



# News for the Churches

Presbytery of Kiskiminetas  
Phone: 724-783-7196

P. O. Box 339  
Website: [www.kiskipby.org](http://www.kiskipby.org)

Yatesboro, PA 16263  
March 2005

---

## March Presbytery Meeting at Homer City Church

The Kiskiminetas Presbytery met in a stated meeting at the Homer City United Church on Tuesday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. Worship was led by host pastor Rev. David Salinger, Elder John Heise, and Rev. Matt Jones, who preached on "Sabbath Keeping."

### Report of the Stated Clerk

Rev. Donald Rising's report included the annual statistical report for the year 2004. He also commended the 88 of the 90 churches submitting annual statistical reports on time, with the majority being submitted online for the first time.

### Annual Corporation Meeting

Trustees for the year 2005 were elected, as well as Presbytery Treasurer Debbie Lundgren and Assistant Treasurer Donna Douth. The treasurer's report for the year 2004 and the outstanding church loan report were presented for information.

### Presbyterian Women

Velma McMaster and Kay Deasey reminded women of the presbytery about the April 9<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Retreat, the April 30<sup>th</sup> Spring Gathering, and the September 27<sup>th</sup> Mission Trip to New Windsor, MD. Kay reminded congregations that health and clean-up kits and other CWS items could be transported to New Windsor at this time to save mailing costs.

### Committee Reports included:

#### *Diaconal*

Rev. Bill Milligan encouraged participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and in a summer mission work camp in West Virginia. He introduced Rev. Marty Cartmell, who shared some of her experiences in Ireland as part of a pulpit exchange; Rev. Richard Hartsfield, who spoke about his time at a divestiture conference in Louisville; and Rev. Dave Caves, who described the prison ministry task group's upcoming Easter Service at SCI Pine Grove.

#### *Congregational Ministries*

✓ Rev. Mary Louise McCullough highlighted several seminars and presentations scheduled for the coming months, which include Bereavement Care Training, April 9; Presbytery Day, April 17; Preaching Workshop, April 18; A Look at Stewardship Campaigns, May 5; and the Clergy Retreat in September.

✓ Rev. Bob Goossen described and showed portions of an "idea that worked" in the Bethel Church: a video children's program entitled "Visiting the Christmas Story." Script, sample bulletin, and suggestions for production are available in the Resource Center.

✓ Resource Center Committee Chair Nancy Schrecengost displayed the new RC brochures, highlighting the newly

created logo as well as the many resources and services available to the presbytery.

#### *Ministry*

The committee approved a new set of procedures for moderators. The committee also approved these pastoral changes:

- ✓ appointment of Rev. David Caves as moderator at Faith, Kittanning
- ✓ change in membership status of Rev. Dan Satler to member-at-large, and appointment of Rev. Susan Porch Lantz as moderator at Saltsburg
- ✓ change in membership status of Rev. Amy Jelensperger and appointment of Rev. Jeff Potter as moderator at Ridgway and Wilcox
- ✓ approval of call and transfer of Rev. William Blacksmith to Shenango Presbytery
- ✓ commissioning of Joyce Fails as Commissioned Lay Pastor at St. Andrew's Village in Indiana

### Tsunami Contributions Noted

Rev. Mike Wilson reported that \$36,650.37 has been collected from the Kiski churches for the Tsunami Relief fund.

### Next Meeting

Moderator Shannon thanked Rev. Salinger and the Homer City congregation and adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The next stated presbytery meeting will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Brockway Church.

## 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.

**“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”  
Wills Emphasis Sunday - May 1, 2005**



*Sometimes* we just need a little reminder of the impact that a bequest can make now and for future generations. Not only is a will important to consider for surviving loved ones, it is also an opportunity to proclaim your values, faith and stewardship. A charitable bequest included in a will can make a difference in the lives of many, provide support for mission programs, or expand stewardship to future generations. Bequests are a practical way for donors of any age or economic status to remember the church.

It is worthwhile for churches to remind and re-enforce the need and value of making a Christian will; this can be accomplished through a **Wills Emphasis program** in your church. As part of the Legacy of a Lifetime program, the Presbyterian Foundation supports Wills Emphasis with resources to encourage individuals to consider gifts from their estates. Although **Wills Emphasis Sunday** is traditionally celebrated the first Sunday of May, the materials are not dated, so they may be used at the most convenient time of the year for individual congregations. The Presbyterian Foundation offers materials free of charge (the church or entity ordering materials will be responsible for the shipping charges) by calling 800-524-2612 or visiting [www.PresbyterianFoundation.org](http://www.PresbyterianFoundation.org). These materials may also be borrowed from the Kiski Resource Center.

## BETWEEN ME & THEE

For centuries our Confessions have stated that the two marks of the Church are where the Word is preached and the Sacraments are administered. The Scots Confession adds the proper administration of discipline. We seldom hear about that last one.

Preaching, the sacraments and discipline were used to distinguish the true church from the false church. That was the Reformation argument. In the Book of Order we find the “great ends of the Church.” Simply put “the great ends” means the purpose or reason for the existence of the Church. Perhaps the “marks of the Church,” as stated at the time of the Reformation were sufficient for that time, and remain a core part of what it means to be the Church today.

However, it is not enough. It has never been enough. Israel Galindo, in his book The Hidden Lives of Congregations: Discerning Church Dynamics (pg. 41), states, *The primary mandate of the church is to be a transforming influence in the world. This is how the church becomes relevant in people's lives. The institutional tendency of organizations, however, is to focus primarily on self-preservation and on the comfort and benefit of their own members. And while a congregation is an institutional expression of the Church, it is wrong, and against its nature, when self-preservation and comfort become the primary reasons for its existence.*

For too many of us it seems that we think the church exists to keep us wrapped in a “warm fuzzy.” The poet Robert Browning wrote, *God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world.* Browning must have been looking at a

different world than we see everyday on the television, in the newspapers and on the internet.

How is your congregation making a difference, transforming the world/in your community? It is not enough for us to gather for worship, to hear the Word read and proclaimed and to normatively share in only the one sacrament of the Lord's Supper. (In far too many of our congregations we seldom participate in the sacrament of Baptism.) It is not enough to sing, *Sweet Hour of Prayer* while hoping we can get out in fifty minutes.

In addition to, as the result of, our coming together in worship we are to go out in mission. We are to proclaim and demonstrate the Love of God in Christ Jesus in such a way as to be a *transforming influence in the world*. If we are not doing that we have ceased to be the Body of Christ in the world.

Galindo quotes C. John Miller challenging the tendency to self-preservation, comfort and benefit of our members, *when that happens the local congregation ceases to be the incarnate Body of Christ or a fellowship of disciples, and has become more like a retreat center where anxious members come to draw resources to help them cope with their own lives.* (Pg. 41)

We have to change our idea of what the Church is. We are not called in for retreat. We are sent out to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God in Christ Jesus. If we are not doing that we are not the Church.

Yours in service to Christ and the Church,

Wayne A. 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 [lrising@kiskipby.org](mailto:lrising@kiskipby.org))

### Mystery Dinner Theater Presented

Thespians at the **United Church of Blairsville** once again aired their talents with a mystery dinner theater entitled "In Search of the Hopeless Diamond," which was presented over the week end of March 11. A catered dinner, door prizes, and table prizes for solving the mystery were all part of the event, which featured the play, written and directed by member Diane Hanna.

### Interested in Some Clowning Around?

A group of 10-15 youth and adults from the **Center Church of Creekside** provide a clown ministry for their congregation as well as others. This group is interested in providing a program or worship service for churches in the presbytery. Their message is "Becoming New in Christ." For more information, contact Connie Bytner at 724-465-2821.



### Children's Program Takes Off

On February 5, a monthly program to encourage reading among children of the church & community debuted at the **Union First Church of Cowansville**. "Share a Story" targets three-year-olds through third graders. Volunteers from the congregation work with 3 separate age groups; their goal is not to teach reading but to help kids learn to love reading. The church provides this program as a mission concern for the community as well as its own children, and it represents an ongoing commitment to one more step in the Twelve Keys Mission Plan.

### One Great Hour Competition Set

Ready, set, and go for the annual OGHS contest between the **Pleasant Grove** and **Big Run** congregations. Each year the churches engage in a friendly competition for the largest contribution to this special offering, with the winner receiving a banner for the year. Regardless of who wins, the churches enjoy a celebration dinner together. The **Pleasant Grove** congregation of 30 members has contributed over \$6,000 during the past 3 years. Pleasant Grove has enjoyed a busy year in other areas as well: the church has been painted, the roof on the social room replaced, a new church sign erected and member David Bridge is working on an Eagle Scout merit badge by doing several landscaping projects around the church.

### New Chaplain at St. Andrew's Village

Congratulations to **Joyce Falls**, commissioned at the March presbytery meeting to serve as the chaplain at St. Andrew's Village, the Presbyterian Home in Indiana. Joyce has served the presbytery as an authorized lay pastor for the past several years.

### Slate Lick Organist Recognized

The Slate Lick congregation honored **Ruthie Gaiser** on February 13 for serving 36 years as church organist and 20 years as church secretary. Ruthie was surprised during the worship service when she was recognized, and her shock continued after worship when she was honored at a special luncheon. Congratulations, Ruthie!

**Graystone Presbyterian Church in Indiana** is leading an **Adult Summer Mission Work Camp** to Richwood, West Virginia, part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The camp is sponsored by the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Work Camps, Inc. They are supported by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbytery of West Virginia.

Our work duties will be light construction and food and clothing pantry duties. The dates of the trip are from June 11-18, 2005, and the cost is \$175 for the week. We're open to anyone from 21 to 90 years young and we extend the invitation to anyone who would like to come alongside.

We are hoping to do a Presbytery of Kiskiminetas work camp experience in '06, so why not come along and get your feet wet and then you'll be ready for 2006!

For more information, contact [bonniemallot@charter.net](mailto:bonniemallot@charter.net) or for questions about the '05 Graystone work camp, call Kay Smith at 724-349-3168.



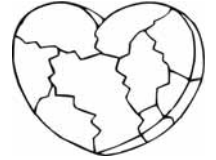
# Kiski Presbytery Offers Events to Support Your Ministry!



## ... For They Shall Be Comforted - Bereavement Training for Worship Communities

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Appleby Manor Church; Registration fee: \$15

This interactive workshop is intended for bereavement ministries or any individuals from worship communities who are interested in learning how to better support and comfort those who mourn. **Workshop size is limited and almost full; when the limit is reached, names will be placed on a waiting list.**



Registration form must be completed and mailed with a \$15 check payable to 'Presbytery of Kiskiminetas' to: Presbytery of Kiskiminetas, PO Box 339, Yatesboro, PA 16263.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Getting a Financial Grip: A Look at Stewardship Campaigns

Thursday, May 5, Check-in at 6:30, seminar from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Marion Center Church  
View a selection of stewardship campaign materials provided by the Resource Center, including the Consecration Sunday program by Herb Miller and the Pony Express program, and hear a presentation by Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes. **There is no charge for the seminar, but reservations are necessary by April 28.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Coming this Fall: Pastor's Retreat (spouses invited, too!)

The Soul of Pastoral Leadership featuring E. Stanley Ott

Monday, September 26 to Tuesday, September 27 (Monday lunch through Tuesday lunch)  
Antiochian Village near Ligonier, PA

Mark your calendars now for this time of rest and restoration with Rev. Ott, senior pastor of the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and founder of the Vital Churches Institute. Cost is \$55 per person for double occupancy and \$85 per person for single occupancy, which includes lodging and all meals. More details will follow!





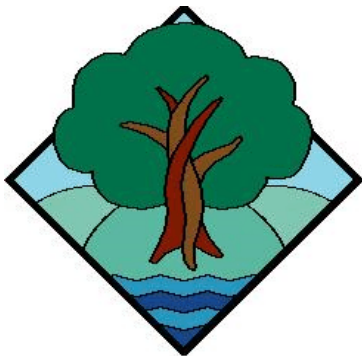
# Presbytery Day 2005

Sunday, April 17, 2:30-7:30 pm  
at Calvary Presbyterian Church, Indiana  
(Dinner at Graystone, Indiana)

- Keynote Workshop - "Twelve Keys for Living" with Dr. Kennon Callahan
- or "Along the Road with Jesus - a Study from Matthew" with Rev. Peter Bower
- or "Let's Go Observe the Youth Rally"
- Spring Youth Rally featuring **Dave Horsager**, Christian illusionist, *plus* the praise band "**Lamp**" from Clarion, and "**Jesus Painter**" Daniel McAdoo
- Children's Program - "God Excitement!" for kids age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Festival Worship with Dr. Callahan
- *Plus Monday* Preaching Workshop with Kennon Callahan, for Pastors and Commissioned Lay Pastors, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 

---

Interested persons may register online at [www.kiskipby.org](http://www.kiskipby.org)  
or contact the Presbytery Office for registration information.



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)

Saturday, April 9, 2005  
Spiritual Retreat



### “God’s Rainbow Promise”

Explore the spiritual energy of color  
with **MARY McELROY**, Moderator, Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery PW

Registration 9:30 am      Slate Lick Presbyterian Church      Program 10 am - 2:30 pm  
Lunch provided - \$5 (pay at the door)  
Pre-registration requested: Call Anna Marie Himes @ 724-545-2926 before March 31

### SPRING GATHERING



Saturday, April 30    10 am - 3 pm    Clarion Presbyterian Church  
“Bloom Where You Are Planted”

Keynote Speaker: Kristen York Gerling, Moderator,  
Churchwide Presbyterian Women  
Communion presented by Rev. Amy Jelensperger,  
former pastor, Ridgway and Wilcox churches  
Installation of Officers for 2005-2006

9:30 am Registration.  
Lunch provided \$5 (payable at door)  
Lots of parking in church lots.

Pre-registration requested before April 22: Call Velma McMaster @ 814-226-5394

<p>Gifts for <b>HAITI</b> (the Synod PW Mission Project) will be dedicated</p>	<p>Dedication of gifts for <b>Nicole Johnson’s</b> mission on 2005 GLOBAL EXCHANGE</p>	<p>Bring your <b>BIRTHDAY OFFERINGS</b> for dedication</p>
--	--	--

# News You Can Use

## 2005 Annual Synod of the Trinity Conference Meeting "Mission: Feast, Festival & Future" June 27 - July 1 Elizabethtown College

Families are welcome at this annual conference for worship, music, food, and fun. Also available are mission work trips and children's and youth programs. Registration materials will be available by the end of March at the presbytery office or at the synod's web site at [www.syntrinity.org](http://www.syntrinity.org).

## 4th Annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference

April 8, 2005 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
St. Stephen's Sewickley

This conference is designed for clergy and laity. Master of Ceremonies will be Sally Wiggin, WTAE Channel 4 TV News Anchor; keynote speaker will be Andrew Purvis, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary professor. 15 Workshops are available. The cost of \$30 includes a continental breakfast & lunch. For more info contact St. Stephens McKeesport at 412.664.9379 or via email at [conference@pghpc.org](mailto:conference@pghpc.org).

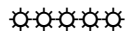


## Summer Leadership Conference Pittsburgh Theological Seminary June 5-8, 2005

Fred Craddock and Bonnie Thurston will keynote this time of learning and renewal for ministers, educators, leaders, and church members. The theme is "The Power of Scripture in the Practice of Prayer." For more information contact the PTS Continuing Ed Office at 412-362-5610, ext 2196, or email [coned@pts.edu](mailto:coned@pts.edu).

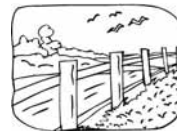
## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Youth Institute Pittsburgh Theological Seminary July 9-23, 2005

Mark your calendars for this Christian community challenging youth to grow in faith and gain deeper understanding of the Gospel and its implications for today's world. The Summer Youth Institute provides an opportunity for daily Bible study, shadowing local pastors, mission within the community, small groups for prayer and reflection, daily worship, music, drama, plus a chance to enjoy some of the fun activities in Pittsburgh. Applicants must be graduating from high school in 2006. For more information visit [www.summeryouthinstitute.org](http://www.summeryouthinstitute.org) or call 800-451-4194.



## 2005 Grant Program for Rebuilding Rural Community Life

This grant program is intended to support new projects/programs that witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ; contribute to the revitalization and rebuilding of rural community life; emerge from collaborative efforts among PC(U.S.A.) congregations, other congregations and community groups (including those who will be served by the ministry) in the envisioning, designing and implementing phases. Full information and grant applications are available on the PCUSA website at [www.pcusa.org/rural](http://www.pcusa.org/rural). The program is administered by the Rural Ministry Network office, Evangelism and Church Development program area, National Ministries Division, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



## CELEBRATING WOMEN ORDAINED:

- ☆ as *Deacons* in 1906, 100th anniversary in 2006
- ☆ as *Elders* in 1930, 75th anniversary in 2005
- ☆ to *Word and Sacrament* in 1956, 50th anniversary in 2006

## Regional Celebrations:

### Inheriting the Promise... Living the Call

March 31-April 3, 2005  
Princeton, NJ  
973-728-3081

### A Flame in Our Hearts

November 5-7, 2005  
Chicago, IL  
312-243-8300

### Spirit Flames

March 9-11, 2006  
Atlanta, GA  
404-898-0711



### Tending the Flame: Women Called to Lead

October 6-7, 2006  
San Francisco, CA  
Email [sarah@bethelcpc.org](mailto:sarah@bethelcpc.org)

More information:

[www.pcusa.org/women/ordination](http://www.pcusa.org/women/ordination)

# More News You Can Use

## Calling All Presbyterian Men: Two Events You Won't Want to Miss!

### *Locally*

Who: Presbyterian Men of the Kiskiminetas Presbytery  
What: **Spring Breakfast**  
When: Saturday, April 9, 2005 - 8:30 a.m.  
Where: Bethel Church, Indiana  
Why: Fellowship, Music, Speaker

### *Nationally*

Who: Presbyterian Men, Denomination-Wide  
What: Annual National Presbyterian Men's Conference  
When: April 22, 23, 24, 2005  
Where: Charlotte, North Carolina  
Why: **A Spiritual Battery Recharge**



For more information about either event, contact Tom Harris at 724-349-1594.

### Scholarship Help Available

Synod of the Trinity is pleased to offer several scholarships for full-time students whose permanent residence is within the bounds of the Synod. Applications are available from the presbytery office or web site ([www.kiskipby.org](http://www.kiskipby.org)), or they may be downloaded from the synod's website, [www.syntrinity.org](http://www.syntrinity.org), under Program and Services. **Application deadline is April 30.** If you have any questions or comments, contact Marcia Humer at 800-242-0534 or [mhummer@syntrinity.org](mailto:mhummer@syntrinity.org).

**One**  
great hour  
of sharing

The number of people in deep poverty, those with incomes of less than half the poverty level, jumped by 1.2 million to 15.5 million in 2003, the largest number on record.

*It's Remarkable What  
Your Gift Will Do.*

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through the One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent. Most congregations receive the offering on Easter Sunday, Palm Sunday, or both; many receive it throughout Lent.

**One**  
great hour  
of sharing

All materials are FREE. To order them you can call (800) 524-2612 or FAX (502) 569-8030. The kit is also available in the Kiski Resource Center.