



Agape Herald

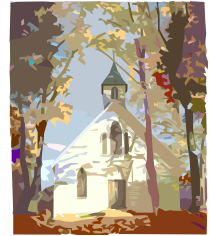
The Newsletter of the Presbytery of Huntingdon

Mission: Loved by Jesus Christ, called to love all others

www.huntingdonpresbytery.com

Aug/Sept 2009

MISSION: IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD OUT THERE



General Presbyter:

Joy Kaufmann
joyk2@verizon.net

Treasurer :

Liz Armstrong
Larmstrong8@verizon.net

Mission Treasurer:

Joann Kimmel
jkimmel@pennswoods.net

Stated Clerk:

Virginia Rainey
vfrailey@verizon.net

Pastoral Care

Consultant:

Lynn Illingworth
suelynni@verizon.net

814-234-2415

Resource Center

Coordinator:

Marie Carlson
mariecarlson1@verizon.net

Presbytery Office

Phone:

814-742-2200

Fax: 814-742-2214

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him and he will separate people one from another....Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Mt. 25:31ff

Christ's call to give of ourselves hasn't changed through the centuries. But the ways in which we give are in the midst of some profound changes.

It used to be that loyal Presbyterians gave their financial gifts to the church with no designations, what the we call "unified giving". As the Baby Boom and Gen X generations provide more and more leadership within our congregations, more and more church sessions are choosing to designate their giving. These generations want a bit more control than their parents do, a bit more say over how their gifts are given, who receives and in what ways. This is one way in which giving patterns are changing these days.

Another way in which our giving is changing has to do with *doing* mission versus *giving* money toward others doing mission. Many Christians in North America today have discovered how wonderful it feels, how close to Jesus' command to action in the Scripture above it is to actually do mission. From Habitat for Humanity to Camp Krislund to New Orleans and beyond, presbyters from the Presbytery of Huntingdon are discovering that doing mission just might be part of Christ's command.

What do we make of these trends? Are they just about generational differences? To some extent, yes these are. On the other hand, as we in the mainline churches lose our hold on the culture around us (how many of you have had to move

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MISSION: IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD OUT THERE

(CONT FROM PAGE 1)

the public high school baccalaureate service from the high school gym to a local sanctuary?), we have begun to discover that mission is something we don't want to take for granted. It's no longer just a habit. Unified giving is still very much needed... but some designations strengthen the ties between givers and recipients. Giving dollars is still necessary, but doing some mission simply makes people feel closer to Christ's command.

There is a third increasingly popular way to be involved in mission. That is, to hear face-to-face from a missionary. Our presbytery will have this opportunity from September 25 – October 2 when Burkhard Paetzold comes to visit with us. He serves with the Roma people, traditionally called “gypsies”, in Europe. He is in the United States to help share the story of the people with whom he ministers on our behalf and to share about what his ministry is like. The hope is that this will help mission become a living, breathing story for us here in Huntingdon Presbytery.

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH TAX?

A recent survey says that 90% of nonprofit organizations are paying taxes they do not owe on utility and gas bills. Take a look at your bills to see if taxes are being collected. If you can't tell, just call and ask! The billing department will check for you. Don't delay – the savings may look small, but they will add up. Any questions? Call Liz Armstrong at the Presbytery office.

THE POWER OF PRAYER (PART ONE)

The “Big Tent Event” sponsored by the denomination this past month in Atlanta, GA, was great! Fully ten organizations, virtually all having to do with outreach of one sort or another, from the National Multicultural Church Conference to the Presbyterian Communicators' Network National Conference, gathered for workshops and worship for three days. I took part in the Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, as the quest for church growth with integrity is a call I hear over and over again in our congregations.

The single greatest fact I heard was about the positive difference prayer makes. So here is my first story about the power of prayer.

1) In the early 1970s, Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan was taken over by the secular government. The Pakistani Christian teachers were replaced by secular teachers, and the missionaries were kicked out.

Whatever way *you* choose to be in mission, through unified or designated giving or through hands-on mission, I would encourage your congregation to also call the presbytery office to ask for the Rev. Mr. Paetzold to visit with your congregation. Marie Carlson in our office is arranging a calendar, and there are still plenty of openings on it. If you have a group in your congregation that would like to hear first hand about ministry in

Europe among a people often despised, then this is an opportunity for you to hear how your gifts through the PCUSA are helping “the least of these, the members of Jesus' family”.

Please call 814-742-2200 to sign up.

In Christ,

Joy K.

A THANK YOU

I want to give my deepest appreciation to all the churches and people in our presbytery for the many prayers, thoughts, and support you gave to me during my illness. It was far from being the best of times but it certainly wasn't the worst of times and that was because of the many prayers given for me during my illness. I am extremely grateful for such an outgoing expression of love and healing. Thanks be to God. – Lynn Illingworth

The local Christian folks, some 4,000 strong, were bereft, both of their beloved college and of the North American Christian friends who had been their partners in mission for decades. So the local people started to pray... *every day*... as a group and as individuals...for 35 years. That's 12,775 days of prayer, at a conservative estimate. Multiply that by 4,000 souls... you get the picture. This was a lot of prayer, consistently, faithfully, eventually joyfully, and with an attitude of total trust in God's power. A couple of years ago, the government gave the school back to the local Christians, who invited the PCUSA to send teachers again. The Pakistani Christians are convinced God heard their prayers, and thank God daily for the gift of Forman Christian College, a school that accepts students of all faiths.

In Christ,

Joy K.

AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CLEARFIELD ... NATIONAL LEADER VISITS

Local Presbyterians were treated to a "once in a generation" event last night. The Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, visited the Presbyterian Church of Clearfield for dinner and a question and answer session with the congregation.

"It's literally a once in a generation opportunity of members of our church and district to listen and communicate with the leader of the General Assembly of our denomination," said the Rev. J. Robert Mellgard, pastor of the Clearfield host church. "Gradye was very gracious in giving the message of international scope and understanding." As the chief officer of the Presbytery USA, the Rev. Parsons speaks for the church, along with a moderator, on issues both nationally and internationally, according to Rev. Mellgard.

The Louisville, Ky., man visited Clearfield County and other areas because the "Presbytery wanted to talk with the denomination as a whole." Yesterday, the Rev. Parsons also visited churches in Huntingdon and Altoona.

"It's good for me," the Rev. Parsons said. He explained that it was empowering for him to hear stories from the congregation and also good for the people who had concerns in their hearts. After his visit, the Rev. Parsons hoped that the congregation "would feel more connected to the Presbyterian Church."

During his question and answer session last night, the Rev. Parsons said he most enjoys getting to meet with the Presbytery as well as working to "reinvigorate and lift up the spirits" of the elders. He spoke to several issues facing the Presbytery. The biggest problem, he said, is "We don't know how to talk about our faith." **(CONT ON PAGE 7)**

CHANGES IN THE WIND

There are "changes in the wind" at the Windy Hill Village in Philipsburg. After undergoing an arduous process, the Village recently received tax credit approval through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for the construction on campus of an Independent Living apartment complex to be known as Westminster Place. The ceremonial groundbreaking will occur on September 18th. These apartments will be a welcomed addition to the housing options available to seniors in the area and will enable them to enjoy a higher degree of comfort knowing that despite their independent status health care services are conveniently close on site if necessary.

Westminster Place will be a three-story building containing 36 residential units along with a community room with kitchen, resident general storage space, common laundry facilities, and a management office. The complex will also contain a contemporary wellness center, several common areas, and an attached car port.

Each residential apartment will have its own dishwasher, electric furnace,

air conditioning unit and water heater. These features will be high efficiency with thermostat controls and accompanying instructions. All 36 units will meet federal guidelines for accessibility, including four units with ADA accessibility. The building and the units will have at least one zero-step entrance with a 36-inch wide door.

One of the primary goals of Westminster Place is to provide housing opportunities for those people over 55 years of age whose income falls below the area median. Regional market studies done during the developmental stage of this project revealed a growing number of area residents who fall into that category and who are presently or will be looking for suitable and affordable rental housing over the next few years. Because this project is tied into tax credits through the PHFA, thirty of the units will fall under specified guidelines regarding income requirements and rent restrictions. Rents for the remaining six units will not be applicable

to those guidelines and will be subject to fair market rates.

Windy Hill Village is the sole provider of housing and care for seniors in the Philipsburg region. It is also one of the area's top employers, presently with 210 people undertaking vital roles in nursing, food service, housekeeping, maintenance, ac-

tivities, administration and support services. Ever mindful of its community connection, Windy Hill frequently offers its 5,000 square foot multipurpose room for a variety of organizational meetings including Weight Watchers, Kiwanis, Gideons, Centre

County Foundation, Relay for Life, and Christian Women along with numerous church groups.

Changes in the wind are nothing new to the Village. The Staff strive daily to make the resident experience fresh, fulfilling and fun. Westminster Place will open doors to relationship building and offer a vantage point from which the new residents can view the unceasing dedication and compassionate care that have become the hallmark of Windy Hill and Presbyterian Senior Living.

ONE OF THE PRIMARY GOALS OF WESTMINSTER PLACE IS TO PROVIDE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE PEOPLE OVER 55 YEARS OF AGE WHOSE INCOME FALLS BELOW THE AREA MEDIAN.

KRISLUND KORNER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK



You and your wife are doing a fantastic job and we really appreciate it! Our family will be sure to tell our church (and other friends) to send their kids.

Thank you!

Cindy S.

“First I would like to say that my kids had a fantastic time at Krislund. This was the first time my son and daughter had attended Krislund. **They had a beautiful time, enjoyed the program and made a lot of friends.** My son Will and my daughter Amanda are already looking forward to next year. :) Again, thanks for a great summer memory for my kids :)”

Regards,

Bill P

Lydia M. (a repeat camper) writes, “*This was my third year at Krislund, and my best year. I loved sleeping in the new longhouses. Art, the new Program Director, is awesome...*”

I just had to write and tell you what a wonderful time my kids had at Krislund last week! My son Sam (11) was in the elk longhouse and he really enjoyed the “climbing” experiences, games, music, food and people at Krislund.

My son, Ben, and daughter, Lydia, were...very impressed by some of the changes at camp this summer. They said the food is way better for one thing! They both enjoyed working in the kitchen and didn't mind the grounds work either. Lydia said

she'd have liked to stay another week!

My husband and I were so happy to see how much better the camp looks since last summer. We thought the RC looked really nice too. I'm happy that the campers are eating "family style". It's much nicer than cafeteria style. Lastly, the ending service on Saturday morning was just excellent! **We've never seen such Spiritfilled enthusiastic campers at the end of a week.** Their singing and dancing was inspiring to us. And we were impressed to see the slide show DVD ready to watch. It was great!

SUMMER CAMP OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE

WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING



575

campers have signed up for 2009 so far. There are limited openings still available but only three weeks remaining so sign up now! Click www.krislund.org or call the Krislund Office at: 814-422-8878.

It is hard to believe that the summer camping season is already half over, and what a great start to the season it has been! As is true with many camp staffs, we enter into the summer looking to bless these campers in so many ways. Our aim is to make sure that we have fun with them, that we keep them safe and above all that we are able to help them grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is this last part that we feel we can truly be a blessing to them. In the end, we find that they have been a true blessing to us and we feel that we have been able to learn and grow in our own faith so much more. Camp creates a unique environment which emphasizes this thought. That is why we are truly blessed to be a blessing! And we are greatly excited to see how God uses us and teaches us through the remaining weeks of camp!

“Hello! My name is...”

During pre-camp training, each staff member was asked to write a short message introducing themselves to their fellow team members. We shared several messages last month and present five more here. More will appear in future issues of the **Krislund Korner**.

Leadership Team: Michele Califf, Summer Program Director; Elizabeth “Biz” Engelbret, Female Staff Facilitator and Benjamin Ketz, Adventure Team Coordinator

“Hi, my name is Benjamin Ketz and I grew up in State College, PA. I studied Chemistry at Penn State and then got an M.S. in Chemistry at Stanford. After that I served as a missionary in China for 2 ½ years. I am now studying in seminary at Gordon-Conwell. I served as a counselor at Krislund back in 2001, and now I am the Adventure Team Coordinator. I love outdoors stuff like hiking and climbing, and I am looking forward to a fun and exciting summer!”

Support Team: Pam DeVos, Kitchen Manager; Heather Anderson, Head Cook; Alex Borzok, Infirmary Coordinator; Robert Brown, Pool Director; Julie Miller, Arts & Crafts Director; Sky Ketz, Adventure; Shane Davis, Adventure; Michael Englund-Krieger, Adventure; Madeline du Breuil, Adventure; Russell Copenhagen, Maintenance;

Prisca Edwards, Communications and Colin Nickell, Communications.

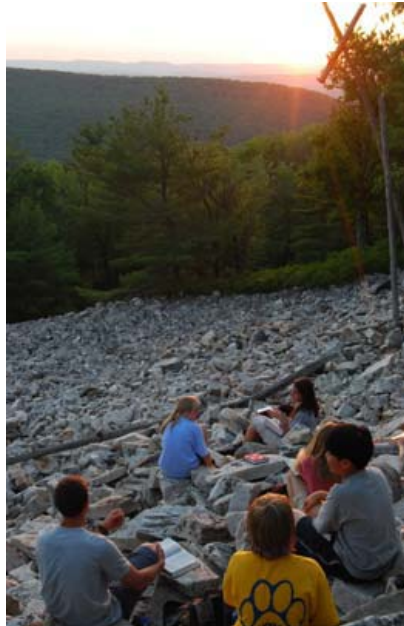
Alex Borzok hails from Wellsboro, PA (FPC Wellsboro) and is an alum of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania where he completed his B.S. in Health Sciences,

Pre- Professional minor in Biology. He started in medicine 11 years ago at the age of 14 and is certified as an EMT-B and Wilderness EMT. From 2002 to 2005, he served Krislund as Infirmary Coordinator and returns for 2009. Sometimes going by the nickname “Doogie Howser”, he has been known to show up to meals in surgical scrubs. He is looking forward to serving as Infirmary Coordinator again this summer and meeting you at camper check-in.

Senior Counselors: Michael Neal, Stephanie Noyes, Brandi Solomon, Jacob Brewster, Claudia Enelus, Collin Savidge, Brad Sick and Laura Maund.

*“Hi! I am **Stephenie Noyes**. I am from Newville, PA and I am a junior Biology Major at Westminster College. My favorite hobbies are rock climbing and being outdoors. I was a camper at Krislund six years ago and since then, have wanted to be a camp counselor. I hope to learn more about God and be able to show and teach others about God’s creation.”*

Staff in Training (SIT): Jamie Gasperich, Tyler Henry, Grace Dingler, Lindsey Burkholder, Philip Edwards, Brett Foote, Chelsey Noyes, Katelyn Rank, Cassandra Schaeffer, Isaac Seidel and Juliet Seidel.



Presbytery Calendar

AUGUST

- Aug. 5** 10:00am- Media Committee meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Aug. 11** 4:00pm - Joint Camp and Conference Committee (JCCC) at Krislund
- Aug. 12** 9:30am – Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Aug. 19** 1:00pm – Nominating Committee meeting
- Aug. 20** 9:30am – Discipleship Umbrella Team (DUT) meeting at Pine Grove Mills
- Aug. 25** 1:30pm – Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT) meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Aug. 29** 9:30am – Lay Pastor Training class at Bellwood Church
- Aug. 30** 3:00pm – Re-dedication of the Lemont Church (they have rebuilt the church sanctuary after the roof collapsed 3 years ago)

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 7** Presbytery Offices closed for Labor Day
- Sept. 8** 1:00pm - Council Meeting here at Presbytery Offices
4:00pm - Joint Camp and Conference Committee (JCCC) at Krislund
- Sept. 9** 9:30am – Quarterly Staff meeting
- Sept. 15** 1:00pm - Committee on Ministry at Presbytery Offices
- Sept. 17** 4:00pm - Leadership Umbrella Team (LUT) at Presbytery Offices
- Sept. 18** Agape Herald article deadline
- Sept. 23** 3:00pm – Personnel Committee meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Sept. 25-26** Second Church Innovations cluster group gathering in Dillsburg
- Sept. 26** 9:30am – Lay Pastor Training class at Bellwood Church
- Sept. 29** 6:00pm – Presbytery Meeting at Bellefonte Church

OCTOBER

- Oct. 3-6** AEPS and Fall Polity
- Oct. 13** 1:30pm - Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT) meeting at Presbytery Offices
4:00pm - Joint Camp and Conference Committee (JCCC) at Krislund
- Oct. 14** 9:30am – Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Oct. 15-16** Synod Meeting
- Oct. 20** 1:00pm - Committee on Ministry at Presbytery Offices
- Oct. 22** 9:30am – Discipleship Umbrella Team (DUT) meeting at Pine Grove Mills

WEST KISH COFFEEHOUSE PRESENTS:

No Coffeehouse in August

Next Coffeehouse is on Saturday Sept 19th

Show starts promptly at 7:00pm

Prayer Request Calendar

August 2009

- Petersburg-Bethel Congregation**
Elder Steve Cort, Temporary Supply
- 2 Philipsburg Congregation**
Rev. Tracie Bullis, Pastor
- Pine Grove Mills Congregation**
Rev. Carl Campbell, Pastor
- 9 East Kish. Congregation in Reedsville**
Rev. Helen Young, Interim Pastor
- 16 Sinking Valley Congregation**
Rev. JH Vanlal Hruaia, Pastor
- State College Congregation**
Rev. Charles Curley, Pastor
Rev. Joel Blunk, Associate Pastor
- Tyrone Congregation**
Rev. Doug McGaffin, Moderator
Rev. Mark Liller, Temporary Supply
- 30 Ward Avenue Congregation in Altoona**
Rev. Doug McGaffin, Pastor

September 2009

- 6 Lewistown Congregation**
Rev. James Thomas, Pastor
- 13 Committee on Ministry**
Rev. Doug Friant, Chair
- Committee on Representation**
Rev. Randy Yoder, Church Coach
Elder Janet Kephart, Chair
- 20 Nominating Committee**
Elder Dorothy Rudy, Chair

West Kish Coffeehouse is located in the West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian church, 3820 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.

West Kish Coffeehouse

westkishch@embarqmail.com

www.westkish.org/coffeehouse.html

AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CLEARFIELD ... NATIONAL LEADER VISITS (CONT FROM PAGE 3)

The Rev. Parsons said, "Presbyterians tend to be silent and have trouble articulating. We need to find a way to talk about our faith."

The biggest lie about the church, he said, is that Presbyterians can't be evangelists. "It's just not true," the Rev. Parsons said. He said he didn't know of any church that hasn't been affected by the economy and suggested that could be an opportunity for ministry.

"The call to ministry is bigger than ever," he said. "There's a lot of ministry to do right now."

The Rev. Parsons pointed to the fact that the growing market for ministry includes the homeless and hungry and people "who are just wandering and confused." He recognized that every church is struggling, but they need to find ways to get at the ministry.

Membership decline is another issue facing the Presbyterian Church. According to the Rev. Parsons, "more folks leave than join." He said the decline is due to the fact that a quarter of the people die, 20 percent leave for another denomination, but 60 percent just drift away. Because of this, the Rev. Parsons said the church needs to "learn how to be more attentive to the people around us."

He said churches are also dealing with "ordination standards" and the issue of gay and lesbian ordination. The Rev. Parsons said it's a "tough issue and a Biblical issue" that has been in debate since the late 1970s.

He said that the homosexuals who want to be ordained are the same people who have been baptized in the church and who have participated in the church's activities throughout their lives. Those in opposition, he said, have also been baptized and involved in the church.

"It's a fight among people who know each other. That's what makes it difficult," the Rev. Parsons said. "It's not just the Presbytery talking about it. It's everyone." He said he believed the issue of ordination standards would never go away. "We'll have to keep wrestling with it."

Last night, the Rev. Parsons said he appreciated the day he had in the Presbytery and thanked the congregation of approximately 85 for their "faithfulness."

"It's wonderful to see this many people here," said the Rev. Samuel G. Strohm, moderator. "It shows you really do care."

By Liza Matia *Staff Writer*

CLEARFIELD PROGRESS, Clearfield Pennsylvania



**DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE
24TH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN
RETREAT FOR ADULTS
WITH DISABILITIES?**

**3PM Friday—1PM Sunday
SEPT. 18-20, 2009**

**Kenbrook Bible Camp,
Lebanon, PA**

All Adults With Disabilities Welcome!

For More Information, contact:

• **Pamela Eliason, Co-Chairperson**

Phone: (304) 772-3332

Email: ppeliason@yahoo.com

• **Janet Kephart, Co-Chairperson**

Phone: (814) 339-6613

Email: janet_kephart@yahoo.com

Sponsored By:

**The Adults With Disabilities Network
Synod of the Trinity
Presbyterian Church USA**



Deannine Shipman, Director of Education & Program at State College Presbyterian Church, is the contact person for Christian Education assistance for the Presbytery of Huntingdon.

There are many resources available to assist you in planning your Christian Education program for your church.

You can preview the PCUSA "We Believe" curriculum at:

www.psuca.org/webelieve

To preview materials on "Kids Connection", visit:

www.KidConnectiononline.org

If you are interested in getting ideas, look online at

www.pcusa.org/ideas

For more information or assistance contact Deannine at:

(814-238-2422; DShipman@scpresby.org

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Agape Herald Editorial and Production Team

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Editorial and Production Team:

Jill Sajeski (alwwilson@verizon.net) 814-669-5047
 Peggy Kendall (w_kendall@comcast.net) 814-238-7875
 Bill Conway (4conways@comcast.net) 814-342-5930
 Jake Wagner (jacobew@verizon.net) 717-543-5726
 Sara Guy (sguy@pennswoods.net) 814-236-2658
 Nancy Kraybill (nwkraybill@yahoo.com) 814-330-0621
 Bob Himes (blkpatch@embarqmail.com) 717-667-9673
 Chuck Hayes (chayes@clearnet.net) 814-378-8162
 Alice Meloy (ammrem75@innernet.net) 717-349-2685
 Mary Frances Jaymes (mfoyaymes@yahoo.com) 814-259-3256
 Bill Croyle (Larmstrong8@verizon.net)



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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