

News for the Churches

Presbytery of Kiskiminetas
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Yatesboro, PA 16263
January 2006

St. Benedict Church Hosts Presbytery

The Kiskiminetas Presbytery met in a stated meeting at the St. Benedict Church on Saturday, January 21, 2006. Worship was led by outgoing Moderator Rev. Bruce Shannon and host pastor Rev. Marty Cartmell. The service included the celebration of the Lord's Supper and a time to remember those Elders who died during 2005. Rev. Cartmell was installed as Presbytery Moderator for 2006, and 8 currently serving Commissioned Lay Pastors were recommissioned.

Report of the Stated Clerk

Rev. Donald Rising reminded pastors and clerks that the online filing of the annual statistical report is due no later than February 22. He nominated Pam Cavalier from the Shelocta Church as recording clerk for 2006. He also invited any congregations willing to host a presbytery meeting in 2007 to communicate this request to him in writing no later than February 17.

Council Recommendations

The presbytery received as a first reading the revised position descriptions for the Presbytery Steward and Associate Presbytery Steward. Members also approved the revised committee structure.

G.A. Commissioners Named

Presbytery approved the Nominating Committee's slate for commissioners to the 217th General Assembly: Rev. Tom Jones and Elder Connie Bytner, and alternates Rev. Susan Lantz and Elder Larry Tanis.

Special Guests

- Don Hamm answered questions about the Group Affiliated Insurance Program offered by GuideOne Insurance.
- Heather Withrow, new Resident Camp Director at Westminster Highlands, provided camping brochures for each church and spoke to the importance of the camping experience for young people, stating that "the church gives us the stories, and camp adds the color."

Ministry to our Congregations

Rev. Matt Jones reviewed the schedule of speakers and events coming to the presbytery. Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes presented her annual report of activities. Lynn Rising gave a "state of the Resource Center" update.

Mission Trips Planned

Diaconal Committee chair Kay Smith highlighted the upcoming mission trip to West Virginia in June as well as a fact-finding and educational trip to Rwanda for a group of 6 people in September. Kay also reported that the Hunger Offering collected during lunch totaled \$229, to be divided between a local hunger ministry and the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Sudan.

Commissioned Lay Pastors Reappointed

Rev. Jim Dietrich moved the appointment or reappointment of the following Commissioned Lay Pastors for 3-year terms: Betty Coble, Arcadia; Lloyd Riggie, Clinton, Srader Grove, and Allegheny; Bob Sunseri, Clymer; Bill Harris, Creekside; Herb Reefer, Ford City; Ron Long, Goheenville and Yatesboro; Rosalie Brown, Sligo; and Joyce Fails, Chaplain at St. Andrews Village.

Pastoral Transitions Noted

- Rev. Mark Cantaral, part time Stated Supply at Ridgway and Wilcox
- Rev. John Erthein, Moderator at Atwood
- Rev. Richard Hartsfield, Moderator at Oakwood
- Rev. Bob Moore, Moderator at Rimersburg
- CLP Ron Long, Moderator at Rural Valley and NuMine
- Rev. William McConnell, transferred to Maumee Presbytery, First Church of Fremont

Presbytery members were reminded of the IRS mileage reimbursement amount of \$.445 as well as the need to submit 2006 changes in Terms of Call as soon as possible.

Next Meeting

Rev. Yost expressed the Presbytery's appreciation to Rev. Cartmell and the St. Benedict congregation for their hospitality. After a closing prayer the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next stated Presbytery meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Shiloh Church in St. Marys on March 14th.

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.

From the Presbytery Office: please note these dates & deadlines!

Item:	Sent to:	When:	Return by:
Committee, Synod & GA Nomination Form*	Promoted in Newsletter and Info-Pak Mailings	January	April 2006
Annual Clerk’s Survey Form	Clerks	November	February 15, 2006
GA Annual Reporting Form	Clerks	November	Submit on-line by February 22, 2006
IDDI (Illness, Death and Disability Insurance) Form	Clerks and Moderators of All Churches	December 16, 2005	March 31, 2006
The 2006 Presbytery Directory will be mailed with the February InfoPak.			
*Available at http://www.kiskipby.org/documents/forms/Nominations			

BETWEEN ME & THEE

As I was driving home from the office on January 3rd, I heard an NPR *All Things Considered* program which presented a story which reminded me so very much about the church. The story was about ski resorts.

Ski resorts are becoming concerned about the future. The younger generations are more into snow boarding than skiing. The younger generations cannot afford the “up-scale” resorts. That bodes trouble for the future.

The issue for the ski resorts, as for the church, is demographics. The story pointed out that when the skiers take off their caps more and more gray hairs are visible than was seen just a few years ago. It seems the average age of the skiers is rising. (Sound familiar?) A great line in the story was, “Baby Boomers took to skiing in a big way. The first of that generation is turning sixty, now. They won’t be able to ski forever.”

The business consultant quoted in the story pointed out that the resorts need to cultivate a new generation of skiers. It would seem the demographic targets for this would be the children and grandchildren of the aging boomers. However, they don’t have the money the boomers have and who have been picking up the costs.

The skiing industry is trying to appeal to boomers and their children. The church, largely devoid of the boomer generation—those born between 1946 and 1955, is trying to appeal to the parents and a few grandparents of the boomers and to the children and grandchildren of the boomers. It is a tough job.

The skiing industry is trying to do this by creating new snow boarding parks for the

younger generations. For the “older generation” the resorts are making the downhill slopes much more tame and not as hard on aging joints and knees.

Purists of the skiing group and purists in the church decry the accommodations which are being made. The so-called “worship wars” are being fought over the technological and music selections accommodations being made for the younger generations, while it is the older generations who are still paying the bills. Yet, if we would be honest about it, the addition of large print bibles, hymnals and bulletins and hearing assist devices are an accommodation to the older generations.

The truth is, as generations age and as new generations come along, accommodations are constantly made to hold on to those who have been involved and to reach out to a new base of participation and support. The gospel is not being changed, only the means of communicating it. There was a time when one would not have found an organ in a Presbyterian worship center. I can remember the knock-down drag-out battles in some session about whether guitars could be used in worship.

We have moved from flannel graph boards, to filmstrip projectors, to movie projectors, to video projectors, to CD projectors, to DVD projectors all in my 58 years. If we do not change we fall so far behind that we become useless relics of the past.

Yours in service to Christ and the Church,

Wayne Yost

The Kiski Digest

Highlighting Some of the Churches and People in our Presbytery

(If you have items of special interest about the programs and activities of your congregation to include in the newsletter, please call Lynn Rising at 724-783-7196, mail them to the Presbytery Office at PO Box 339, Yatesboro, 16263, or send them to Lynn via email at Irising@kiskipbv.org)

Scottish-themed "Presby MacPhil" Makes Debut

Sunday, November 20, saw the unveiling of Presby MacPhil, the bagpipe-playing, kilt-wearing 20th "Phantastic Phil!" to grace the town of Punxsutawney. Sponsored by the friends of Presby MacPhil and created by artists Jeff Marshall of California and Nance Finley of Punxsutawney, the Scottish statue made his debut at the **Presbyterian Church in Punxsutawney** shortly before the church's worship service, which was also in honor of St. Andrew's Day. In addition to honoring the origin of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, Presby MacPhil also honors a former parishioner. The crest design on Phil's sporran is a tribute to the late Malcom "Mac" Irvin of Big Run. Prior to the unveiling, Rev. Kent Holmes told the crowd that the statue is going to stand as a "memorial here for years to come." Parishioner Guy Lester, the church's Clerk of Session, was clad in full Scottish dress, including a kilt. Tom McLaughlin of Indiana, also in full Scottish dress, provided the bagpipe music.

Pisgah Church Celebrates Christmas Eve in New Building

The Corsica, Pisgah congregation had standing room only at their 2005 Christmas Eve service, the first service to be held in the newly constructed church. Approximately 260 people celebrated the birth of Jesus and the completion of the new building, rebuilt after the former facility had been destroyed by fire in August of 2003. Pastor Jim Dietrich says plans are in the works for an Open House and Dedication in the spring.

Gilgal Observes 200th Anniversary

The Gilgal Church celebrates its 200th anniversary this year, marking the occasion with special events each month. On January 15, worship was followed by a covered-dish luncheon, featuring a hymn sing and sharing of memories. The original church was chartered in 1806 after families decided they wanted a central place to worship instead of meeting in log cabins. The present building was erected in 1887.

With thanks

On behalf of St. Andrew's Village, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those churches and individuals who provided Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers for our residents. Without your caring support, many of our residents would not have had a happy holiday. We realize that it took a lot of time and effort to shop for each of the gifts as well as to get them wrapped and delivered, and we are grateful. St. Andrew's Village appreciates your continued support in its mission for the elderly.

Donna Kanyan, Director of Volunteer Services



About People

Cara Milne, a senior at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, has been hired at the Cross Roads Community Church in Leechburg as a

student pastor through May. Cara is under the care of the Kiskiminetas Presbytery and is the daughter of former Kiski pastors John and Anita Milne.

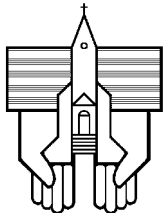
Congratulations to **John and Lela Erthein** on the birth of a son, Matthew James, on December 14. John is the pastor of the Elderton Church.

The Elderton congregation honored **Shirley Schall** on Sunday, November 6 for her 25 years of service as church secretary. Shirley also acquired the job of church treasurer and was recognized for going "above and beyond the call of duty" on many occasions. She was surprised by a special recognition during the worship service, gifts, and a dinner following the service in her honor.

The Marion Center Church honored treasurer **Elizabeth "Bee" Hood**, who is retiring after 29 plus years of service. Her granddaughter-in-law, Heather Hood, will become the new treasurer. Also, Bee's husband George is retiring as clerk of Session. Congratulations to the Hoods!

On December 18, the congregation of the Calvary, Indiana Church said farewell and thanks to **Cindy Holuta**, who resigned from her position as Director of Christian Education. Cindy was given a plaque and honored at a reception following the worship service.

Kiski Presbytery welcomes two new Christian Educators: **Christina Pearson** joins the staff at the Pisgah and New Rehoboth Churches and **Georgia Springer** will assume Christian Ed duties at the Calvary, Indiana Church.



Pisgah and New Rehoboth-Greenville Churches Become Congregations of Promise

Both churches are working with Clarion County's Promise and its local partners to connect young people to the Five Promises. Clarion County's Promise, an affiliate of America's Promise - the Alliance for Youth, is a prevention-based non-profit organization mobilizing people from every sector of Clarion County to help build the character and competence of its youth. Its mission is based on providing youth with Five Promises: Caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; Safe places in which to learn and grow; A healthy start to be able to make healthy choices; An effective education that builds marketable skills; and Opportunities to help others. These Five Promises are essential for a child's successful journey toward becoming an adult. Rev. Jim Dietrich, pastor of both the Pisgah and New Rehoboth-Greenville churches, says "We view this as a way of contributing to our ministry to children and youth, and in setting goals to help us work on fulfilling the Five Promises." Faith communities are a vital part of the Alliance, along with businesses, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, schools and others. At the heart of the America's Promise faith sector are Congregations of Promise, which are local, faith-based sites that commit to fulfill all Five Promises for a specific number of children and young people within the congregation's membership and/or the wider community.

Cross Roads Community Mission Team Reaches Out to Hurricane Victims

From January 7 -14, members of Cross Roads Community Presbyterian Church in Leechburg, completed a mission trip to D'Iberville, Mississippi. Under the leadership of co-pastors Gary and Lisa Lyon, and in conjunction with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the group of 10 people drove over 1100 miles to Mississippi in order to help with disaster relief as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The group resided at Camp Hope, which was established by the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Durham, North Carolina, and maintained by PDA to provide relief assistance to victims of the hurricanes in D'Iberville. In all, a total of just under 100 volunteers inhabited Camp Hope that week. In addition to the Cross Roads group, there were volunteer groups from California, Wyoming, Virginia, and another group from Pennsylvania.

Lisa Lyon, Patty Potter and Rachel Varine were assigned to the Volunteer Command Center where they completed the essential job of Needs Assessment and Intake. They worked in a small space and used their organization, communication, and computer skills in order to assure that many D'Iberville victims got the help they needed. Under the leadership of Dr. Irene McIntosh and Ed Cakes, two D'Iberville citizens who direct and coordinate all the volunteer efforts in D'Iberville, the women spent their days receiving hundreds of calls from people in need of assistance, and they were responsible for scheduling multiple teams of volunteers to go out and complete whatever work needed to be done.

Gary Lyon, Tammy Dunnivan, Clarence Grantz, Jim Potter, Eileen Watt, Patty Brady, and another friend of the church spent the week at the home of Barbara Parker, a 64 year old widow whose home was ruined by six feet of water caused by the storm surge. Their time was spent installing dry wall, taping seams, plastering, sanding, and priming the walls of her home. The goal was to finish as many rooms as possible so that in the not too distant future, Barbara would be able to move from the FEMA trailer parked in her driveway back into her home. As the week went by, both groups felt a sense of urgency to get as much done for the people of D'Iberville as possible.

The mission trip was a blessing for all involved, and the team felt that they received more than they gave. The utter destruction from the hurricanes was still very evident every where one looks. The people and the communities along the Gulf Coast will need volunteers to assist with the clean up and re-building for years to come. Yet, the group did not experience a sense of despair among the citizens of D'Iberville. On the contrary, they felt their appreciation and their sense of hope. It was a blessing to get to know Barbara, who cooked dinner for the workers on their last night there and decorated her ceiling fan, one of the only things she was able to salvage from her home, with Mardi Gras beads. Ed has called his "office angels" on a few occasions - the first time just to make sure the team made it home safely. The Cross Roads group continues to exchange calls with Mello, a 21 year old resident of the FEMA tent city adjacent to Camp Hope. Although Mello had many needs of his own, he never complained about working long hours with the intent of leaving the FEMA tents as soon as he could save enough money.

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The Cross Roads team hopes to return to D'Iberville in the near future with another group from the congregation to continue assisting with the clean up and re-building. But more importantly, they hope to continue the relationships with the wonderful people they met there and to make new connections with others.

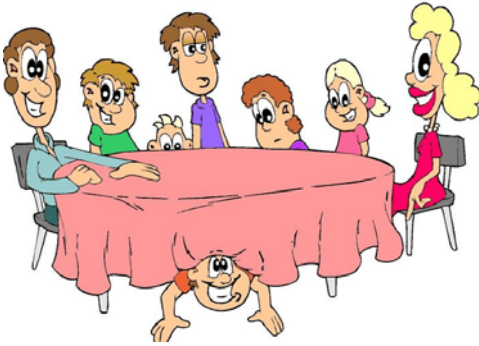


The Hidden Lives of Congregations

led by Dr. Israel Galindo

For Pastors and Church Leaders

In this seminar author and professor Israel Galindo helps participants understand their churches by exploring the "hidden life" dynamics at work in all congregations.



Based on the book, *The Hidden Lives of Congregations* (Alban), the seminar will challenge participants to "think theologically" about their congregations while providing practical

tools for discernment that congregational leaders can apply to leadership, management, and development of their churches.



Israel Galindo is professor at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. He is a popular seminar and workshop leader in the areas of education and instruction and in Bowen systems theory as applied to parenting, congregational life, and leadership development.

He is the author of several books, numerous magazine and journal . Works include *The Hidden Lives of Congregations*, which was named one of the "10 Best Books of 2005" by the Academy of Parish Clergy. Dr. Galindo also serves on the faculty of the Leadership in Ministry Workshops, a clergy training program (www.leadershipinministry.com).

Other books include *Myths: Fact and Fiction about Teaching and Learning*, *The Craft of Christian Teaching*, *10 Best Parenting Ways to Ruin Your Teenager*, and *10 Best Parenting Ways to Ruin Your Child*. For more information about these resources, or to order them visit www.galindoconsultants.com/resources.html.

SCHEDULE FOR LEADER DEVELOPMENT DAY

2:30 p.m. REGISTRATION & FELLOWSHIP

3:00 p.m. WORKSHOPS:

1. "Hidden Lives of Congregations" Led by Israel Galindo
2. BASIC TRAINING FOR ELDERS Congregational Ministries Comm

This workshop will provide basic training for new elders, and for those who would like a better grasp of their responsibilities and to know more about the Presbyterian Church (USA).

3. BASIC TRAINING FOR DEACONS Diaconal Ministries Comm

This workshop will provide basic training for new deacons, and for those who would like a better grasp of their responsibilities and to know more about the Presbyterian Church (USA).

4. CLERK OF SESSION TRAINING led by Don Rising, Stated Clerk

All Clerks of Session of local congregations who have NOT previously received Clerk of Session training should plan to attend this vital and essential training. Clerks who HAVE been trained are also encouraged to attend to learn about new procedures for Annual Reports.

5. CHURCH TREASURERS led by the Presbytery Administration Committee & Treasurer

This workshop will provide overviews of the responsibilities of treasurers and respond to your questions about the PC(U.S.A.).

6:00 p.m. DINNER AND WORSHIP AROUND TABLES

6:45 p.m. EVENT CONCLUDES

The Cost for Leader Development 2006 is \$8.00 (with or without dinner.) Leader Development 2006 is sponsored by the Congregational Ministries Committee. The day is provided with little direct cost to participants through your Mission Dollars.

COMING:

Multimedia in Worship, Sunday and Monday, March 5-6, at the Punxsutawney Church, featuring Michael Bausch & Teri Dary.

Presbytery Day 2006 "Biblical Storytelling" May 7, 2:30 - 7:30 p.m. featuring Dennis Dewey plus workshops for adults, kids' program, dinner and worship! At Calvary & Graystone Churches, Indiana

Preaching Workshop Monday, May 8, 2006 with Dennis Dewey.