

News for the Churches

Presbytery of Kiskiminetas
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Yatesboro, PA 16263
May 2006

Highlights of May Presbytery Meeting

The Kiskiminetas Presbytery met in a stated meeting at the New Bethlehem Church on Tuesday, May 9, 2006. Worship was led by host pastor Rev. Richard Hartsfield and Rev. Dr. James Davison from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Recognitions, Installation, & Commissioning

Judy Greeley, secretary at the Brookville Church, was recognized for achieving advanced certification in the Administrative Personnel Association. A recognition of honorable retirement was held for Rev. David Caves. Elder Bill Smith of the Calvary Church was installed as Vice Moderator of the presbytery. 2006 General Assembly commissioners Rev. Tom Jones, Connie Bytner, YAD Luke Speck, and alternates Rev. Susan Lantz, Larry Tanis, and Gloria King were announced and those present were commissioned.

2007 Meeting Dates Approved

The Presbytery approved the following meeting dates and places for 2007 Presbytery meetings:
January 13 - Indiana, Calvary; 10 a.m.
March 13 - Kittanning, West Glade Run; 7 p.m.
May 8 - Parker, Concord; 7 p.m.
June 26 - Indiana, Bethel; 10 a.m.
September 11 - East Brady; 7 p.m.
November 10 - Corsica, Pisgah; 10 a.m.

Reports from Special Guests

❖ *Brian Parks*, Assistant Director of St. Andrew's Village in Indiana, made a presentation about St. Andrew's and thanked the presbytery for its support over the years.
❖ *Jim Davison*, Director of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning at PTS, described some of the many programs and opportunities for both clergy and laity at the Seminary.
❖ *Ellie Johns*, also from PTS, spoke about the Theological Education Fund, a fund that began in 1989 as the "1%" Fund. TEF contributions from congregations help support the 10 seminaries in our denomination. 46 of the 89 congregations in the Kiski Presbytery contributed to the TEF in 2005, and certificates were distributed to each.

Transformational Ministries

Rev. Matt Jones reviewed a successful Presbytery Day event with Dennis Dewey, biblical storyteller. Wayne Yost previewed the Acts 16:5 Initiative, emphasizing the September 15-16 kick-off.

Welcome to New Pastors

After examination for ordination by the presbytery, Dorothea Ghering was welcomed as the new pastor of the Sligo congregation. New to interim ministry positions in the presbytery are Rev. John McCall, Calvary; Rev. Kate Filer, Clarion; and Rev. Peter Bower, NuMine and Rural Valley.

Moderators Appointed

Rev. Bill Mumaw was appointed to moderate at the Allegheny, Clinton, and Srader Grove churches. Rev. Richard Hartsfield was appointed for the Summerville and Hawthorn congregations.

General Assembly Council Report

Rev. Mary Marks King, GAC member, shared information about the GAC in particular and the national church in general. Recent budget cuts necessitated the elimination of 75 positions, but 2007-08 budget was constructed with much care and prayer. Two themes pervaded the deliberations: the vital role of partnerships and the need to strengthen congregations. Our presbytery was commended for ranking #10 in per member mission giving in 2005.

Grant Awarded

Jim Whited accepted a check for \$1,000 from the National Hunger Fund for the Coal County Hang Out Youth Center, for the nourishment and encouragement of the youth of Northern Cambria.

Next Meeting

Rev. Bruce Shannon, substituting Moderator, thanked Rev. Hartsfield and the New Bethlehem congregation for their warm hospitality. After a closing prayer the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. The next stated Presbytery meeting will take place on June 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Slate Lick 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.

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

The Kiski Resource Center can assist with programming needs in many areas, including:

- ❖ Pentecost Sunday, June 4
- ❖ Men of the Church Sunday, June 18
- ❖ Access Awareness Sunday, June 25
- ❖ Vacation Bible School Resources
- ❖ Small Church Ministry Sunday, July 9
- ❖ Short-term Bible Studies
- ❖ Retreat Ideas



Contact us at 724-783-7406, via email at kiski@kiskipby.org, or search online at www.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 Irising@kiskipbv.org)

Women of Faith Award to Brookville Woman

Six women from diverse backgrounds, heritages, and callings exemplify the diversity of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each year Women's Ministry presents the Women of Faith awards during the General Assembly. The recipients of the Women of Faith Awards in 2006 have lived their calling from God in the ordained offices of deacon, elder and clergywomen. The women were chosen for their unique gifts of leadership. **Betty Grunstra** of the Brookville Presbyterian Church was recently named as one of 6 winners. Betty was recognized for the time she gives to a visitation program, primarily in nursing homes, and for establishing an annual Thanksgiving dinner for those who have no one with whom to celebrate the holiday.

Another Successful Auction!

The 11th annual Christian Camp Auction at the **Bethel Church**, Indiana, was a rousing success! Many donated items were sold to raise \$3,300 to send young people from the congregation to camp. Congratulations!

Apollo Church Holds Rummage Sale/Ham Dinner

◆ **Apollo United Presbyterian Church** is holding a RUMMAGE SALE (INDOORS) at 401 1st St., Apollo on Sat., May 20th from 8:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. Any questions may be directed to the church office (724) 478-4807. Toys, Clothing, Tools, Household items, Glassware, Pictures, Small Appliances & more will be available, as well as food and refreshments.

◆ The Apollo congregation is also sponsoring a TAKE-OUT HAM DINNER at the church, 401 1st Street., Apollo, on Friday, June 9; Sign up early--don't miss out! Reservations up to 250 dinners will be taken. Call 724-478-4807.

Missionary Couple to Present Program

The **Big Run** congregation has supported two missionaries, Glen and Carol Hallead, for several years. They have served in Thailand and will soon be serving in Africa. Now the presbytery is invited to an evening with the Halleads on July 2, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with supper, with a program to follow at 6:00 p.m. Glen and Carol will share some of their experiences as missionaries in foreign lands. For more information, contact Rev. Marjorie Doriani at 814-427-2560 or Bill Blake at 814-427-2011.

OGHS Wins Again!

Members of both the **Big Run and Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Churches** shared a Fellowship dinner at the Big Run church to announce their collection totals during this past "One Great Hour of Sharing." For the past eleven years both churches have competed in a friendly contest to see who could collect the most money during the "One Great Hour of Sharing," with the host church furnishing the hot meal and the visiting church bringing the dessert.



The contest started in 1995 and a banner was made and is to hang in the winning church during the next year. Each year the yearly date is placed on the banner.

This year the dinner was in the Big Run church, which had dreams of the banner hanging in their sanctuary for the next year. And after a very good meal and lively fellowship the announcements were made. Pleasant Grove collected \$1,985.49 and Big Run collected \$1,705.97, for a grand total of \$3,691.56 for the "One Great Hour of Sharing."

So the banner will remain in the Pleasant Grove Church for another year! Congratulations to the Pleasant Grove Church from Big Run for another fine year!

Armstrong Concert Band Performance

The **Dayton Glade Run Church** will once again host the Armstrong Concert Band, under the direction of Dennis Cramer, for the annual Founder's Day Concert on Sunday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m. A variety of musical selections will be featured, including patriotic music. The concert will be held outside, weather permitting; bring a lawn chair or blanket. There is no admission charge.



Way to Go, Kiski Presbytery!

The Stewardship and Mission Funding Office of the General Assembly Council recently released mission giving figures for 2005. The top 10 presbyteries in per member giving to Basic Mission Support last year, in order: Carlisle, Santa Fe, Cascades, Southeastern Illinois, Lake Michigan, Des Moines, Donegal, Alaska, West Virginia, and **Kiskiminetas**. Thanks to all who made this possible!

Out of Chaos - Hope

What can 6 youth and 3 adults (along with 65 other work camp volunteers from 5 different states) do in a week? A group from the **United Church of Blairsville** can answer that question, as they worked in Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi for a week in February. During that week the group stayed in a volunteer village, showering in a temporary shower tent, using portable toilets, sleeping in corrugated plastic huts, and eating modest meals. Their work included putting a roof on a house, painting its interior, smashing empty cans of water, cutting down trees, mucking out homes and wiping off mold, performing structural repairs, and bringing hope to an entire community. Chaos and hope, two seemingly opposite words, came together in a devastated place where God's people were doing God's work here on earth.

"It's time for me to give back by helping others."

Bill Compton, a member of the Trinity Church, Clarksburg, does just that. After a long recovery from a farming accident in 2001 that left him seriously injured, Bill began a Family Support Group. This non-profit foundation is sponsored by the Trinity Church and meets monthly at the Indiana Regional Medical Center. Through the foundation he started a Life Flight bag project, a care package for family members of accident victims who need to be airlifted. Bill subsequently became a volunteer at St. Andrew's Village in Indiana, where he helps with Bingo, as well as visiting and encouraging the residents there. A more detailed story about Bill Compton, "Sharing and Caring with Others," can be found in the Spring issue of Presbyterian Homes News.



Invitations Abound!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORD CITY INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A GOLF SCRAMBLE

Where: Cabin Greens Golf Course

When: Saturday, June 10, 2006
at 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$200 per foursome/\$50 per golfer

Skill Prizes are offered & refreshments will be served!

Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mail to: % Paul Baillie, 1515 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. Any questions call Paul at 724-763-7640 or Lydia at 724-763-3981. Come join us for a day of golf and fellowship.



Save the Date!

Sunday, June 11, 2006

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE at The Foundry
West Main Street, Reynoldsville, PA

Celebrating 25 Years in Ministry of Rev. Steven J. Hendrickson

to Reynoldsville & Zion Presbyterian Churches
and
The Community of Reynoldsville

The congregation of the **Pisgah Presbyterian Church** and the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas invite you to share in a service of worship and dedication unto God of the new church facility at 2:30 p.m. on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2006 in Corsica. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service.



Everyone is invited to St. Andrew's Village in Indiana, Pa.
on Saturday, June 17th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for

JUNE FEST

Sponsored by the St. Andrew's Village Auxiliary, June Fest is the Auxiliary's largest fundraiser of the year! It's a time of food, entertainment, fellowship, and just plain fun under the big pavilion! This year, we've added a craft sale table, and there will be hourly prize drawings. Tours of the campus will also be available. As always, we are accepting monetary donations, pies, help, and crafts. All proceeds from June Fest go toward the funding of projects specifically for residents at St. Andrew's Village. Packets of information are being sent to church Key persons. For more information, please call Donna Kanyan at St. Andrew's Village (724) 464-1623. Hope to see you at June Fest!

Donna Kanyan,
Director of Activities and Volunteer Services

BETWEEN ME & THEE

I give thanks for the generosity of the members and sessions of this presbytery. At the May Presbytery meeting we heard witness given, twice more about the generous spirit of this presbytery.

The Rev. Ellie Johns was at the Presbytery meeting. Ellie is the Synod Representative for the **Theological Education Fund**. The TEF, a designated giving opportunity, is the means by which our denominational seminaries are financially supported. In 2005 this presbytery had 46 sessions providing some level of giving to the TEF. Additionally, Ellie informed us we had nearly doubled the level of our giving from 2004. Our giving to the TEF helps insure the preparation of future generations of ministers to serve congregations.

The Rev. Mary Marks King gave a report from the General Assembly Council. Mary is our representative on the GAC. Mary reported on the significant down-sizing of the GAC staff due to continuing decreases in contributions for the support of GAC programs, resources and activities. On the other hand, Mary reported this Presbytery was recognized at the April GAC meeting as being the tenth highest in per member giving to Basic Mission Support for 2005. This is the second time in three years that we have been in the top 10 of per member giving to Basic Mission Support.

All of this is on top of the overwhelming contributions in 2004 and 2005 in response to the various disasters which struck this country and across the globe. I give thanks to God for your generous hearts.

As most of you know the General Assembly will meet in Birmingham, Alabama from June 15th to June 22nd. There are a host of issues coming before the Assembly. The Report of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church is one of the more significant items. Last month we had The Rev. Dr. Mark Achtemeier, one of the Task Force members here to help us understand the report and its recommendations.

Our own Rev. Tom Jones, pastor of the Clarksburg Trinity congregation has been assigned to the Assembly Committee which will consider and recommend to the Assembly action concerning the Report. Keep Tom, Connie Bytner and Luke Speck in your prayers as they prepare and as they serve as our Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegate to this General Assembly meeting. Keep all the Commissioners and Delegates in your prayers.

You will be able to keep up with all the news from the Assembly by going to the presbytery website: www.kiskipby.org and clicking on the words "PCUSA GA WEBSITE" under the icon for the 217th General Assembly. Our Commissioners will be reporting to the Presbytery at the June Presbytery meeting on June 27th at Slate Lick.

Pray for the Spirit of God to move through the Assembly and pray we will recognize the movement of the Spirit.

Yours in service to Christ and the Church,

Wayne

News You Can Use

News from our Denomination

Get to Know Our Mission Workers



Did you know that the Presbyterian Church has 497 General Assembly-appointed mission workers and volunteers serving in 67 countries around the world? Each of these individuals has a powerful story of call, courage, and challenge. Learn more about them by visiting www.pcusa.org/missionconnections.

Contact them, encourage them, pray for them.

Preparing for the Next Influenza Pandemic

How seriously should we take the threat that avian flu will become the next pandemic flu? Seeking to inform, not to frighten, National Health Ministries (NHM) is developing a new section of the Web site, designed to provide basic information about pandemic flu. The site can be found at

<http://www.pcusa.org/health/usa/healthinfo/pandemic.htm>. This new section will also provide resources for use in congregations to help members understand the level of a possible threat and to help them prepare. Often, it is what we do not understand that frightens us most. Keeping Presbyterians up-to-date with reliable information and passing along the preparedness recommendations can help keep members from feeling as though they have no control. NHM will utilize the latest information that is regularly available through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and other reliable sources.

What is the General Assembly and What Does It Do?

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

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

And on a local note...

Upon approval of the 217th G.A., Pittsburgh will host the 2012 General Assembly.

Horizons Bible Study 2006-2007

"Perspectives on Genesis"

August 19, 2006

9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

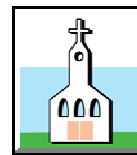
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

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



2006 Wee Kirk Conference

Small church leaders can save the dates of October 9 through 11, 2006 for the Northeast PA Wee Kirk



Conference at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA. Plenary speakers will be Harold Kurtz, Dale Allison, and Bruce Stevens. This conference is designed to inspire, equip, motivate, and encourage small PC(USA) churches and to provide rest and refreshment for clergy and lay leaders of these churches. Registration forms are available at the Kiski Presbytery Office, or contact Mark Unrue at 740-922-9190, or via email revun@sbcglobal.net.

Synod Summer Conference Meeting

June 5, 6, 7, Davis & Elkins College

Featured speakers will be Rev. Graham Standish and Rev. Eugenia Gamble. This will be a time for Commissioners, Synod Coordinating Teams, Networks, Committees and anyone who is interested in becoming awake - aware - alive to Christ in their lives and in their churches should attend. Register online at www.syntrinity.org, or call 800-242-0534 for more information.