



# 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)

Aug '10/Sept '10

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## REPORT ON THE 219<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly has come and gone, wrapped in prayer and less contentious than many General Assemblies. Yet much was accomplished.

First, this GA appeared to have more intentional prayer, offered by more ordered groups, than many other previous GAs. The entire body of Executive and

General Presbyters and Stated Clerks followed a 40-Days-of-Prayer calendar leading up to the GA. Every plenary session began with all in the room gathering in groups of 2 or 3 or 4 to pray, out loud, with and for one another and the assembly. The Association of Executive Presbyters, led by Steve Shusett of Lehigh Presbytery, organized voluntary 2-hour blocks of prayer time – “mine” was Friday from 9 pm ‘til 10:40 pm (would have stretched until whenever the plenary ended that final evening) – during each and all the committee meetings and every plenary session. So the atmosphere of this General Assembly was deeply marked with prayer.

This made a difference. Yes, there was the usual politicking, right and left. Yes, there were those who evidenced deep distrust of those with whom they disagreed. But on balance, the commissioners appeared to take their mandate to vote their conscience under the guidance of the Holy Spirit very seriously. There was little rancor, although there was hearty debate upon occasion.

What did the commissioners do? They referred many items back to the presbyteries for votes, and voted some things themselves.

Here are some of the highlights of the commissioners’ work:

**FIRST, THIS GA APPEARED TO HAVE MORE INTENTIONAL PRAYER, OFFERED BY MORE ORDERED GROUPS, THAN MANY OTHER PREVIOUS GAS.**

*“...Out of the believer’s heart shall come rivers of living water.”*

John 7:38

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# REPORT ON THE 219<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Confessions and Catechisms – they voted to retranslate the Heidelberg Catechism, using the translation team of the Reformed Church in America. Two years ago, this was a political “hot potato”, as the translation only involved two or three passages in which reference had been added in the 1960s to homosexuality. But more than 100 mistranslations have since been discovered and need to be rectified.

The Belhar Declaration, coming out of South Africa, was voted out to the presbyteries for our debate and vote. Why did the commissioners recommend this confession to us? Isn't the “Book of Confessions” full enough? Simply because more than 80% of the world's Christians today live in the global south, south of the equator. None of the current creeds, confessions or catechisms are from the global south.

New Form of Government – Cheerfully called “nFOG”, this document has been under study across the denomination for the past four years. It would streamline the current “Book of Order”, replacing some parts and deleting many of the “to do” items that would make their way into manuals of operation. The intention of nFOG is to give the denomination a more genuinely constitutional document.

Middle Governing Bodies – Synods and presbyteries in various places are under great stress, and some cannot wait another two years ‘til the 220<sup>th</sup> GA to change how they operate. Two major items were voted into place: presbyteries within a synod may decide how their synod is to be structured, using as little as the “Book of Order” mandated functions for a synod or any other combination of tasks and roles as the presbyteries deem helpful. Also, a commission was put in place, with limited powers, to work with synods and presbyteries *as the synods and presbyteries see fit* before the next GA to restructure the synods and presbyteries.

Human sexuality – Perennial fare at GAs, several votes were taken about matters related to human sexuality. Both the majority report *and* the minority report (one for it and the other against it) on civil unions and same sex marriage, were referred to all 173 presbyteries for study at the local level.

A commissioner moved, and it was seconded that all other items before Committee 12 (matters pertaining to human sexuality), be addressed by the previous vote. “It is prudent and wise to study the papers first, pray together, seek the will of the Spirit, and then discern.” So most of the topics will come before us again, once we have studied the two papers. Look to see these in our presbytery some time in the next two years.

The denomination's position on abortion remains unchanged. Relief of conscience funds still go to the Adoption Assistance Program.

The commissioners voted to direct the Board of Pensions to extend benefits to same-gender spouses/partners (their status depending upon what is legal in the states in which they reside) of those lay employees of churches currently in the BoP Affiliate Benefits Program. This may or may not raise BoP dues, and the commissioners voted to approve an up-to-1% increase. Relief of conscience is to be provided for those congregations for which this is against their conscience.

Ordination Standards – The commissioners voted to send back to the 173 presbyteries newly proposed language to replace the current G-6.0106b. Those in favor of the new language say it will hold us to a higher standard, that is all sinful behaviors must be judged by Godly standards and persons involved held accountable. Those against said the broader language waters down the specificity of the current “chastity in singleness and fidelity in marriage” language. Your congregation will have a chance to send an elder representative to vote on this language change proposal.

The Middle East Study Report – By far one of the most contentious topics in circles beyond our own denomination, this major study document was changed for the better the night before the vote. Portions considered inflammatory by either the Palestinian “side” or the pro-Israel “side” were removed and replaced with eight sections presenting a more balanced mix of views from the Middle East, including views of Palestinian Christians. Persons with vehemently held opinions on both sides of these issues were heard to exclaim “a

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# NEWS FROM BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In past articles I have written about our new building project, “*The Missional Church*” project and also a brief review of an evening spent walking the labyrinth. In this article, I will try to tie them all together and give you the latest news from Bedford Presbyterian Church.

After the building project was completed, our weary minister said, “*Now what?*” After much debate and soul searching, we voted to participate in the Missional Church project. Pastor Doug also wondered if the time was right to stretch our faith just a little farther and agree to listen for God’s direction while he applied for a much needed sabbatical of meditation, study, and family.

Last October Pastor Doug received the wonderful news that he did indeed receive the “Lilly Foundation Grant!” This in turn gave him the opportunity to start planning a sabbatical

leave for this summer. Part of the grant also stipulates that while our pastor is in search of spiritual renewal, the congregation also is charged with “*listening for God’s word*” and using our gifts to keep our faith and the church on track while the minister is on leave.

One month has already passed and we feel that God is leading us. Not only are we experiencing different views with Rev. Barry Vance, intern Brett Hoover, and lay minister Thalia Fleetwood. But we have also

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found gifted members willing to read scripture, do children’s sermons, and also take a bigger role in staying connected as a congregation.

The last and most important piece of the sabbatical commitment is the activities we have planned for “listening for God’s word.” Rev. James Cuppett is “*summering*” in Bedford and we want him to do a special session on spiritual discernment. We also want to revisit walking the labyrinth except this time it will be outdoors in Windber PA. And lastly we want to join the Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Church on a day retreat with Dr. Fran Rohlf and Dr Rosemary Bertocci.

On a lighter note, the sabbatical team decided the best way to stay connected to Pastor Doug and his travels was to have a brief video visit and call it, “*Where in the world is Pastor Doug and family?*” He sends us information and one of the team shares comments, history and of course a little humor. The first commentary was held June 27th, giving an overview of the Spanish School in Antigua, Guatemala and the *Habitat for Humanity* work in Guastatoya, Guatemala.

It is an exciting time for the Bedford Presbyterian Church!

It isn’t the first time we have been without a pastor but I believe it is the first time that a pastor has taken a sabbatical. I am sure that we will all be refreshed, renewed and blessed, ready to start the fall agenda with a fresh outlook and experienced ears “listening for God.”

Submitted By: Shirley Stuby

## REPORT ON THE 219<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY (CONT. FROM PAGE 2)

miracle has happened! The document is vastly improved.” It was resoundingly voted in the affirmative.

A study team about the war in Afghanistan was approved.

Per capita in 2011 will be \$6.50 and in 2012, \$6.63. At the very last minute, Saturday morning just before we all had to depart at noon, the commissioners tried to figure out how to save on per capita. Too late. Their votes were accomplished, and we headed for cars, trains and airplanes.

This report has gone on far too long! The 219<sup>th</sup> GA accomplished many other things. We heard remarkable greetings from ecumenical advisory delegates, we com-

missioned more international missionaries and Young Adult Volunteers, we worshipped with vigor and re-connected with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the country. The next “Big Tent Event” (education and nurture now offered in the “off” years between GAs) will be June 30 – July 2, 2011 in Indianapolis.

Look for regional cluster events in our presbytery in future months. Those who went to the 219<sup>th</sup> GA hope to share with the rest of us in the presbytery and have Q & A. Thank you for the opportunity to be present for this very democratic way of discerning God’s will.

In Christ,

Joy K.

# Krislund Korner

Grow In Faith ~ Experience Adventure ~ Unite In Tradition



To learn more about our off-season programs and the Funding the Future Campaign, or to inquire about hosting your next retreat at Krislund, go to [www.krislundretreats.org](http://www.krislundretreats.org).

## Announcements:

**Volunteers are needed for our Upper Lodge expansion project. Construction is under-way!!!**

## OUR VISION:

**Restoring lives by God's grace in mountain solitude through worshipping community, purposeful spiritual adventure, and Christian hospitality to all ages.**

Blessings, Art DeVos Program Director

## CHOOSING CURRICULUM ... HELP!

If you have found yourself in the position of choosing curriculum for your church, keep on reading! It can be confusing, and quite a daunting task!

My very first experience at looking at curriculum came when I was in my Jr./Sr. year at Presbyterian College (Clinton, SC). My major was Religion (with a concentration in CE), and comparing curriculum was part of one of my classes! I have been racking my brain today to remember if I got an A or not in this particular class, but I hope I did! We had to lay out all the different curricula available that year, study them, and using a chart, contrast and compare them.

I can remember thinking at the time that I could use my chart for years into my ministry, only to find that curriculum changes faster than I change my hair style. The basic questions you should ask yourself remain, but there are more and more choices available to us now!

It is still a daunting task when you figure you are choosing something for several teachers to use, many children, youth, or adults to study, and ultimately to have it reflect the beliefs of your particular church.

Where do you start? For one thing, the PCUSA.org has help online! If you find you can't decide which curriculum to choose, why not start with this quick Reformed point of view evaluation: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/education/choose/>

**I CAN REMEMBER THINKING AT THE TIME THAT I COULD USE MY CHART FOR YEARS INTO MY MINISTRY, ONLY TO FIND THAT CURRICULUM CHANGES FASTER THAN I CHANGE MY HAIR STYLE.**

This will help you evaluate each curriculum with the same standards, using the same questions. Two of the most frequently asked questions about curriculum are:

1. Which stories and Scripture passages are covered? (scope and sequence)
2. Can I get samples to review with my teachers?

Most curriculum publishers now have websites, and it is easier now more than ever to obtain what is the scope and sequence of the curriculum, and to get a sample of the curriculum!

You could start with the PCUSA and check out the newest version of We Believe! Start with this link and then choose the age group you would like to review. All of the curricula created and/or distributed by our denominational publisher are listed in each category.

If you need more personal help, I am always available to chat about curriculum or other educational matters and can be reached at 814-238-2422. Ask for Deannine ☺

By Deannine Shipman,  
Education and Program Director  
State College Presbyterian Church

## Summer Fun FOR KIDS!

**"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."**  
**Mark 10:14**

The First Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte invites children entering kindergarten through 5th grade to come to

**KID'S NIGHT OUT!**

**When? The following Thursday Nights from 6:30—8 PM:** July 29<sup>th</sup>, August 5<sup>th</sup> & August 26<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE?** First Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte (203 N. Spring Street)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Having an environment and giving kids an opportunity to grow and be nourished by the word of God.

# GREETINGS FROM THE U.S.A.

We have enjoyed the opportunity to return to the United States and Pennsylvania this summer. Our time has been filled with reconnecting with family and friends. We have also been able to speak about our experiences on three occasions to people from our church and the Huntingdon Presbytery. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, three days after arriving in Pennsylvania, State College Presbyterian Church hosted a supper for us. We were able to share pictures and stories with about 40 people. Then on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> the children shared some of their experiences during the children's message and we delivered the message. We spoke on how following God's call is both easy and hard. It has been easy because we are confident that we are doing what God wants us to with

**WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED, WHICH WE MUST REMIND OURSELVES OF REGULARLY, IS TO RELY ON GOD'S STRENGTH AND GUIDANCE TO DO HIS WORK RATHER THAN OUR OWN STRENGTH AND DISCERNMENT TO DO THE WORK WE THINK GOD WANTS US TO DO.**

our lives at this time. But it has been hard because of all the difficulties and obstacles we've faced from the adjustment of our children to structural and personnel struggles at Chiang Mai International School where Lance works. What we have learned, which we must remind ourselves of regularly, is to rely on God's strength and guidance to do His work rather than our own strength and discernment to do the work we think God wants us to do. Finally, on Tuesday June 29<sup>th</sup> we spoke to those in attendance at the Presbytery meeting expressing our thanks for the support of churches and individuals in the Presbytery. We also shared

some of our stories and stayed after the meeting to talk with interested people. We are encouraged by the genuine interest you have for us and for our work you have expressed and we have felt during our time in Pennsylvania. We look forward to keeping in touch with you in the months ahead as we return to Thailand on July 31<sup>st</sup> to begin another year of service. If you would like to contribute financially, please put a check payable to the Huntingdon Presbytery with "Lance or Debbie Potter" on the memo line. Donations may be placed in the offering plate, left at your church office or mailed to: Liz Armstrong, 323 Main St., Bellwood, PA 16617.

Our contact information in Thailand is:  
Lance and Debbie Potter, c/o CMIS, PO Box 38, 13 Chetupon Road, Chiang Mai, 50000 Thailand. Our email is [deblanceplus4@gmail.com](mailto:deblanceplus4@gmail.com).

## "AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS"

Sunday September 12th will be the day to participate in the 20th annual Benevolent Care Dinner for the four Homes in the Huntingdon Presbytery. The time is 4:30 pm and the place is the Westminster Woods Commons Dining Hall. The theme for this milestone celebration will be "Then and Now: 20 years of Dining - 20 years of Caring". This year's presentation will have a few surprises in the program. Instead of the customary keynote speaker, we will have two speakers. General Presbyter Rev. K. Joy Kaufmann will enlighten us with a history of the Four Homes and how these dinners have helped connect the people to the mission. Presbyterian President and CEO Stephen Proctor will encourage us with current happenings in the Homes and a glimpse into the future. Another change in the program involves the Meritorious Service Awards. In the past we have given that

**PLEASE JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 12TH STARTING AT 4:30 PM FOR AN EVENING FILLED WITH FOOD, FUN, AND FRIENDS.**

award to one and later two outstanding, caring volunteers. This year, we will honor one shining star from each Home. Preceding the presentation of each award will be a brief video tape from someone associated with one of our Homes who will discuss how the caring spirit found in that Home has touched them or their loved one. PHPH Foundation Director Dawn Garrity will explain the vital role of the Foundation in Benevolent Care and will recognize those dedicated people from the John P. Martin and Dysart Societies. Once again the food promises to be exceptional and the entrees of either beef or seafood will be served directly to each guest. We also plan to talk about the first Benevolent Care Dinner and the changes that **(CONT. ON PAGE 7)**

## Presbytery Calendar

### AUGUST

- Aug. 1** 2:00pm – Rev. Cliff Haddox installation at Allensville Church  
**Aug. 17** 1:00pm – Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Aug. 18** 9:30am – Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices  
 1:00pm - Council meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Aug. 19** 1:00pm – Leadership Umbrella Team (LUT) meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Aug. 23** 2012 General Assembly planning meeting in Pittsburgh  
**Aug. 24** 1:00pm – Joint Camp and Conference Committee meeting (JCCC)

### SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 6** Presbytery Offices closed for Labor Day  
**Sept. 7** 1:30 Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT) meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Sept. 8** 1:00pm - Council meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Sept. 12** Lewistown Church's 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Sept. 14** 1:00pm – Joint Camp and Conference Committee meeting (JCCC)  
**Sept. 15** 9:30am – Quarterly Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Sept. 17** Agape Herald article deadline  
**Sept. 17-19** Synod Disabilities Retreat  
**Sept. 21** 1:00pm – Committee on Ministry (COM) meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Sept. 24-25** Church Innovations Cluster Event  
**Sept. 28** 6:00pm – Presbytery meeting at Hollidaysburg Church  
**Sept. 29** 9:15am is registration, 10:00 worship Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering at Windy Hill Village

### OCTOBER

- Oct. 2-6** Fall Polity Conference  
**Oct. 11-12** Synod meeting at the Penn Stater in State College  
**Oct. 12** 1:00pm – Joint Camp and Conference Committee (JCCC)  
 Presbytery Records Review  
**Oct. 13** 9:30am – Staff meeting at Presbytery Offices  
 1:00pm - Council meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Oct. 16** Lay Pastor training class at Bellwood Church  
 Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) training at the Penn Stater in State College  
**Oct. 19** Presbytery Records Review – make-up  
**Oct. 21** 9:30 Discipleship Umbrella Team (DUT) meeting at Pine Grove Mills Church  
 4:15 Leadership Umbrella Team (LUT) meeting at Presbytery Offices  
**Oct. 26** 1:30 Administrative Umbrella Team (AUT) meeting at Presbytery Offices

## Prayer Request Calendar

### AUGUST

#### Tyrone Congregation

- 1** *Rev. Doug McGaffin, Moderator*  
*Rev. Mark Liller, Temporary Supply*  
**8** **Upper Spruce Creek Congregation**  
*Rev. John Diller, Pastor*  
**15** **Westminster Parish: Milroy Congregation**  
**Little Valley Congregation in Vira**  
*Rev. Wayne Mast, Stated Supply*

- 22** **Committee on Ministry Synod of the Trinity Synod Staff**

- 29** *Elder Deb Hetrick, Commissioner*  
*Rev. Robert Dunkelberger, Commissioner*

### SEPTEMBER

#### Presbytery Office

- Rev. Joy Kaufmann, General Presbyter*, *Elder Virginia Rainey, Stated Clerk*, *Mrs. Marie Carlson, Office Assistant*

#### Presbytery Office

- Elder Elizabeth Armstrong, Administrative Treasurer*, *Elder Joann Kimmel, Mission Treasurer*  
*Rev. Lynn Illingworth, Pastoral Care*

#### Committee on Representation

- 19** *Elder Janet Kephart, Chairperson*  
*Rev. Randy Yoder, Church Coach*

- 26** **Nominating Committee**

*House of Prayer* is a weekly opportunity at **First Presbyterian in Bellefonte** to dedicate time to worship and prayer. Our sanctuary will be venue to an "open house" style prayer time, from 7 PM to 10 PM on Friday evenings beginning on July 9 and running at least through the end of August. Music will play and attendees are free to arrive and leave at their leisure.

## WEST KISH COFFEEHOUSE PRESENTS:

**Bear Fruit** – Farewell performance

**George Williams** – Story teller/humorist

**Chris & Tom** – acoustic duo

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.

Call 717-935-5065 or e-mail at the address below for further information or directions:

West Kish Coffeehouse westkishch@embarqmail.com [www.westkish.org/](http://www.westkish.org/)

Saturday August 28, 2010 - show starts promptly at 7:00pm

# PASTORAL PROFILE FOR REV. BARBARA E. MOSCH



The Rev. Barbara E. Mosch was born and grew up in Coudersport, PA, until she went away to College. She had three brothers and two sisters. They were a close family.

Her family now consists of husband Greg

Stoiceff . Between them, they have six children, and several grandchildren.

She attended Grove City College where she received a B.S. degree, Syracuse University for a M.S., and Lancaster Theological Seminary receiving her Master of Divinity Degree.

I asked Rev. Mosch about her first thoughts of God and she replied “From preschool age on, God was someone who lived in heaven and loved me. I credit my parents with teaching me that. We said grace before meals and I prayed the traditional ‘Now I lay me down to sleep .... If I should die before I wake, I pray thee Lord, my soul to take.’ That version assured me from an early age that there is nothing to fear in death.”

This is a second calling for Pastor Barbara. After seventeen years of teaching English as a second language which was a ministry in itself, she became discontented and started asking, “What can I do with the

## “AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS”

(CONT. FROM PAGE 5)

have occurred in this event through the years.

Ruth Reinhart will enhance our dining experience with her keyboard skills and Dorothy Liller will touch our hearts with her vocal tribute to our volunteers and supporters, singing “Wind Beneath My Wings”.

Please join us on September 12th starting at 4:30 PM for an evening filled with food, fun, and friends. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact::

Tim Allison, Mission Support Office  
220 Newry St.

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

814-693-4024/814-207-7626

[tallison@presbyterianseniorliving.org](mailto:tallison@presbyterianseniorliving.org)

rest of my life.” The question “What about the Ministry?” kept repeating itself in her mind until she couldn’t ignore it and decided to apply to Seminary. The more she looked into the process involved with becoming ordained, the more excited she became. The rest is history as they say. Two different kinds of experiences have fed her spiritual growth. The first experience in her life was very difficult for her. Each required her to lean on God and Christian friends for support, and she learned that God was always with her in a real way. The other was her time in Seminary. There she was challenged spiritually and intellectually to examine her beliefs.

Growing up, her parents had the most influence on her. “Mom was amazing!” She essentially raised six kids on her own. “She was a perfect mother to me – loving and always there; attending numerous activities that I participated in, while arranging care for five younger siblings, keeping a tidy and clean house, being an excellent cook who passed on her skills to her children, giving fantastic birthday parties and more. Dad was a workaholic as a family physician for fifty years who gave his life to the care of others. Although he spent his days and evenings with his patients, I always knew that he was there for me with wisdom and love. He was a pillar of the community, highly respected and admired, and consequently, I looked upon him as my hero. Both parents were active in the life of our church, setting an example I would try to emulate.” Pastor Mosch was ordained on March 2, 2008 at the Milesburg Presbyterian Church.

Highlights in her life include the births and rearing of her three amazing children; three memorable years of seminary that included a summer trip to Japan, Korea and China, the latter where she worked with Amity International; three weeks with her Seminary Class in Ghana; and a summer as a Pastoral Intern Chaplain at the York, PA. Hospital.

She began at the Milesburg Presbyterian Church as a Temporary Supply Minister in October 2006 and has served there ever since. Since becoming Ordained, Barbara has served on the Presbytery Council.

I asked her about her free-time, not imagining anyone with such a large family would have any free-time, but she replied that she enjoys many free-time activities such as watching DVD movies with her husband, reading, gardening, scrapbooking, crocheting, knitting, sewing, cooking and spending time at their cabin.

Submitted By: Phyllis Hauenstine

# Agape Herald Editorial and Production Team

## 2010 Publication Schedule:

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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

