 1:00pm – Leadership Umbrella Team (LUT) at Presbytery Office
Feb. 17 3:00pm - Ecumenical Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona
Feb. 18 Presbytery Offices closed for Presidents' Day
Feb. 19 6:30pm - Christian Coalition in Altoona
Mission Forum
Feb. 20 Noon – Retired Clergy Cluster at Harrigan's Restaurant in State College
Feb. 21-22 Noon - Synod meeting
Feb. 26 1:30 Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT) at Presbytery Offices
Feb. 28-29 Noon – EP Forum in Bedford

MARCH

- Mar. 2** 3:00pm– Ordination and Installation of Barbara Mosch at the Milesburg Church
Mar. 4 1:00pm- Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting at State College Church
Mar. 6 9:30am – Discipleship Umbrella Team (DUT) at Pine Grove Mills
Mar. 10 Noon – North West Clergy Cluster at Philipsburg
Mar. 11 1:00pm- Council meeting at Presbytery Offices
5:00pm – Joint Camp and Conference Committee (JCCC) at Krislund
Mar. 12 9:30am – Quarterly Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
Mar. 13 10:00am- Judicatory Heads meeting at Mt. Aloysius College
Mar. 19 Agape Herald Deadline
Mar. 21 Presbytery Offices closed for Good Friday

APRIL

- Apr. 1** 9:00am – Presbytery meeting at Bellwood Logan Valley Church
Apr. 9 9:30am – Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
Apr. 14 Noon – North West Clergy Cluster at Fruit Hill Church, New Millport
Apr. 15 1:00pm - Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting at Presbytery Office
Apr. 16 Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering
Apr. 17 Ecumenical lecture and lunch at Mt. Aloysius College
Apr. 23-24 Board of Pensions training in Atlanta, GA
Apr. 27 2:00 - 4:00pm - Chuck Curley will lead a Journey with the Bible: "Genesis to Revelation in One Day" at the State College Church

Prayer Request Calendar

Feb. 2008

- Presbytery Council**
Rev. Daniel Ledford,
3 Moderator
Elder Ted Kiffer,
Vice Moderator
Alexandria Congregation
Rev. Earnest Walls,
Pastor
10 **Allensville Congregation**
Rev. Geoffery Huish,
Pastor
Altoona Providence Congregation
17 (formally Broad First)
Rev. Carol Evans LeBlanc,
Designated Pastor
Altoona Juniata Congregation
24 **Third Congregation in Altoona**
Richard Ginter, CLP

Mar. 2008

- Bellefonte Congregation**
Rev. Douglas Elder, Pastor
2 **West Kish. Congregation in Belleville**
Rev. Samuel Strohm, Pastor
Logan Valley Congregation in Bellwood
9 Rev. Kathy Colebank, Pastor
Birmingham Congregation
Paul Bottenfield, CLP
Upper Tuscarora Congregation Pine Grove
16 **Congregation in Neelyton Shade Gap Congregation**
Rev. Karen Willis, Pastor
The Churches and Members of Pahk 5 Nan, Thailand
23 (our mission partners)
30 **Bedford Congregation**
Rev. Douglas Friant, Pastor

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)

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 volunteers 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR '08

visit our website at www.krislund.org and watch for more information on this and other upcoming events:

MOTHER'S RETREAT September 19-20 '08

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 150x150 yard 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 the next Krislund 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 21 camps of 2008. Camp info and applications are on our website, www.krislund.org. Go to "summer program" and click on the picture to download the brochure.

NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP

The Bedford Presbyterian Church is sending a group of volunteers to New Orleans on a mission trip through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program.

Last year six members from Bedford traveled with several others from the Huntingdon Presbytery. This year we are striking out on our own with seven members.

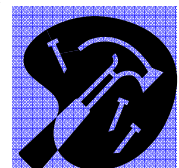
Previously, most of our time was spent demolishing and getting the houses ready for mold remediation. This year

we hope to rebuild; spending our time hanging dry wall and painting. The Parkway Presbyterian Church in Metairie will be providing us with shelter, showers and a kitchen, along with their support.

Whatever jobs we are assigned, we will give of our time and talents prayerfully and joyfully, for God loves a cheerful giver!

Submitted by:

Shirley A. Stuby
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Bedford Presbyterian Church



Agape Herald Editorial and Production Team

2008 Publication Schedule:

| Submission deadline: | Publication: |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Jan. 18 | Feb./March |
| March 21 | 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.



Agape Herald
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