

# PRESBYTERY OF KISKIMINETAS

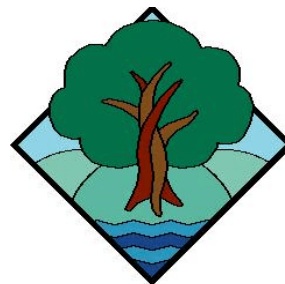
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## INFO S PAK

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The INFO-PAK will be distributed in alternate months (when we do not publish a newsletter) to: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

- ◆ New CLP Classes Forming: Invitation Letter and Description
- ◆ First Information for Churches about 2007 Youth Triennium
- ◆ News You Can Use
- ◆ Rwanda Partnership Team Update
- ◆ Christmas Giving Opportunity at SCI Pine Grove
- ◆ **Resource Center Bonus:** Ideas & Activities for Advent & Christmas



★ *The year end cut-off for per capita and mission payments for the 2006 calendar year is **Thursday, December 28, 2006**. All payments must be received by the Presbytery Office no later than noon on December 28. Any money received after this date will be posted to the 2007 calendar year.*

★ *The **2007 per capita figure is \$24.39**. This represents a total of \$16.60 at the Presbytery level, \$2.00 at the Synod level, and \$5.79 at the General Assembly level.*

## 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.

## Resources for Your Ministry and Mission

**Thanksgiving** may not be a religious holiday, but it is most certainly central to Christianity. Check out some of the ideas in the **Kiski Resource Center** to augment your Thanksgiving worship. This year we have a unique opportunity to lift up “thanks-giving” on the same week end we celebrate Thanksgiving.



Consider *The Thoughtful Christian: Faithful Living in a Complex World*, a web-based resource center located at [www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com). It is filled with studies ranging from one to four sessions each for adult groups and individuals. Each session is designed for forty-five minutes to one hour and comes with a three- to four-page participant handout and a 2-5 page leader’s guide with lesson plans and resources. The studies can be downloaded as Acrobat PDF files, printed out, and photocopied for use in classes or for personal study and devotion. In addition, leaders can e-mail the participant handout to students in advance of the next meeting. Studies cover topics such as Bible & Theology, Popular Culture, Contemporary Issues, Spirituality, and Christian Living. New studies, including rapid responses to current events, will be added to the site on a regular, ongoing basis. The rates for downloading individual studies are: One-session unit \$5 ; Two-session unit \$9; Three-session unit \$12. Each additional session above three: \$3 per session. Visit the web site for more information.

**Looking for a fresh, new study for adults?**

**LAST NOTICE!  
ENROLLMENT DEADLINE  
IS NOVEMBER 10!**

**Presbytery of Kiskiminetas  
PO Box 339  
Yatesboro PA 16263**

**Phone: 724-783-7196**

**Fax: 724-783-7198**

**Email Address: [kiski@kiskipby.org](mailto:kiski@kiskipby.org)**

**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: October 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.*



# 2007 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM July 17-22, 2007

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN  
"Hope is in Our Midst"

**What:** The Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) is a gathering of 6,000 Presbyterian youth and adults from the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Participants must be at least 15 years old and no older than 19 years old on July 17, 2007. Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are assigned a limited number of spaces. Delegations must include one adult for every nine young people. At this point, the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas delegation stands at 25 spaces, including adult advisors. This means we can take 22 youth and 3 adults. Adult advisors must be at least 22 years old on July 17, 2007.

**Registration:** Presbytery Triennium registration opens on January 5, 2007, and Kiski online registration will also be available on that date. A deposit of \$50 per person must be received with the form to hold the registration, and online registration is not complete until the deposit is received in the Presbytery Office. The Kiski registration deadline is February 15. The balance for all registrations is due on April 2, 2007. When we receive registration information from the Triennium, we will forward print registration forms to the churches. When registration officially opens, registrations will be received by mail, fax, online or over the phone. (Phone or online registrations will require hard copy registrations for signature purposes.) Registrations with deposits will be confirmed in the order received. Additional names beyond the 5 per church may be placed on the waiting list. At the end of the registration period, any vacant slots will go to those on the waiting list, again in the order received.

This year the Triennium web site ([www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)) promises to provide online registration. When it does, please do not register on the national site before receiving instructions from the Presbytery Office.

**Cost:** The Triennium cost per person is \$399.00. The registration fee pays for five nights of housing (no linens provided), meals, registration materials (program book, supplies, etc.), limited insurance coverage, and a t-shirt memento. The Presbytery of Kiskiminetas subsidizes the cost of the bus, and presbytery trading items for participants. The churches of adult advisors are asked to contribute \$100.00 toward their fees, if possible.

**Scholarships:** Since the Presbytery covers the cost of the bus, the bulk of the adult advisor fees and other items, we regret that we cannot provide additional scholarship help. Churches are encouraged to contribute substantially to or completely cover the cost of their youth delegates.

## What Happens at the Triennium?

A life-changing experience for the Youth who attend! The theme "Hope is in Our Midst" will be developed throughout the week through daily presentations, worship, workshops, recreation, and small groups.

**More Information:** As soon as we get it, we'll get it out to you! We are sending this first notice now, so churches may get their delegations and funding in order before the registration period opens in January. Questions? Contact Erin Cox-Holmes at 724-783-7196 or via email at [erinch@kiskipby.org](mailto:erinch@kiskipby.org).



## News You Can Use

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### **Transformational Stewardship**

**March 12-14, 2007**

**Denver, Colorado**

Former G.A. Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase and Rev. Eugenia Gamble are featured speakers at this first annual national stewardship event, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Workshops on every facet of stewardship are available. For more information, call 888-728-7228, ext 5676.

**"The New Day in Presbyterian Mission: What It Means for Your Congregation"**

**Tuesday, November 14, 2006**

**Westminster College, 9:30 a.m.**

Revs. Donald Dawson and David Dawson present this continuing education seminar. Cost is \$5, which includes lunch and is payable at the door. For more information, contact Diane Gabriel at 724-946-7117 or [gabriedl@westminster.edu](mailto:gabriedl@westminster.edu) or visit [www.westminster.edu/spiritlife](http://www.westminster.edu/spiritlife).

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### **2007 Summer Collegium Plans Event for Christian Education in the Small Church**

The Lifetime Theological Education department has just completed the first Summer Collegium residency, and we are preparing for the 2007 event. The theme of the 2007 Summer Collegium is Christian Education in the small church. The 2007 gathering is scheduled for June 20-28.

The Summer Collegium is an intensive, nine-day residential program for clergy and their spouses or partners in small churches of all Christian denominations. Experts in the area of small church ministry lead workshops on relevant topics, such as change and conflict, technology, finances, and spiritual resources, and participants enjoy some time in the nation's capital. Included in the Summer Collegium is a one-day Small Church Religious Arts Festival on the grounds of the seminary, to hold up and celebrate the arts and crafts of small congregations.



The Summer Collegium is fully funded by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., which allows us to offer the opportunity to 25 clergy each summer at *no cost* to them. This includes transportation, meals and lodging, books, pulpit supply and child care. In 2006 we welcomed 25 pastors from nine denominations in the United States and Canada. Participants and faculty were encouraged and enriched by their time. For more information, please visit our web site at [www.vts.edu/education/collegium](http://www.vts.edu/education/collegium). You may email your questions to [SummerCollegium@vts.edu](mailto:SummerCollegium@vts.edu), or call 703-461-1752.

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### **Within the Presbytery**

- ✓ There is a large Lowrey Theater Console organ available for free for the moving in the Parkwood area of Indiana. Interested persons can call Colleen Hamilton at 724-726-5539.
- ✓ **Youth Group Leader Needed** - A small Church Youth Group (ages 12-18) is seeking to hire a leader/co-leader. Responsibilities include coordinating activities, managing, a small budget, fundraising, teaching, and reaching out to the community. Currently, the group meets weekly on Sunday evenings, but future scheduling is open for discussion. Please send inquiries and/or resumes to: Sharon Arbuckle c/o Rural Valley Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Rural Valley, PA 16249. Any questions, you may also contact Sharon Arbuckle @ 724-783-7538 or Debbie Lundgren @ 724-783-7604.
- ✓ **Acts 16:5 Update**  
Representatives from 34 of our congregations enjoyed and were stimulated by 2 days with Stan Ott for the start-up Acts 16:5 Initiative event. The Transformational Ministries Committee is in the process of following up with those in attendance, as each congregation decides what are the next steps in the process. A second gathering for



## The Road to Rwanda ... and Home Again

The Rwanda Mission Team has safely returned from Africa where they were introduced to Rwanda and our partnership churches. Their travelogue is still posted on the Presbytery website at [www.kiskipby.org/Rwanda/Itinerary/Rwanda\\_team\\_itinerary.htm](http://www.kiskipby.org/Rwanda/Itinerary/Rwanda_team_itinerary.htm) if you want to learn more about the trip. Their time was spent visiting some of the 100+ churches and parishes and a few of the 115 church-sponsored schools included in the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda.



The group consisting of representation from far and wide in the Presbytery includes members from many churches. Chuck Bollinger and Kay Smith from Indiana/Graystone; Jack Loucks, United Presbyterian in Blairsville; Rev. Marty Cartmell, our Presbytery Moderator and pastor of St. Benedicts and St. Pauls; Donna Doutt from the Presbytery office, Rev. Boyd Edmondson of Mt. Tabor and Marienville churches; and Sally and Fred Carrier, members of Shiloh Church in St. Marys.

While the Team was in Rwanda, they became very aware of the needs there. In addition to opportunities for prayer partnering and church partnering, some of the needs are funding to complete churches and homeless children dormitories; build classrooms at church schools; provide funding for teachers, student tuition, and also adult literacy programs; supply sewing machines and/or craft supplies for skills training; and support/aid for HIV/AIDS victims, genocide widows, and orphans. So many have asked how they can help, the Presbytery office is preparing a catalog that your church can use to select a project or need. The Rwanda Partnership Gift Catalog, should be completed within the next few weeks. A copy will be presented to each commissioner at the November 11 Presbytery meeting in Blairsville. Copies may also be obtained online at [www.kiskipby.org](http://www.kiskipby.org) or by contacting the Presbytery office.



As the 2007 mission pledges are being set, remember we are in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda, and perhaps your Session or Finance Committee might keep that in mind when preparing the pledge cards.

The Team has been on the road since the first week after their return presenting programs in churches and to groups about their trip and the Kiskiminetas/Rwanda Partnership. If your church, group, Sunday School, or committee is interested in hearing this great program, please contact the Presbytery office at 724-783-7196 to request a speaker.

# CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR INMATES AT SCI PINE GROVE PRISON INDIANA , PA.

The Kiskiminetas Prison Task Force will be collecting boxes of  
LITTLE DEBBIE CAKES,  
7 OUNCE HERSHEY-S CANDY BARS  
and MONETARY DONATIONS.

We need approximately **660** of each item to give to the inmates.  
Please bring these items to the Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Indiana, Pa. before December 10, 2006

If you are making a monetary donation please send your check to:

**Kiskiminetas Presbytery**  
**71 West Main Street**  
**P.O. Box 339**  
**Yatesboro, Pa. 16263**

Please make your check payable to the **Kiskiminetas Presbytery.**  
In the memo line of your check please write APrison Ministry.@"

These donations need to be at the Presbytery Office by December 10, 2006

If you have any questions please contact:

Pamela Cavalier  
724-726-5406  
pcavalier@yourinter.net

