

# PRESBYTERY OF KISKIMINETAS

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## INFO S PAK

June 2006

The INFO-PAK will be distributed in alternate months (when we do not publish a newsletter) to:

Minister members of Presbytery

Clerks of Session, Treasurers, Church Secretaries

Members of Presbytery Committees

Christian Educators in churches of the Presbytery

There may be some items included which are not particularly relevant to you, but for bulk mailing purposes, every packet must contain the same material. Please distribute the information to the most appropriate persons in your congregation.

### This INFO-PAK includes the following items:

- ◆ Coming in September: the Acts 16:5 Initiative (Read all about it!)
- ◆ New CLP Classes Forming: Invitation Letter and Description
- ◆ From the Resource Center: Celebrating Women in Ministry
- ◆ Wee Kirk Conference Registration Form
- ◆ News You Can Use
- ◆ Order Form for *2007 Mission Yearbook* and *Children's Mission Yearbook*
- ◆ Information on Presbyterian Women's Mission Trip to New Windsor, MD
- ◆ Presbytery Calendar for July 2006

**As their world crumbles, they can trust our faithfulness.**

**Disaster Response - Indonesia - Project #DR000146**

After a tsunami and a volcano eruption within the past 18 months, Indonesians are once again struggling to recover from a natural disaster. And after the May 27<sup>th</sup> earthquake, the church is once again at work, bearing witness to the love that Christians are called to share with all of God's children. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance immediately sent \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing Funds, but more is needed. You may send your contributions to the Presbytery Office and indicate on the Mission Remittance Form (on the line called "other") the project name and number: **Disaster Response - Indonesia, Project # DR000146.**

## PRESBYTERY OF KISKIMINETAS MISSION STATEMENT

**Seeking to be faithful to the Great Commission of Christ and to fulfill the Great Ends of the Church, the mission of Kiskiminetas Presbytery is:**

- ▶ To be a partner in mission and ministry with the Sessions of the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly;
- ▶ To provide care and oversight for the congregations and minister members of the Presbytery;
- ▶ To serve as a judicial court of the church; and
- ▶ To affirm the connectional relationships of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

### **MISSION/MINISTRY DIRECTIONS:**

- ▶ The Presbytery will model Christian community in worship, stewardship, fellowship and encouragement in its structure, staffing, programs, and meetings.
- ▶ The Presbytery will support and encourage Sessions as they lead the congregations in mission and ministry in a rapidly changing world.
- ▶ The Presbytery will respond to the reality that we are becoming an “entry level” presbytery by supporting and nurturing *first call* pastors and the congregation(s) they serve.
- ▶ The Presbytery will provide resources, training, and programming to assist Sessions to enhance congregational vitality and faithfulness in mission and ministry. Areas of focus will include:
  - Member recruitment, assimilation, and care
  - Stewardship
  - Revitalization or redevelopment
- ▶ The Presbytery will provide resources, training, and programming to assist Sessions in educational ministries. Areas of focus will include:
  - Church School Support and Teacher Development
  - Leadership Development for ministers, elders, deacons, and clerks of session
  - Worship and Spiritual Formation/Development
  - Youth Ministry
- ▶ The Presbytery will develop a strategic plan for sharing pastoral leadership, merging, and/or closing of congregations with severely limited ability to maintain a vital mission and ministry.
- ▶ The Presbytery will be a faithful partner with the Synod and General Assembly in mission interpretation and support.
- ▶ The Presbytery will support Sessions which are seeking to address pressing social and economic issues affecting the communities in which they minister.
- ▶ The Presbytery will seek to hear and to respond to God’s call for justice and social righteousness and to call the churches of the Presbytery to do the same.

### **What do changes in Louisville mean for *Presbyterians Today*?**

Eva Stimson, editor of *Presbyterians Today*, writes: As many of you may know, the national staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) cut 75 jobs in May during a painful round of budget cuts. But the General Assembly Council voted to continue “short-term” support for the denomination’s magazine, *Presbyterians Today*. *PT* was recently recognized by the Associated Church Press as one of the best denominational general interest magazines in North America. Many factors will determine the long-term future of the magazine, including funding, circulation, and effectiveness. If your congregation does not subscribe through an every-home plan, ask permission from the Session to give *PT* the church’s mailing list. It will not be shared and will be used only one time, to send each member a special subscription offer. Call 888-728-7228, ext 5520 for more information. A growing readership will keep *Presbyterians Today* rolling off the presses for years to come.

### **Meeting Announcement**

The next stated Presbytery meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at the Slate Lick Church, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Ministers and elder commissioners are asked to return lunch reservations to the Presbytery Office no later than June 23.



# Acts 16:5 Initiative

...the churches were strengthened in the faith  
and increased in numbers daily.



## Seminar 1 Start-Up Event With Dr. Stan Ott

September 15 –16, 2006

9: 30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. each day

### Marion Presbyterian Church

Cost: \$25.00 for first two people from each congregation, and \$20.00 for additional team members from the same congregation. Price includes Lunch

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This is your Save the Date Announcement!

All pastors and congregations are invited to attend the introductory Acts 16:5 Initiative Seminar. This event is both a “stand alone” event for examining missional initiatives and a “launch” for the Acts 16:5 process in our presbytery.

The seminar will provide materials for use by everyone attending. Stan Ott and the Vital Churches Institute have compiled materials and programs that can lead to increased vigor and growth among small, mid-size and large congregations.

This event is for pastors, lay pastors or key congregational leader and teams of six per congregation —no true transformation will happen without the full participation of the pastor nor without the involvement of a team.

Attending congregations will also be invited to continue the Acts 16:5 Initiative, participating in a two-year program. Each congregational leader/pastor/CLP and congregational team are encouraged to make an informed decision about the proposed process and commit to implement their learning over the two-year program period.

The Church Development Committee and the Acts 16:5 Planning Team of our presbytery hope that your congregation will prayerfully consider this exciting opportunity.



**E. Stanley Ott is pastor of Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA and president of the Vital Churches Institute, P.O. Box 18378, Pittsburgh, PA 15236.**

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**Sponsored by the  
Presbytery of  
Kiskiminetas**

P.O. Box 339 Yatesboro, PA 16263



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## **The Acts 16:5 Initiative -- A Brief Overview**

### **E. Stanley Ott of The Vital Churches Institute**

*"The churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." Acts 16:5*

#### **Aim**

Through the Acts 16:5 Initiative, interested congregations are invited to engage in a deliberate process of congregational transformation. This process permits a congregation to develop an understanding of the transformational congregation that is simultaneously communal (serving the congregation itself) and missional (reaching the surrounding community).

The aim of the Acts 16:5 process is to give a congregation:

1. The means of designing ministry appropriate to the specific needs of the congregation and the needs of the surrounding community. Two formal approaches to ministry design are imparted: design by alignment with transformational vision and design that addresses adaptive challenges (opportunities and obstacles for which there is no known adequate solution).
2. Ways to review and to affirm each congregation's past and present ministries while simultaneously designing a ministry for the future.
3. Guidance and support in the process of congregational change and transition.
4. A two-year period to permit the process of transition to get underway.

The Acts 16:5 process engages pastors and congregational leaders with the theology of transformational ministry and addresses the practical matters of implementation. Under the umbrella of the work of the Holy Spirit, there are a great many factors that influence the transformation and development of any given congregation. Such factors include: 1). a biblically-based Defining Vision, 2). a ministry design process, 3). relationships and accountability, 4). leadership, and 5). time. The Acts 16:5 process is designed to bring these factors together.

#### **Process**

The Acts 16:5 process involves leadership at several levels.

1. The Pastor (or a point person) and the Session of each congregation will be asked to agree to a two-year process of ministry assessment and the development of new ministry to move the congregation forward.
2. The Pastor and an Acts 16:5 Team of three to six participants from the congregation will be asked to attend five equipping events (two seminars and three follow-up gatherings). This team will meet regularly during the year to engage in the ongoing process of assessment, ministry design, and leadership. Using the materials from the equipping events and additional readings, the Pastor and the Acts 16:5 Team will develop specific ministry proposals appropriate to the needs of the congregation and opportunities in the community. With major events every six months, we are able to review and reinforce learning while introducing new material.
3. The Pastor will be asked to meet four to eight times a year with other pastors in a cluster representing five Acts 16:5 congregations for the purpose of mutual encouragement and accountability. Members of the presbytery staff are encouraged to attend the pastors' cluster gatherings to offer counsel and encouragement, though that is optional. Each cluster is to be led by a "mentoring" pastor from the presbytery.
4. The Acts 16:5 Coaches from the Vital Churches Institute will lead the two major equipping seminars and three follow-up gatherings, provide materials for each participant, and be available, by means of email, to every participant.

5. Regular instructive emails are sent from the Vital Churches Institute to participating presbytery leadership, pastors, and congregational Acts 16:5 team members. All such participants are welcome to email Stan and other Acts 16:5 leaders for counsel at any time.

6. Essential to the effectiveness of the Acts 16:5 Initiative is the leadership offered by presbytery staff and the presbytery's Acts 16:5 Ministry Team. The Acts 16:5 Initiative offers presbytery leadership a means of encouraging pastors and their congregations and legitimizing the transitions in congregational life that transformation will involve.

### **The Acts 16:5 Sequence**

All pastors and congregations are invited to attend the introductory Acts 16:5 Seminar 1. This event is designed to be both a "launch" event for the Acts 16:5 process and a "stand alone" event. It serves as a launch event in that attending congregations will be invited to continue in the Acts 16:5 process and make the two-year commitment if they so choose. This permits each Pastor and congregational team to make an informed decision about the process.

This seminar also serves as a "stand alone" event for those attending congregations that choose not to make the two-year commitment. They will receive a great deal of material that they may apply on their own to their congregational life - as is typical when a Pastor and church members attend most seminars in congregational life today.

- Acts 16:5 Seminar 1 (2 days)  
Congregations commit at this point to the entire two-year Acts 16:5 process.
- Acts 16:5 Six Month Gathering 1 (one day)
- Acts 16:5 Seminar 2 (two days)
- Acts 16:5 Six Month Gathering 2 (one day)
- Acts 16:5 Six Month Gathering 3 (one day)

### **Costs of the Acts 16:5 Initiative**

1. Acts 16:5 Introductory Seminar (Seminar 1) (2 days):

- \$3000 seminar fee
- \$20 per person materials
- Travel/lodging/meal costs

2. The Acts 16:5 two-year sequence which includes the two-day advanced Seminar 2, three one-day follow up Gatherings, and materials.

- \$2,400 per congregation (15 congregation minimum).

As in the case of the basic seminar, this cost may be subsidized by the presbytery. This is \$100 a month per congregation with no presbytery subsidy and \$50 a month per congregation if the presbytery contributes half. A presbytery may offer support on a sliding scale based on the budget of the congregation. Each congregation's participation in financial support of the cost of its involvement in the Acts 16:5 process contributes to that congregation's ownership of the transformation process.

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**To: Clerks of Session and Pastors/Moderators**

**From: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

**Subject: New Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Lay Pastor Classes Forming for Late Fall 2006**

**Date: June 8, 2006**

**NEW ALP/CLP CLASS FORMING FOR LATE FALL 2006**

The Western Presbyteries' Cooperative Authorized Lay Preacher/ Commissioned Lay Pastor Training Program plans to offer a new training cohort beginning in December 2006.

This Training Cohort will be the first group formed using a new coursework model. Approximately half of the courses will be taught online. The other courses will continue to be offered in the traditional face-to-face (F2F) seminar mode. The program will begin on December 8-9 with a Spiritual Formation Retreat and conclude in June 2008. Please see the full schedule on the attached announcement from Pittsburgh Seminary. The dates are also available on the presbytery website. Note that a computer and online access are necessary for this program.

The F2F Classes will be held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The F2F terms consist of three weekend sessions, beginning on Friday evenings at 7:00 PM and ending at 3:30 PM on Saturday. During F2F terms, the Bible classes will continue to be taught online. F2F courses will also have the advantage of an online board for assignment discussions and related conversations between class sessions.

Why this new venture? Online coursework, known as "distance learning," offers many advantages. Difficulties related to time commitments, scheduling and travel are less of a barrier to participation. Interaction with instructors and other students takes place through the discussion boards on the course web sites. The cohort will also have the advantage of two spiritual formation retreats to begin and cap off their training experience.

The Presbytery of Kiskiminetas depends upon our corps of trained Authorized Lay Preachers to supply many of the pulpits in this presbytery. We average 110 pulpit supply requests per month, which are coordinated by the presbytery office. With declining membership and escalating costs, more congregations will not be served by a minister of Word and Sacrament. We have a need for more lay preachers, and a few more Commissioned Lay Pastors. Sessions are encouraged to identify leaders in their congregations who seem to be gifted and called by God to develop these skills.

**How Are Authorized Lay Preachers and Commissioned Lay Pastors Deployed?**

Authorized Lay Preachers receive thorough training in preaching and worship. They are assigned by the Presbytery Office to preach in churches needing pulpit supply. Such needs include temporary supply due to the vacation/study leave or temporary disability of the pastor, churches temporarily or chronically without a pastor, and churches belonging to larger parishes with a pulpit rotation. Commissioned Lay Pastors receive more advanced training. In addition to preaching/worship leadership they may assume other duties, including pastoral oversight of a church, as assigned by the presbytery.

## **Who May Apply to Become a Supply Preacher/Commissioned Lay Pastor?**

The requirements are spelled out fully in the ALP/CLP Manual, which is available on the presbytery website, [www.kiskipby.org](http://www.kiskipby.org) or from the presbytery office. In brief, applicants must be Elders who have been active members for at least two years of the sponsoring congregation. They must be High School graduates and must be endorsed both by the pastor/moderator and the session of their church. The presbytery relies upon the local churches to identify those members with the skills and qualities which might indicate God is calling them to this form of ministry:

*When women and men, by God's providence and gracious gifts, are called by the church to undertake particular forms of ministry, the church shall help them to interpret their call and to be sensitive to the judgments and needs of others. As persons discover the forms of ministry to which they are called, and as they are called to new forms, they and the church shall pray for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit upon them and upon the mission of the Church. [G-6.0105]*

While those applying will need to be trained in biblical studies, preaching, and worship leadership, applicants should be identified by their churches as having the *potential* to become capable preachers in order to fulfill the mandate from the Directory for Worship:

*Preaching requires diligence and discernment in the study of events and issues affecting the lives of the people, and a consistent and personal obedience to Jesus Christ. The sermon should present the gospel with simplicity and clarity, in language which can be understood by the people. [W-2.2007]*

## **What are the costs of the program?**

The program consists of thirteen online or F2F courses. Each class costs \$240 for a total of \$3120. The cost for each retreat is \$150, bringing the total to \$3320 plus books and overnight costs for the F2F seminars. Sessions are urged to provide financial support to the applicants they endorse. Once students pass their first preaching class, they are eligible to begin preaching occasionally in the presbytery pulpit supply service. Preaching fees can contribute substantially to course training costs.

## **What is the Application Process?**

All application materials are available on the website or from the office. An application form must be filed by all applicants wishing to serve as ALPs/CLPs. Applicants are also required to file Session and Pastor/Moderator Endorsement Forms and 3 Personal Reference Forms. Application is to be made to the Presbytery's Committee On Preparation for Ministry. Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes, Associate General Presbyter, staffs this program, and can answer any questions you might have. Feel free to contact her.



**Pittsburgh  
Theological  
Seminary**

## **Commissioned Lay Pastor Training Program**

### ***New Training Cohort to Begin December 2006***

#### **The Purpose:**

The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides to presbyteries the option to deploy Commissioned Lay Pastors as part of their ministry strategy. In addition, many presbyteries itinerate lay preachers as part of a presbytery pulpit supply service. The Presbyteries in Western Pennsylvania have joined together with the Office of Continuing Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to provide training for persons who are preparing to serve as Commissioned Lay Pastors or Authorized Lay Preachers in their presbyteries. Satisfactory completion of this substantive program fulfills the course requirements of the Book of Order.

#### **The Method: Online and Face-to-Face Courses:**

This Training Cohort will be the first group formed using a new coursework model. Approximately half of the courses will be taught online, using a course management system known as Moodle. The other courses will continue to be offered in the traditional face-to-face (F2F) seminar mode. Why this new venture? Online coursework, known as “distance learning,” offers many advantages. Difficulties related to time commitments, scheduling and travel are less of a barrier to participation. The classes are “asynchronous,” meaning students can access their classes at any time convenient to them. Interaction with instructors and other students takes place through the discussion boards on the course web sites. Distance learning classes provide the opportunity for a depth of interaction with course content and class colleagues that cannot be developed in a once-per-month course setting. The cohort will also have the advantage of two spiritual formation retreats to begin and cap off their training experience.

The F2F Classes will be held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The F2F Terms consist of three weekend sessions, beginning on Friday evenings at 7:00 PM and ending at 3:30 PM on Saturday. Note that, during F2F terms, the Bible classes will continue to be taught online. F2F courses will also have the advantage of an online board for assignment discussions and related conversations between class sessions.

#### **Requirements to Enroll:**

Participants must be endorsed by their home Presbyteries to enroll in the program. Participants who enroll in the entire program of F2F and Distance Learning courses are ensured a place in all of the courses. Once cohort members have been registered, students from other presbyteries in the Synod of the Trinity may register for the Distance Learning courses, with the same requirement for judicatory endorsement. All classes employ a pass/fail grading system.

Each cohort participant is expected to attend all F2F sessions and to complete all assigned work. In the case of emergency situations, any missed work must be made up. More than one absence in a F2F course must be negotiated with the instructor and may result in a failing grade for the class. Access to a computer and the Internet and the willingness to participate in online coursework are requirements for participation in this program.

At the conclusion of the program, the Seminary will provide a certificate to those who have completed the course of studies. Remember that local Presbyteries maintain final responsibility for commissioning and deployment of Lay Preachers and Lay Pastors. Completion of this program, therefore, does not automatically guarantee commissioning as a lay pastor.

**The Costs:**

Tuition is \$240 per course, and each retreat will cost \$150. Books are additional (costs vary). F2F terms will involve expenses for food and overnight lodging, as needed. Course registration will involve a \$50 non-refundable fee. This amount will be applied to tuition for the first term.

**The Schedule:**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>November 10, 2006:</b>       | <b>Enrollment Deadline</b><br><b>Introduction to Online Learning Course opens</b>   |
| <b>December 8-9:</b>            | <b>SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT AND<br/>COHORT INTRODUCTION</b>  |
| <b>January-March 2007:</b>      | <b>TERM ONE (Online)</b><br><i>Bible 1, Reformed Theology, Christian Education</i>  |
| <b>April - June 2007:</b>       | <b>TERM TWO (F2F and Online)</b><br><i>Bible 2 (Online), Preaching 1 (Exegesis)-F2F, Worship and Sacraments-F2F</i><br><i>Dates: April 13-14, May 11-12, June 15-16</i>   |
| <b>September-November 2007:</b> | <b>TERM THREE (F2F and Online)</b><br><i>Bible 3 (Online), Preaching 2 (Homiletics)-F2F, Pastoral Care-F2F</i><br><i>Dates: September 7-8, October 5-6, November 9-10</i> |
| <b>January - March 2008:</b>    | <b>TERM FOUR (Online)</b><br><i>Bible 4, Polity, and perhaps one additional course</i>  |
| <b>April-May 2008:</b>          | <b>TERM FIVE (F2F)</b><br><i>Preaching Practicum (Dates: TBD)</i>   |
| <b>June 2008:</b>               | <b>FINAL SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT<br/>AND GRADUATION</b>   |

**For more information:**     *Contact your local Presbytery Office.*



## KISKIMINETAS PRESBYTERY RESOURCE CENTER

P.O. Box 339, 71 W. Main Street

Yatesboro, PA 16263

Phone: (724) 783-7406

Email address: kiski@kiskipby.org

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment

Lynn Rising, Resource Center Coordinator

Throughout 2005-2006 various events have been and will be held to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of women in the Presbyterian Church as ministers of the Word and Sacrament, as well as seventy-five years of their ordination as elders and one hundred years as deacons. This month's Resource Center page highlights books for and about women.

### **Celebrating Our Call - Ordination Stories of Presbyterian Women (BK 9DX 006)**

This new, inspiring collection of reflections commemorates the ordination anniversary years for women in the church. Well-known women from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) share their personal journeys of ordination as church leaders. Contributors include Cynthia Campbell, Marian McClure, Jane Parker Huber, Roberta Hestenes, Jean Marie Peacock, Susan Andrews, and more. They reveal some of the hardships, the laughter, the victories, and the special graces shown to them as they answered God's particular call. This historically significant book, edited by Presbyterian minister Patricia Lloyd-Sidle, is ideal for clergy, educators, church leaders, and all those interested in women in ministry.

*"Each story is a personal gift, carefully prepared and presented with great love."*

*from the preface*

### **Celebrate the Gifts of Women (BK 9BX 010)**

Each year a Sunday is set aside to celebrate the gifts of women and honor those women who contribute their gifts and talents to the church. The Planning Calendar designated February 26 as that date this year; some churches associate it with International Women's Day in March; but this resource may be used whenever a congregation decides to celebrate women. A suggested service of worship is provided, as well as program and resource suggestions.

*"Christian education: well, that's a typical thing for a woman to want to do."*

### **Faith of our Foremothers**

(BK 9DX 005)

The stories of 12 women, all religious educators who transformed the field of religious education, are included in this book. Though they represent different times and approaches, they all shared a commitment to creative and enthusiastic religious education.

### **Presbyterian Women in America - Two Centuries of a Quest for Status (BK 9BX 057)**

The Presbyterian Historical Society published this second edition of Lois Boyd and R. Douglas Brackenridge's acclaimed history of Presbyterian women in America. It traces women's affiliation with Presbyterianism for more than two centuries--from 1789 to the present. Boyd and Brackenridge raise important issues concerning diversity, sustenance of community, and ordination--issues that will affect women's position in the church in the 21st century. A section of photographs is included, and extensive footnotes, bibliography, and index make this an essential piece for anyone studying the history of women in our denomination.

## Presbyterian Women - A Mission, A Voice, A Place in the Church

### Manual of Presbyterian Women (BK 9BX 009)

Need a primer on the history of PW?

The meaning of the elements in the PW Seal? These topics are covered in this resource, as well as PW relationships, titles, job description of PW, resources, giving patterns, creative ideas and more. Helpful samples of bylaws, financial reports, moderator's checklists, instructions for historians, and helps for the local enablers make this a most useful resource.



### Women of the Church Installation Services (BK 9BX 007)

Though this resource is not new, it contains several "seed thoughts" or starting points for creative installation services. Responsive readings, sample prayers, and hymn suggestions are also helpful.



### 200 Years of Presbyterian Women (VT 9BX 001)

A user's guide accompanies this video, which is divided into 3 parts. Segment 1 gives a broad history of PW; Segment 2 deals with issues and accomplishments from 1900 to 1988; and Segment 3 views 1988 to the present and into the future.

### Presbyterian Women Mission Opportunities (BK 9BC 011)

The Mission Committee of the Churchwide Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women, PCUSA, has prepared this resource to assist women in the church in creating, packing, purchasing, assembling, and making contributions toward gifts to share with others.

A series of 3 pamphlets (BK 9BX 012) is also available to assist your congregation's PW group. They are:

**i Communication Basics** - created to assist both leaders and participants in Presbyterian Women learn about active listening, effective meetings, ways to brainstorm, creating newsletters and press releases

**i A Guide to Speaking Up** - practical advice for both first-time and long-time presenters interested in honing their skills, with a CD included

**i Gathering to Work and Worship** - a guide for women from the beginning of the meeting to the end, with suggestions on how to make each meeting more worship-filled

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The Resource Center also has issues of the magazine *Horizons* from 1999

to the present available to loan. *Horizons* provides information, inspiration and education from the perspectives of women who are committed to

Christ, the church and faithful discipleship. *Horizons* brings current issues

dealing with family life, the mission of the church and the challenges of culture and society to its readers.

Interviews, feature articles, editorials, regular columnists and letters from our readers offer help and insight for up-to-date, day-to-day concerns of the church and individual Christians.



A Bible study is produced every year for individual or small-group study. Written by leading theologians and pastors in the Presbyterian church, it provides contemporary research and background information along with probing questions for what the texts have to say to us today. Use Bible studies from previous years to pursue your own questions and interests. This year's study is entitled **In the Beginning** (BK 9BX 117), a study of the book of Genesis.

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Liz Curtis Higgs, encourager, has produced several resources of interest to women. Her book **Bad Girls of the Bible** (BK 9CX 004) offers a clear-sighted, life-changing approach to those "other women" in Scripture, women like Delilah, Jezebel, and Rahab. She combines a contemporary retelling of their stories with a solid verse by verse study of their lives and the lessons we can learn from them. Her video Bible study entitled **Loved by God** (KT 9EX 001)

is a 7-week Bible study on Leah and Rachel, Jacob and Esau, suggesting that they are "perfect examples of God blessing the undeserving and loving the unlovable." And last but not least, the Resource Center owns 5 videos by Liz, such as **Only Angels Can Wing It: the Rest of Us Have to Practice** (VT 9XX 001). Her messages in these videos are laced with laughter but grace-filled as well. They remind us that God loves us, warts and all, and that same God has provided much to be thankful for and much to invite our laughter.

**Northeast (PA) Wee Kirk Conference  
October 9-11, 2006**

**Laurelville Mennonite Church Center  
Mt. Pleasant PA**

Plenary Speakers:

Harold Kurtz - What in the World is God Doing?  
Dale Allison - The Old Testament in the New Testament  
Bruce Stevens - Changing Expectations in Ministry

Plenary speakers will be joined by worship leader Debbie Stacy, music leader Charla Dryburgh, and other gifted workshop leaders to inspire, equip, motivate, and encourage small PC (U.S.A.) churches and to provide rest and refreshment for their leaders.



For registration information, contact:  
Mark Unrue at 740-922-9190, or via email [revun@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revun@sbcglobal.net)

Registrations forms are also available at the Kiski Presbytery Office.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### THE 101<sup>ST</sup> New Wilmington Missionary Conference July 22-29, 2006

For over 100 years young people from all over the U.S. have gathered in western PA for the New Wilmington Missionary Conference. They are joined by people of all ages with a vision for deepening the missionary spirit and cultivating a life of fellowship with God by promoting service and witness for Jesus Christ. Speakers include Rev. Tony Campolo and Rev. Steve McConnell. Visit [www.nwmcmission.org](http://www.nwmcmission.org) or call 724-946-7195 for more information.



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### Continuing Education for Commissioned Lay Pastors and Preachers October 18-20, 2006

**Montreat Conference Center**  
Montreat will be the site of "Come to the Mountain," an event that will include time for relaxation, worship, and growth in skills needed for ministry. Particularly timely will be the preaching workshops with emphasis on Scriptures to be used during the season of Advent. Visit [www.montreat.org](http://www.montreat.org) for online registration and scholarship information, or contact Merri Bass at 828-669-2911, ext. 329.

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Visit the Kiski web page for links to the Resource Center Online, upcoming events, Kiski church information and much more at [www.kiskipby.org](http://www.kiskipby.org).

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### State Pastors' Conference November 13-15, 2006

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is now accepting registrations for the 2006 State Pastors' Conference. Scheduled for November 13-15 at the Hilton Harrisburg and Towers on Second Street in Harrisburg, this year's conference will explore what it means to be part of a church that spans the globe, is contextualized in widely diverging settings, yet claims "...one Lord, one faith, one baptism..." We'll explore through liturgy and music, moral reflection and discernment, and empowering confrontation with the vitality of churches in the non-Western world. Visit [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org) for more details, including a registration brochure you can download, a news release that tells more about the conference, and links to a secure site where you can register for the conference and pay with your MasterCard or Visa credit card and reserve an overnight room at the Hilton Harrisburg and Towers. Or, if you prefer, email [pcc@pachurches.org](mailto:pcc@pachurches.org) to request a brochure by mail.

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### "Perspectives on Genesis" August 19, 2006 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Celia Brewer Sinclair, author and lecturer, will lead this workshop on the Horizons Bible Study for the year. You may register by mail or phone with the PTS Office of Continuing Education. Contact them at [coned@ptu.edu](mailto:coned@ptu.edu) or by phone at 412-362-5610, ext. 2196.

### What is the General Assembly and What Does It Do?

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half of the commissioners will be Ministers of Word and Sacrament, half will be elders. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries. G.A. reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

This year the General Assembly meets in Birmingham, AL from June 15 through June 22. **Kiski commissioners include Rev. Tom Jones, pastor of the Trinity Church, Clarksburg; Elder Connie Bytner from the Center, Creekside congregation; and Youth Advisory Delegate Luke Speck from the Worthington congregation.** Please pray for them and for all commissioners as they go about the important business before our denomination. You may learn more about the 217<sup>th</sup> G.A. by visiting <http://www.pcusa.org/ga217>.



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