



# Agape Herald

The Newsletter of the Presbytery of Huntingdon

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

[www.huntingdonpresbytery.com](http://www.huntingdonpresbytery.com)

Dec '09/Jan '10

General Presbyter:

Joy Kaufmann  
[joyk2@verizon.net](mailto:joyk2@verizon.net)

Treasurer :

Liz Armstrong  
[Larmstrong8@verizon.net](mailto:Larmstrong8@verizon.net)

Mission Treasurer:

Joann Kimmel  
[jkimmel@pennswoods.net](mailto:jkimmel@pennswoods.net)

Stated Clerk:

Virginia Rainey  
[vfrailey@verizon.net](mailto:vfrailey@verizon.net)

Pastoral Care

Consultant:  
Lynn Illingworth  
[suelynni@verizon.net](mailto:suelynni@verizon.net)  
814-234-2415

Resource Center

Coordinator:  
Marie Carlson  
[mariecarlson1@verizon.net](mailto:mariecarlson1@verizon.net)

Presbytery Office

Phone:  
814-742-2200  
Fax: 814-742-2214

## REPAIRER OF THE BREACH

*"When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, 'Then who can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals, it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'" Matthew 19:25-26*

In October, my husband and I traveled with a group through several countries in Central Europe. Some of our experiences have left an indelible impression. We heard Strauss waltzes in Vienna, and visited Auschwitz in Poland. We walked along part of the brick-marker where the Berlin wall once stood, and saw the neighborhoods where the traditional Jewish ghettos used to be. We heard about the contemporary geopolitical scene and we learned about the grey period that was communist domination. The architecture, from the Brandenburg Gate to communist "social housing", from late 19<sup>th</sup> century housing with its beautiful plaster work and pastel colors to the stark, angular forms of the Bau House period, depicts the history of the countries through the centuries.

One of the most striking experiences we had was in Warsaw. We heard the story of what happened during World War II. The summer of 1939 was a particularly beautiful one, with very little indication of the events that would play out during the next five and a half years. But by September of 1939, Hitler and the Nazis had taken control of the city.

Years of increasing persecution of the Jewish population and deprivation for the rest of the population ensued. Many gentiles were sent to the concentration camps for their part in "The Underground Army", along with their Jewish neighbors who were transported to death in the camps by the thousands. The Jews were rounded up and forced to live in a ghetto within a high wall – kind of a crowded mini-city within the larger city, before the dreaded "transport trains".

In April of 1944, the Jewish leaders recognizing, they and their community were about to be exterminated *en masse*, didn't stop some of the young adults who led an uprising from the ghetto. This uprising was followed in August of 1944 by an uprising on the part of the general population of the city. Over many months, the citizens of Warsaw fought back and fought hard. There were even a few brief periods when it appeared they had a chance of prevailing. But that was not to be.



BRANDENBURG GATE  
IN BERLIN

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# WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

When my brothers and I were young, our parents' main goal was to raise us according to Biblical principles. So when the time came for me to go to school, Mom and Dad decided it was also time to teach me about money from a Biblical perspective.

First the basics: Mom sat me down on the floor with piles of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. She explained how each amount related to the others, and then had me play with the coins until I "got it". When she saw I really knew five pennies made a nickel and two nickels made a dime, then she got to what really mattered: how to use the money.

She explained that our money, like everything else we have on this earth, came to us because of God's goodness. We hadn't done anything to deserve it, in our family, we were fortunate as to have enough, so we would use it as the Bible told us to use it.

Mom then brought out a flat wooden box Dad had made, subdivided into smaller chambers. In each chamber stood a bright yellow, metal coin box. Mom said, "Now I am going to explain what is really important to remember about money." She asked, "How many dimes make a dollar?" Proudly, I said, "Ten!" She said, "Right. Ten dimes make a dollar. You and I are going to take ten dimes and see what we should do with them."

We put the dimes in a line on the floor next to

the wooden box with its small yellow boxes. Then Mom said, "The first box is the church box. You put your very first dime in this box. You have to put it in every time, and you have to put it in here first. If you forget to put the first dime in the church box, chances are you will spend it on something else, and the church box won't get what it deserves. We give the church box money to our church to be used for God's missions." In went the first dime.

We went through all the other boxes in order: housing got a couple of dimes; food got a couple, clothing, doctors, putting aside to buy a car, presents

for other people. By the time we were finished putting dimes in each little yellow box, all ten dimes were gone.

Mom asked me one last question.

"Why do we put the first dime in the church box?" "Because it belongs to God and we give back to God first."

"Right", she said. "Never forget that.

Whether you are rich or whether you

are poor, God has still blessed you and we give some back to God to say 'thank you'."

In this season of stewardship, I hope you see God's blessings and give accordingly.

In Christ,

Joy K.

**"WHY DO WE PUT THE FIRST DIME IN THE CHURCH BOX?"  
"BECAUSE IT BELONGS TO GOD AND WE GIVE BACK TO GOD FIRST."**

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

(PART THREE)

Our Thai mission partners write an English-language newsletter for those of us related through partnership with them. Through it, one can learn a lot about missionaries in Thailand, past and present, from our country and from lots of other countries. This past issue, one of the writers detailed the recent unrest and violence in Thailand.

While it appears the worst has calmed down, things are by no means settled. To quote Dr. Prawate Khid-Arn, the General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, himself a Thai, "Analysts warned that the violence had merely widened the rift between largely poor supporters of Thaksin (Thaksin Shinawatra, the former Prime Minister) and the government, backed by the army and the Bangkok elite", adding that it was "a heavy task of the government to reconcile and heal the wounds in society.... In this situation, please keep the CCA staff

and work in your daily prayer."

Our mission partners in Asia, specifically this time, in Thailand, are counting on us to persevere in prayer for them. Won't you join with our Discipleship Umbrella Team members and others around the world in prayer for our Thai partners in the Gospel?

Prayer is powerful. It unites us both with God and one another. Sometimes it takes years and years for the results of prayers to be seen. People leave this mortal life, never having seen the full effect of their prayers. But we are called to pray with and for one another anyway. God is still sovereign over this earth, and through prayer, we can affirm that truth.

In Christ,

Joy K.

# REPAIRER OF THE BREACH (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

It would be fair to say Hitler hated the entire citizenry of Warsaw. He began a bombing campaign with the stated intention of subduing the populace, but the unwritten intention of blasting the city to rubble.

Winston Churchill asked President Roosevelt to help the Warsaw population by authorizing counter-strikes against the Nazis using Flying Fortresses. But Mr. Roosevelt needed Joseph Stalin's cooperation in other parts of the European theatre. When Stalin refused to let the US planes refuel in Soviet territory, Roosevelt made the hard choice to forgo bombing the Nazis who were destroying Warsaw. 1.8 million persons were left to their desperate situation without outside support.

Warsaw was reduced to rubble. 85% of the city was totally demolished and the other 15% heavily damaged. The Soviet army sat on the other side of the river from Warsaw and watched it happen. Stalin never told his army to go into Warsaw while the Nazis were there, because he wanted the city as part of his "empire", should the Nazis lose the war.

Here is what I want most to share with you. By the fall of 1945, the war having just ended and the 1.8 million souls who had previously lived in Warsaw having either been killed or having had to flee, the people started to come back. Shovel full by shovel full, they removed the debris. Brick by brick, they started to rebuild. It was a long, cold winter in 1945, but the citizens of Warsaw came back. And they rebuilt. By 1955, a mere ten years

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after the city had been destroyed, the city of Warsaw stood again.

The spirit of the Polish people, always a religious and proud spirit, empowered the people as they rebuilt. To this day, the people of Poland are justifiably proud of the rebuilding of Warsaw. On a related matter, they brought suit in the court system of the European Union and it was declared that even though many of the Nazi death camps were on Polish soil, they weren't "Polish camps". They were Nazi camps, run by the German military during the Third Reich.

Compared to the challenges faced by the people of Warsaw, our challenges are small. All we face in our presidency is a revivification of Camp Krislund and the transformation of our congregations into vital spiritual centers in their communities. In light of the story of the Polish people, how can we not have hope (and how can we not give it our very best effort) that with God's help, we can rebuild? If Jesus said, in Matthew's gospel cited above, that it was as hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God as it would be for a camel to go through the eye of a needle...but with God, all things are possible... then surely we can rebuild.

I pray that it will be so, both for the Camp we love and for the congregations we love. May we work with all the diligence and hope that the people of Warsaw used to rebuild, even as we live in a culture that increasingly marginalizes "the Church". We know that the message of Jesus Christ is still the greatest message of all time. Surely we need to give our very best efforts to share that message.

All God's blessings,  
Joy K.

## MILEAGE FOR 2010—CORRECTION

The September Agape Herald had incorrect information about Mileage for 2010. The correct mileage for 2010 is as follows: Ministers will receive 100% of the IRS rate. Volunteers will receive 50% of the IRS rate. However, since the IRS approved volunteer reimbursement rate is \$0.14 per mile, any volunteer will have to report the remainder of the 50% as income. For instance, if the IRS sets the rate at \$0.50, the volunteers will receive \$0.25 (50% of the rate). From this amount \$0.14 is considered reimbursement and \$0.11 would be income. If you have any questions, please call Liz Armstrong at the Presbytery Office.

The IRS usually sets the rate in late November for the next year. Liz Armstrong will send out messages as soon as the rate is set.

## Tax Webinars for Ministers & Churches

December 9, 2009  
3:00 – 4:00 pm

With Richard Hammar, J.D., LL.M., CPA, a clergy tax expert.

Explore recent tax law changes that will affect ministers and churches, expenses that are and are not deductible, a ten-step year-end checklist, and how lending money to a minister could put a church's tax-exempt status at risk.

To register go to [Pensions.org](http://Pensions.org) and select Educational Resources or call 1-800-355-4487.

# KRISLUND KORNER

## “TO DO” LIST GETS DONE AT FALL WORK DAY

Dozens of volunteers showed up at Krislund on a sunny Saturday to accomplish many tasks on the camp's "to do" list during the Fall Work Day. The annual event, held this year on October 3rd, asked workers to share their skills at painting, cutting brush, pulling stumps, cleaning the arts & crafts building, staining, landscaping, splitting wood and other necessary jobs. The volunteers gathered early and, after putting in a full morning of labor, enjoyed a lunch in the Retreat Center dining room before completing their afternoon tasks. Pictures of the event and the people who made it happen can be found on the camp website at [www.krislund.org](http://www.krislund.org).

## PAINT-A-BUILDING CAMPAIGN ENJOYS BRUSH WITH SUCCESS

Our recently announced campaign to re-stain and/or repaint many of the camp buildings has been met with encouraging success. Good progress has been made towards our goal of raising \$6000 to cover the materials, as almost 50% of that has been donated. The Joint Camp & Conference Committee has chosen a warm brown color that will provide excellent coverage on all of our facilities, regardless of their age, while providing the long-term protection that our structures need and the consistent, unified, natural look that the Committee desires. To date, volunteers have applied one or more coats to the Upper Lodge, the two new longhouses and the pump houses. On the list for completion this fall are the new office building, with the Retreat Center scheduled for next spring.

## REFLECTIONS ON CHANGE

What a change! We have gone from amazingly gorgeous fall colors to a beautiful white blanket of snow covering absolutely everything at camp! I never cease to be amazed at God's creation. It is so wonderfully made and He continues to show us His glory through it. It is currently snowing like crazy as I write this... and it is mid-October! Change can be difficult sometimes. Other times it can be a wonderful thing. It is in how we view it that makes a difference. Most people love the change from the summer to the fall colors. Many people don't like the change



## WELCOME TO HEATHER ANDERSON

Krislund is excited to welcome a new member to our team! Heather Anderson comes from Alta, Iowa and spent this past summer working for Krislund in the kitchen with Pam DeVos. Heather followed the DeVos' from their last camp to serve with them again here in Pennsylvania. Heather will be helping the camp in numerous ways. Her primary income will come from working off-site, but will continue to serve in the kitchen when necessary and will spend time developing an Outdoor Education program and curriculum. Heather and Pam are both certified teachers which will greatly aid in this process.



from the fall colors to the cold winter. (Or at least the newness wears off.) Krislund has seen some change over the past year. To some it has been a fairly easy transition... and to others it has been understandably difficult. It is important to know that regardless of how things change, our mission and purpose remain the same. Krislund is to be a place set apart from the pace of the world. It continues to be a place for children and adults to come to grow in their faith and knowledge of who Christ is. Krislund will remain, a place set apart.

**Art DeVos, Program Director**

COME AWAY WITH ME TO A QUIET PLACE, APART FROM THE WORLD WITH ITS FRANTIC PACE. TO PRAY, REFLECT, AND SEEK GOD'S GRACE. COME AWAY WITH ME. COME AWAY.  
—MARY KEITHAHN

## REFURBISHING PROJECT AT UPPER LODGE NEARS COMPLETION

A major refurbishing project at Krislund's Upper Lodge is nearing completion through the efforts of volunteers from the State College Presbyterian Church. By donating their time, talents and funding to the venture, the workers were able to upgrade the energy efficiency of the building and refresh its appearance. One of the oldest buildings in camp, the Upper Lodge is heavily used for summer programming in addition to off-season meetings and retreats.

SOME NEW LOOKS AT CAMP - CONT ON PAGE 6



2010  
BROCHURES:

The 2010 Summer Camp brochures will be mailed in January. Watch for them!

NOTICE: The camp office has returned to "off-season" hours and will be open only on weekday mornings.

# GREETINGS FROM THE POTTERS IN CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

“Sawatdee“ and greetings from the Potters in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Well, the phrase “never a dull moment” could sum up our lives and adventures here in Thailand. The fall here is the second half of the rainy season, which starts in May and goes through October. As we enter our second holiday season in Thailand, living in a largely Buddhist country, we are reminded of how blessed we are to know the love and saving grace of Jesus. There are several holidays this time of year and this year the big festival of Loy Kratong fell on Halloween weekend, so there was lots of craziness. While Halloween isn’t a very big deal in Thailand, it does get attention in the international school scene. All four of our girls got into the spirit and dressed up and participated in the school’s annual Harvest Festival, which included a haunted house. Then we were invited to trick-or-treat in the only American neighborhood, the American Compound, where State Department and DEA families live. It wasn’t nearly as exciting as the blocks and blocks we traveled in State College, but still, it was fun to have a bit of America in our life. Jenae was dressed as a pirate and her eye-patch, earring, and hooked hand, along with her mighty “aaaaargh” earned her an award for best costume at the party. Loy Kratong is a big festival that centers around the river, physically. It is a time of celebration and the sounds of firecrackers, fireworks, and mini-bombs can be heard well

**THERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT FOR A HOLIDAY TO BE CLEANSED, JUST ASK AND GOD WILL FORGIVE YOU.**

into the wee hours of the morning for four days in a row. In school, all the children make a kratong which they can then loy (float) down the river. The kratong is made from a slice of the trunk of a banana tree decorated with banana leaves and flowers as well as incense or candles. The Buddhist Thai people believe that on this holiday they should cast their wrongs upon the kratong and send them away, down the river. This year, Riley and Elizabeth wanted to know more about this and we found that it was a wonderful way to illustrate one very important difference between Christianity and many other religions. I explained that we can simply ask God to forgive us for any wrong we have done. So if we are truly sorry for our transgression, God will forgive us immediately and we can give that sin up to God. Because Jesus died for our sins we can always be forgiven. There is no need to wait for a holiday to be cleansed, just ask and God will forgive you. They were interested in this lesson, having asked the questions about it, and we felt that afterwards they could explain to someone who wasn’t Christian a bit about their own faith, using the illustration of Loy Kratong as an example of people wanting forgiveness. As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, we are reminded of how many ways we are truly blessed by God and of the hope we have in

**AS THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS APPROACH, WE ARE REMINDED OF HOW MANY WAYS WE ARE TRULY BLESSED BY GOD AND OF THE HOPE WE HAVE IN JESUS.**

Jesus. By contrast, Buddhists believe that what they have in this life is a reflection of how well they lived their previous lives, thus deserving what they have. Celebrations at school and in our community help spread the different message of the Christian faith in a natural, meaningful way as both our church and school hold events that draw people from beyond the Christian community to celebrate these holidays.

As some of you know, we have been trying to gain missionary status with the PC (USA). While our Presbytery supports this endeavor and the Church of Christ in Thailand took all the necessary steps from their end, we have been officially turned down by the national office. We were asking for support in the form of insurance, pension, and some travel benefits. This is very disappointing, and we ask for your prayers as we seek a different path towards creating a sustainable situation for us so we can continue to serve here.

The weather should be changing soon, and before you know it we’ll be in the cool season, which is pretty much like a summer day in PA.

We’re looking forward to it. Debbie’s parents (who live in Orange County, CA) we’ll be visiting for a month from December 9 to January 7, and we’re all really looking forward to the visit.

May God richly bless you during this holy

season, wherever you may be.

Joyously,

Lance, Debbie, Elizabeth (9), Riley (7), Jenae (5), and Callie (4) Potter

## Presbytery Calendar

### DECEMBER

- Dec. 6** 3:00pm – Ecumenical Service of Hope at the Catholic Cathedral in Altoona
- Dec. 8** 1:00pm - Krislund Personnel Committee at Krislund, All other Committee Meetings at 2:00pm
- Dec. 9** 9:30am – Quarterly Staff meeting and lunch at Presbytery Offices
- Dec. 15** 1:00pm – Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting
- Dec. 24 & 25** Presbytery Offices closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas
- Dec. 31** Presbytery Offices closed for New Year's Eve

### JANUARY

- Jan. 1** Presbytery Offices closed for New Years Day
- Jan. 5** 1:30pm – Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT) at Presbytery Offices
- Jan. 12** 4:00pm - JCCC in Carlisle Presbytery, committees at 2:00 PM
- Jan. 15-16** Church Innovations Cluster Event, Stumptown Mennonite Church
- Jan. 17** 2:00pm - Signs of Justice Interfaith Celebration at the Altoona Area Junior High
- Jan. 18** Presbytery Offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 30** Presbytery Meeting at State College Church

### FEBRUARY

- Feb. 2** 10:00am – Self Development of People Committee meeting at Presbytery Offices
- Feb. 6** Presbytery Meeting snow date if needed
- Feb. 9** 4:00pm - JCCC at Krislund, committees at 2:00 PM
- Feb. 11** 5:00pm - Remarkable Signs of Hope Awards Dinner, Altoona Vo-Tech
- Feb. 15** Presbytery Offices closed for Presidents' Day

### ATTENTION MINISTERS AND TREASURERS:

The Board of Pensions requires a notice of change of salary each year. This is done using ENR-111. They want this form even if there are no changes for the new year. Please make sure you get this done. Go to [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org) or call the Presbytery office to obtain this form.

### KRISLUND KORNER (CONT FROM PAGE 4)

The next time you are in camp, please check out these improvements: Stump Removal -- More than 100 tree stumps have been pulled from the camp program areas for safety and aesthetic reasons. Work will continue throughout the fall and next spring to remove additional stumps.

A Cleaner View -- We are making an ongoing effort to improve the look around the maintenance building and nearby areas by cleaning up piles of construction materials and organizing our resources.

Maintaining the Manse -- Workers have been refurbishing the interior of the manse and upgrading the exterior landscaping.

**PAGE 6**

## Prayer Request Calendar

### December

- 6** Self-Development of People Committee
- 13** The Lay Pastors of Huntingdon Presbytery
- 20** The Pastorless Churches of Huntingdon Presbytery
- 27** Presbytery Administrative Treasurer  
Elder Elizabeth Armstrong  
Mission Treasurer  
Elder Joann Kimmel

### January

- 3** Personnel Committee
- 10** Presbyterian Women
- 17** Candidates and Inquirers for Ministry of Huntingdon Presbytery
- 24** Honorably Retired and Non-Parish Clergy of Huntingdon Presbytery
- 31** Administrative Umbrella Team  
Rev. Roland Emond, Chairperson

### WEST KISH COFFEEHOUSE PRESENTS:

#### The Annual Christmas Coffeehouse

Come ring in the season with music. We will have songs of the season by various local performers followed by a group carol sing with all your favorite traditional carols.

Saturday December 12, 2009 - show starts promptly at 7:00pm.

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](mailto:westkishch@embarqmail.com)

[www.westkish.org/coffeehouse.html](http://www.westkish.org/coffeehouse.html)

## BITS AND PIECES.....

### Medical Benefits Changes

Want more information on up-coming changes to the Presbyterian Medical Benefits Plan? Go to [Pensions.org](http://Pensions.org), select Forms & Publications, select E-learning, then scroll down to Medical Plan and click on 2010 Medical Plan Changes.

If you are a pastor, you should also receive a letter and handbook detailing the up coming changes. But you can get a head start on finding out what they are by going to the website.

### Calvin Symposium on Worship:

Word, Music, Vision and Action

January 28 – 30, 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship of Calvin College

Worship Theme: The Great Stories: Old Testament Narratives

Eight vesper services, ten Thursday seminars and 70+ Friday – Saturday workshops from. Register one, two or three days. Register on-line at [www.calvin.edu/worship](http://www.calvin.edu/worship)

A sampling of workshops: “Faith and Globalization” with Miroslav Volf; “Case Studies from the History of Worship” with Lester Ruth; “Seven Deadly Sins (Capital Vices) in the Christian Tradition” with Rebecca DeYoung and Robert Kruschwitz and “Religion, War and the Meaning of America” with Harry Stout.

### Presbyterian Youth Workers Association

Do you work with youth in your home congregation? If so, this event is for you. It will be January 27 – 28, 2010 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. Experience engaging presentations, inspiring worship and life-refreshing times for prayer and reflection as well as time for fellowship with other youth leaders. You don't have to be a paid youth leader to attend – only interested in offering our youth the best possible experience of Christian development in *your* home congregation.

Regular fee: \$109; if you are a PYWA member, the fee is \$89.

Go to [www.apcenet.org](http://www.apcenet.org) for registration. Or you can check it out at Facebook [www.pywa.org](http://www.pywa.org)

### Synod Grants Available

Self-Development of People

Peacemaking, Locally or Globally

2010 – 2011 Undergraduate Educational Scholarship Program

2010 – 2011 Graduate Scholarship Program, including Mary L. Clark Ministry Grants and Mary Meade Maxwell Vocations Scholarships

For more information, go to [www.synttrinity.org](http://www.synttrinity.org) and click on “Grants and Scholarships”.

### First Annual Golf Tournament to benefit Krislund Camp & Conference Center

Date: June 11, 2010

Place: Carlisle Barracks

Time: 1:00 pm shotgun start

Cost: \$75 per player or \$280 for a foursome

Contact Paul Hoch at [hoch@comcast.net](mailto:hoch@comcast.net) for registration information or if you have questions.



This is a new curriculum for K–6th Grade, designed for the small-sized program but works great in any size church! It's designed to be economical and it comes with a handy CD so you can get what you need from your computer! Check it out at:

[www.KidConnectiononline.org](http://www.KidConnectiononline.org)



Opening Doors  
to Discipleship

If you are responsible for training volunteers in your church, please check out this site:

[openingdoorstodiscipleship.com](http://openingdoorstodiscipleship.com)



The LOGOS Ministry provides support, training, and a great program that meets the needs of the children and youth of today! If you are interested in finding out more about LOGOS, you can contact them at [www.thelogosministry.org](http://www.thelogosministry.org) OR you can call Deannine Shipman at 814-238-2422.

# Agape Herald Editorial and Production Team

## 2010 Publication Schedule:

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Nov. 12	Dec./Jan

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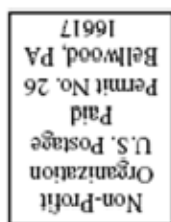
### Editorial and Production Team:

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



Please send all information and potential articles/photos to Al Wilson - [alwwilson@verizon.net](mailto: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.

**Return Service Requested**



Agape Herald  
 Presbytery of Huntingdon  
 323 Main St  
 Bellwood, PA 16617

