

News for the Churches

Presbytery of Kiskiminetas
Phone: 724-783-7196

P. O. Box 339
Website: www.kiskipby.org

Yatesboro, PA 16263
May 2005

Victor Makari Visits Kiski Presbytery

The Kiskiminetas Presbytery met in a stated meeting at the Brockway Church on Tuesday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m. Worship was led by host pastor Rev. Jeff Potter and Rev. Dr. Victor Makari, World Mission Division Associate for the Middle East and Europe, who presented a theological framing for remarks to be made later in the meeting.

Council Report

Council Chair Jeanne Henry presented a plaque to Rev. Jon Speck, honoring him for his service to the presbytery as recent Vice Moderator, Moderator, and Chair of Council. Dates for 2006 Presbytery meetings were announced and approved:

- January 14, 10:00 a.m. St. Benedicts
- March 14, 7:00 p.m. St. Marys, Shiloh
- May 9, 7:00 p.m. New Bethlehem
- June 27, 10:00 a.m. Slate Lick
- September 12, 7:00 p.m. Gilgal
- November 11, 10:00 a.m. Blairsville

Presbyterian Foundation Update

Phillip Blake, who serves 9 presbyteries in the Synod of the Trinity, noted that the Presbyterian Foundation oversees \$1.7 billion used for mission and ministry. He suggested several options for making gifts to one's own congregation.

Missionary Conference Celebrates 100 Years

Diaconal Ministries Chair Bill Milligan:

- showed a brief video about the New Wilmington Missionary Conference, celebrating its 100th anniversary this summer. PC(USA) missionaries will be commissioned at the conference in July.
- encouraged prayer for our State Parks ministry and summer chaplain Ed Catalano.
- highlighted Nicole Johnson's Global Exchange trip to Brazil in October.
- recommended the *2006 Mission Yearbook* and *Children's Mission Yearbook*.
- introduced Rev. John Helgeson, who spoke about the Synod Peacemaking Award and the search for candidates to receive it.

Inquirer Moved to Candidacy

Presbytery approved moving Cara Milne of the Calvary, Leechburg congregation from Inquirer to Candidate status. Cara is completing her second year at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She answered questions about her faith journey and service to the church.

Presbyterian Women

Newly installed co-moderator Sally Early reported on the recent Spiritual Retreat and Spring Gathering events in April, as well as mentioning the upcoming Synod PW Gathering and picnic in July. Kay Deasey publicized the New Windsor mission trip in September and encouraged prompt registration.

Farewell & Godspeed

Presbytery bid farewell to Rev. Mary Louise McCullough, who accepted a call to Sixth Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, effective May 1. Best wishes were also extended to Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Rogers, who has accepted a call to the Granite Presbyterian Church near Baltimore.

Presbyterians in the Middle East

Victor Makari addressed our denomination's long-standing mission efforts in the Middle East. He thanked the Kiski Presbytery for its mission work in God's kingdom, noting the need for more missionaries in both Europe and the Middle East. He referred to the actions of the 2004 General Assembly, noting that the Presbyterian Church had spoken out for 37 years for peace and justice in the Middle East, concluding that "a formal peace may happen, but reconciliation will take a long time." Dr. Makari then entertained questions.

Next Meeting

Moderator Shannon thanked Rev. Potter and the Brockway congregation and adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m. with prayer. The next stated presbytery meeting will be held on June 28 at First Church, Clarion, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Missed the Stewardship Campaign Workshop at Marion Center?



The powerpoint presentation made that evening by Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes can be found at <http://www.kiskipby.org/stewardship/stewcampaignppt.htm>.

Looking for Resources for Upcoming Special Events? Look no further!

The **Kiski Resource Center** can assist with programming needs in these areas:

- ◆ Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday (June 5)
- ◆ Men of the Church Sunday (June 19)
- ◆ Small Church Ministry Sunday (July 10)
- ◆ Vacation Bible School Helps
- ◆ Summer Sunday School Ideas
- ◆ Ideas for Retreats
- ◆ Youth Sunday Programs
- ◆ Short-term Bible Study



Contact us at 724-783-7406, via email at kiski@kiskipby.org, search online at www.kiskipby.org, or visit us at 71 W. Main Street in Yatesboro.

BETWEEN ME & THEE

Over the past weeks and months I have heard from some ministers and elders about “unrest” in the life of some congregations. The range of concerns or complaints range from not liking the sermons; not liking some of the hymns; not having enough money; not liking the change in the worship time; and the list goes on.

I have noticed a few of our ministers seem burdened down with the concerns or complaints. Some elders scratch their heads and wonder what can be done to reduce the number of concerns or complaints which are brought to them.

Dealing with the concerns or complaints of the people has been a factor for all who have been called to serve in leadership positions among the people. Moses faced it in the wilderness. The people grumbled, complained and murmured against Moses, Aaron and Hur. (*Exodus 16:2-3, 6-8; 17:1-7*) Moses pointed out that it was not against their leaders that they were complaining, but against God.

One of the things we, as Presbyterians, believe and affirm with every ordination or installation of deacons, elders and ministers, is that they are chosen by God. The Constitutional question which is asked of the congregation is *Do we, the members of the church, accept (names) as deacon, elder or minister of Word and Sacrament, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?* It is so easy to respond with the usual *We do*, but so difficult to live out that response when we are not “happy” with something.

Now, before I go on, let me be clear that not every thing any officer of the church or governing body does will be the right thing every time. Let me affirm that *all sin and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)* and *...that all synods and councils may err, through the frailty inseparable from humanity,.... (BoO G-1.0307).*

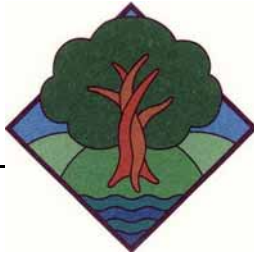
Not withstanding the fallibility of people and governing bodies, if we understood that our raising of many concerns or complaints is complaining against God would that make any difference to our behavior? Would we be as quick and sharp in our criticisms and complaints?

The Apostle writes in Colossians 3:12-15 *You are God's chosen race, God's saints, God loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.* Forbearance seems to be a little practiced quality in many quarters of the church.

In Hebrews 13:17 we find *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.*

Before we are too quick to complain or criticize our deacons, elders and ministers let us remember who it is we are really criticizing or complaining against. Let us not burden those God has called to serve as officers of the church with petty things.

Yours in service to Christ and the Church,
Wayne



MEMO

DATE: May 2005
TO: Moderators, CLPs and Clerks of Session
FROM: Rev. R. James Dietrich, Chair, Committee on Ministry

The Kiskiminetas Presbytery currently has an unusual number of churches in the pastoral transition process. Coupling this with churches that do not have assigned preachers and regularly receive Presbytery assigned-pulpit supply, we are experiencing a serious shortage on some high-demand Sundays of Presbytery approved preachers to fill all these needs.

We ask for your church's cooperation by observing the following changes and considerations:

- ◆ Effective June 1, the new deadline for requesting pulpit supply will be the first of the month for the following month. Example: July pulpit supply requests must be submitted by June 1. Although we can not guarantee any request, it is more likely that your request may be denied if the first of the month deadline is not observed. As usual, you may contact the Pulpit Supply Coordinator, Donna Doutt, by phone at 724-783-7196, emailing your request to dndoutt@kiskipby.org, or go to the Pulpit Supply Request form on the Presbytery website at www.kiskipby.org. This form may be found by clicking the link under the small picture of the preacher on the third row.
- ◆ Pulpit supply information will be sent out to your church by the 10th of the month. This earlier notice date will allow your church more lead time in the event that no Presbytery-approved preacher is available on the date requested. We normally send this information by email, but will mail print copies when necessary.
- ◆ We encourage each church to consider looking to their own leadership, especially when anticipating high demand Sundays. The most difficult Sundays to fill are holiday weekends, the Sundays after Christmas and Easter, and Sundays in July and August. Do you have strong lay leadership or an elder willing to step up? How about special programming by a group or individual? The Presbytery Resource Center has wonderful resources to help your Worship leaders plan. You can call the Presbytery office or check the website at www.kiskipby.org.
- ◆ Please honor our request to work through the Presbytery office to secure Presbytery-approved preachers rather than soliciting them yourself. The pulpit supply process is complicated, and is negatively compromised when we are skipped in the process. We are also reminding our Authorized Lay Preachers that they need to "book" through our office in order to ensure fair supply across the presbytery. If we have no one available, you will have ample time to work independently to fill your needs.
- ◆ Please consider which lay leaders in your congregation might have the gifts and skills to become Authorized Lay Preachers. A new ALP class will be forming soon. There may be someone at your church hearing the call who is ready to answer.
- ◆ The Presbytery is here to serve and assist your ministry. Please contact the office if you have any questions at 724-783-7196, or email pulpit supply coordinator Donna Doutt at dndoutt@kiskipby.org.

The Kiski Digest

Highlighting Some of the Churches and People in our Presbytery

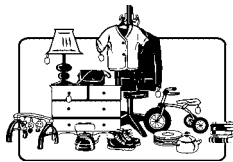
(If you have items of special interest about the programs and activities of your congregation to include in the newsletter, please call Lynn Rising at 724-783-7196, mail them to the Presbytery Office at PO Box 339, Yatesboro, 16263, or send them to Lynn via email at lrising@kiskipby.org)

Folks at the **Slate Lick Church** observed their first One Great Hour of Sharing Fishing Tournament on April 20. After a Palm Sunday breakfast, children in the Sunday School classes competed with their fish coin banks for such honors as Most Decorated Fish, Heaviest Fish, and the class with the longest line of fish. All kids received a prize for participation, and a Big Fish weighing over 20 pounds resulted when all the coins and paper money were counted, yielding an OGHS total of



\$126.84.

The 10th Annual Christian Camp Auction at the **Bethel, Indiana Church** was a resounding success. Over 150 items were sold, raising \$3,292.73 to send aspiring Bethel campers to camp.



The Armstrong Concert Band will perform its annual Memorial Day Concert at the **Dayton Glade Run Church** on Sunday, May 29th at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature patriotic music, as well as a sampling of other styles of music. There is no admission, and the event will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Anniversary Celebrations

❖ The West Glade Run congregation celebrated the 25th anniversary of Rev. **David Caves, Jr.**'s service there on May 7. The festivities included a hymn sing, followed by refreshments and a time of fellowship.



❖ Rev. **John Helgeson** was recognized by the Apollo congregation at a surprise reception following worship on May 22. Members honored John for the 30th year anniversary of his ordination as well as his 5 years of service at Apollo.

Farewell and Godspeed to ...

❖ Rev. **Mary Louise McCullough** of the Calvary, Leechburg Church, who has accepted a call to the Sixth Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh.

❖ Rev. **Elizabeth Rogers**, Associate Pastor of the Calvary, Indiana Church, who has accepted a call to the Granite Presbyterian Church near Baltimore.

The **Boiling Springs Church** has built a new picnic pavilion and storage facility. The pavilion was designed by Bill North, chair of the property committee, and built mostly by volunteer labor from people in the congregation and/or friends of the congregation. BSPC received a bequest several years ago that has funded the majority of the project, with added contributions coming from the Women's Association and several anonymous donors. Memorial gifts were made in memory of Tom Coleman for the purchase of a stainless steel gas grill with all the bells and whistles. Members of the congregation are making contributions for the purchase of picnic tables to complete the pavilion. The first official use of the pavilion was on Sunday, May 22, with a cookout and picnic, when all the volunteers were thanked. The pavilion will be available for members and the community to use for reunions, birthday parties and other events.



Used Curriculum: Free to a Good Home

The **First Presbyterian Church of Ford City** has used Sunday School material we would like to donate to a church in need, including several quarters of David C. Cook's Reformed Presbyterian and/or Reformation Press Early Elementary, Elementary, Upper Elementary, and Teen material. Each includes a teacher's guide, teacher's aide packet, and student booklets. Student materials may be limited. Some quarters of the Early Elementary and Elementary material also includes Make It & Take It books as well. We are blessed that we can purchase our material new and realize that others are not so lucky, so we would like to share our blessing. If your church can use this material please feel call the church at (724)763-7214 and leave a message or email Patty at mmcelfresh5@cs.com.

News You Can Use



June Fest at St. Andrew's Village Saturday, June 18, 2:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Come with hearty appetites and enjoy a picnic meal! Choose a sandwich --Ham BBQ, Hot Sausage, Turkey, or Grilled Hot Dogs. Add some tasty summer side dishes of Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, and Pasta Salad. Top it off with your choice of desserts-- Homemade pies, ice cream and fresh strawberries, warm Apple Dumplings, and your favorite beverage. Why not bring dad and celebrate Father's day! There will be great entertainment, door prize drawings, and a Dunking Tank! Proceeds benefit the St. Andrew's Village Auxiliary and residents of St. Andrew's Village. **June Fest** will be held in the pavilion of St. Andrew's Village, 1155 Indian Springs Road, Indiana, PA. Just follow the yellow flags on campus!

The Spirit of Youth Ministry Conference

August 4-6, 2005

**Marriott Farmington Hotel
Farmington, Connecticut**

This national conference will present for the first time the results of a 4-year research project to study congregations across the United States that consistently establish faith as a vital factor in the lives of young people and discover what accounts for their effective youth ministries. For more information call 203-723-1622 or visit www.exemplarym.com.

Northeast PA Week Kirk Conference

October 17-19, 2005

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



The purpose of the Week Kirk Conference is to inspire, equip, motivate, and encourage small PC (USA) churches and to provide rest and refreshment for the clergy and lay

leaders of those churches. For more information, contact Mark Unrue at 740-922-9190 or revun@sbcglobal.net.

"Come Together"

The Seven Percent Event 2005

October 3-6, 2005 - San Francisco CA

Historically, 7% represents the reality that clergy under 40 were a minority in the PC (USA). Today it is a symbol of solidarity and koinonia among young adult clergy. For more information on this conference, visit www.pcusa.org/youngadult.

Continuing Ed Opportunities at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Summer Leadership Conference

June 5-8, 2005

Fred Craddock and Bonnie Thurston will keynote this time of learning and renewal for ministers,

educators, leaders, and

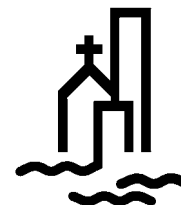
church members. The theme is "The Power

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.



9th Annual Summer Youth Institute

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 or call 800-451-4194.

For Everything, a Season:

A Study of the Liturgical Calendar

Horizons Bible Study 2005-2006

August 26-27, 2005

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell will lead this introduction to the current *Horizons* Bible study. This workshop will be valuable to those leading PW circles groups or for those who wish to know more about how the liturgical calendar works. Register with the Office of Continuing Ed at 412-362-5610, ext 2196 or via email at coned@pts.edu.



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For Prayer & Study

“From Age to Age”

AND



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Use the bottom order form if you are submitting your order by mail. Make your check payable to:
Presbytery of Kiskiminetas.

If you are placing your order by e-mail or phone, please send payment for order by July 1, 2005
The deadline for submitting orders is JULY 1, 2005



CHURCH NAME _____

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- 2006 ADULT MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER & STUDY

NUMBER OF BOOKS AT \$5.25 _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

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NUMBER OF BOOKS AT \$4.25 _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Make checks payable to: **Presbytery of Kiskiminetas**

(Please send payment with your order, since we have to send payment when we order. Thank you.)

Please send your order by **July 1, 2005** to: Presbytery of Kiskiminetas, P.O. Box 339, Yatesboro, PA 16263

Mark your calendars now for an event for pastors that you won't want to miss!

The Soul of the Pastoral Leader

featuring Rev. E. Stanley Ott



Pastors' Retreat (spouses invited, too!)

September 26-27, 2005
(Monday lunch through Tuesday lunch)
Antiochian Village near Ligonier, PA

Stan is the senior pastor of the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and founder of the Vital Churches Institute. Ott is the author of "Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church," "The Vibrant Church," "The Joy of Discipling," "Small Group Life", and "Transforming Your Church with Ministry Teams."

Cost is \$55 per person for double occupancy; \$85 per person for single occupancy. The actual cost to the Presbytery is \$93/double and \$123/single, plus the honorarium for Stan. The costs beyond your portion are subsidized through congregational mission support. Cost includes lunch and dinner on Monday and breakfast and lunch on Tuesday. This noon-to-noon retreat will feature Stan focusing on the "leadership soul" of the pastor.

Don't want to attend seminars on stewardship and preaching? Then take the "un-programmed" option: bring a book, go golfing; go shopping. Visit the Antiochian Village website <http://www.antiochianvillage.org> for other opportunities.

This event is co-sponsored by the Committees on Ministry and Congregational Ministries.

May



2005

SPECIAL THANKS to Velma McMasters, our very worthy PW moderator for the past 2 years. She did a great job, is a beautiful lady and wonderful mentor. **GOD BLESS YOU , VELMA.**

Mary McElroy of the Upper Ohio Valley was our SPIRITUAL RETREAT leader on April 9th. 39 women from 15 churches explored the spiritual energy of color through "God's Rainbow Promise." Thank you to all the ladies of the Slate Lick Church for their warm hospitality.

Every one had a great day at SPRING GATHERING on April 30th.

The ladies of Clarion Church did an outstanding job as hostess. 95 ladies from 28 churches attended.

Keynote speaker Kristin York Gerling, moderator of churchwide PW, spoke on "Seasons"- Ecclesiastes 3 as related to our PW purpose.

New officers were installed and new by-laws were adopted. "Roving Reporters" learned how we as PW women are "*Blooming Where We Are Planted.*"

Money was collected and dedicated in the amount of \$2,389.71 for the SYNOD MISSION PROJECT to build 5 Habitat for Humanity homes in Haiti.

Marie Bahn spoke about her mission trips there and Nichole Johnson spoke about her upcoming trip to Brazil as past of the MISSION GLOBAL EXCHANGE in October. Kiski PW has donated \$4,090.00 towards her trip. (Thanks to all of you for your support in these two special projects.) Bars of soap were collected for our LOCAL MISSION at Arcadia and the perfect day concluded with COMMUNION service led by Rev. Amy Jelensperger, former pastor at Ridgway and Wilcox churches.

DON'T FORGET

June 16, 17 & 18

Synod PW Gathering, Waynesburg College.
Celebrate JOY, PEACE, HOPE
registration due May 22.

July 27

Kiski PW Picnic,
10 am Sharp's Campground
Shelocta -
bring a covered dish,
table service, lawn chair
and a friend.

August 26-27

HORIZONS 2005-2006 Bible
Study "*For Everything, A Season:
A Study of the Liturgical Calendar*"
by Elizabeth Caldwell at Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary.

September 27, 28 & 29

New Windsor, Maryland mission trip
open to men and women
deposit due June 1st to Kay Deasey.



Reach out to those in need

October 5

Fall Gathering, East Brady



**Your local PW moderator has information on all these events or contact:
Sally Early at 724-525-4159 or any PW CT member.**