



# 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  
November 2006

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## Highlights of November Presbytery Meeting

The Kiskiminetas Presbytery met in a stated meeting at the Blairsville Church on Saturday, November 11, 2006. Worship was led by Rev. Terri Swails and host pastor Rev. Timothy Monroe.

### Election of Officers

Officers elected for 2007 were Elder Bill Smith for Moderator and Rev. Jim Dietrich for Vice Moderator. Also elected for 5-year terms were Rev. Don Rising for Stated Clerk and Elder Fran Trusal for Assistant Stated Clerk.

### Presbyterian Women

Nancy Schrecengost reported that 45 men and women participated in the New Windsor Mission Trip. They transported assorted kits for distribution, and they worked for Church World Service sorting and baling clothes, as well as picking and pricing hand-crafted materials. Nancy also reported that 92 women attended the Fall Gathering, and approximately \$5,000 had been collected toward the mission project of supporting local church camps.

### Synod Commissioner Report

Rev. Gary Lyon, Synod Moderator-Elect for 2007, provided information on our 289-year old Synod and conducted a brief quiz about the Synod. He reminded the presbytery that an important *Book of Order* mandate for the Synod was mission, and spoke to some of the missional areas of ministry.

### Presbyterian Foundation Presentation

Phil Blake, Presbyterian Foundation Development Officer for our region, explained that the Foundation should be a part of each congregation's stewardship, finance, endowment, and planned giving committees. Investments are made in a socially responsible mutual fund. At present, 24 Kiski churches participate, and Phil is happy to field questions or set up meetings with individuals or groups.

### Acts 16:5 Reminder

Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes reminded churches interested in participating in the Acts 16:5 Initiative to indicate their intention to the presbytery office as soon as possible.

### Pastoral Transitions

Rev. Jim Dietrich reported for the Committee on Ministry, and the presbytery approved:

- ❖ dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Lea Austin and the Harmony United Church, and between Rev. John Helgeson and the Apollo Church
- ❖ interim minister contract for Rev. John Helgeson at the Brockway Church
- ❖ change in status for Rev. Tim Monroe from designated pastor to installed pastor at the United Church of Blairsville
- ❖ appointment of administrative commission for the installation of Rev. David Hanna at the Calvary, Indiana Church on November 19
- ❖ appointment of Rev. Stephanie Weaver as moderator of the Apollo congregation, and Rev. Matt Jones as moderator of the Penn Run, Harmony congregation

### *Muraho* (Hello) from the Kiski/Rwanda Partnership

An energetic and passionate team of 9 Mission Partnership members entertained, informed, and tugged at the heartstrings of presbytery members with their presentation. Singing and drumming, reminiscent of worship in Rwanda, energized the presbytery. Each team member shared specific activities or areas of ministry in Rwanda. A gift catalog was distributed, outlining areas of need and options for giving.

### Next Meeting

Rev. Marty Cartmell, Moderator, thanked the Blairsville congregation and Rev. Monroe for their hospitality. The meeting adjourned with prayer at 12:30 p.m. The presbytery was encouraged to remain after lunch for the "Presbytery @ Prayer," a time of prayer for our denomination, our country, our congregations, and each other. The next stated Presbytery meeting will take place on January 13, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Calvary Church in Indiana.

***"We need to rediscover the importance of prayer in these challenging times."***

Rev. Joan Gray,  
General Assembly Moderator

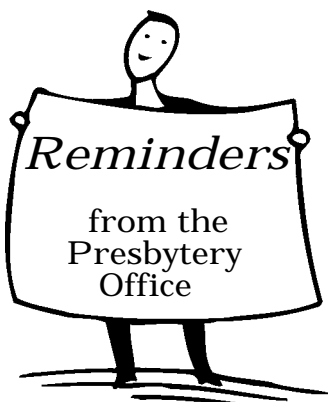
## PRESBYTERY OF KISKIMINETAS MISSION STATEMENT

**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.



- ◆ The **next Stated Meeting** of the Kiskiminetas Presbytery will take place at the Calvary Church in Indiana on Saturday, January 13, at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ The **year end cut-off** for per capita and mission payments for the 2006 calendar year is **Thursday, December 28, 2006**. All payments must be received by the Presbytery Office no later than noon on December 28. Any money received after this date will be posted to the 2007 calendar year.
- ◆ The **2007 per capita** per member will be \$24.39. This represents \$ 16.60 at the Presbytery level, \$2.00 at the Synod level, and \$5.79 at the General Assembly level.
- ◆ The **2007 standard mileage rates** for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be 48.5 cents.
- ◆ Forget to order your **2007 Mission Yearbook**? The Presbytery Office has a few extra copies, available on a first-come, first-serve basis at a cost of \$5 each. Contact Carol Mock at 724-783-7196 or via email at [carolm@kiskipby.org](mailto:carolm@kiskipby.org) to purchase one.
- ◆ The **mailing address for the Kiskiminetas Presbytery** is PO Box 339, Yatesboro, 16263. The physical street address is 71 W. Main Street, but all mail should be sent to the post office box address.

# 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))

### Christian Educator Honored

Terry Semsick, Christian Education Director at the United Presbyterian Church of Blairsville, was honored for her years of service to the congregation on Sunday, October 22 with a surprise appreciation party. A special luncheon was followed by a photo slide show, a musical presentation by children and youth, and personal memories and remarks.



### Surprise Anniversary Celebration

Rev. Kent Holmes of the Punxsutawney Church was honored on October 15 for his 15 years of service to the congregation, the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of his ordination, and 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary as a

Commissioned Church Worker. The morning worship included several surprises, followed by a luncheon celebration, program, and presentation of gifts.

### Calvary Church Welcomes New Pastor

The Calvary Church in Indiana welcomes Rev. David Hanna as installed pastor. David and his family come to Indiana from Dearborn, Michigan. A service of installation was held on November 19 at the church.

**Congratulations** to Rev. Gary Lyon, co-pastor of Cross Roads Community Church, elected to serve as the 2007 Moderator of the Synod of the Trinity.

### Positions Available

- ! The United Presbyterian Church of Freeport is looking for a music director/organist. For more information, call the church at 724-295-9252.
- ! St. Andrew's Village in Indiana, Pa. has a Chaplain's position available. We are looking for a Christian caring, compassionate individual who would enjoy providing spiritual support for our elderly residents. Please contact Donna Kanyan, Director of Activities and Volunteer Services, at (724) 464-1623 for more information.

### 2007 Youth Triennium Reminder

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) is a gathering of 6,000 Presbyterian youth and adults from the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Participants must be at least 15 years old and no older than 19 years old on July 17, 2007. Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are assigned a limited number of spaces. Delegations must include one adult for every nine young people. At this point, the Kiski quota has been raised to 30 spaces, including adult advisors. Adult advisors must be at least 22 years old on July 17, 2007.



Presbytery Triennium registration opens on January 5, 2007, and Kiski online registration will also be available on that date. A deposit of \$50 per person must be received with the form to hold the registration, and online registration is not complete until the deposit is received in the Presbytery Office. The Kiski registration deadline is February 15. The balance for all registrations is due on April 2, 2007. When we receive registration information from the Triennium, we will forward print registration forms to the churches.

### 2007 Mileage Reimbursement Rates Announced

The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2007 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- \$ 48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- \$ 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes;
- \$ 14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 44.5 cents per mile for 2006. The new rate for medical and moving purposes compares to 18 cents in 2006.

# News You Can Use

**“Lift Up Your Eyes on  
High and See...”  
National Pastors’ Sabbath  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
June 28-July 2, 2007**



In 2005, over 650 pastors and spouses gathered at the National Pastors’ Sabbath. The 2007 gathering promises to be just as rewarding. Come join your brothers and sisters in ministry for a time apart, a place away...a Sabbath for rest, reflection, and renewal. More information is available at [www.pcusa.org/pastorsabbath](http://www.pcusa.org/pastorsabbath) or by calling 888-828-7228, ext 2417.

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**Rest for the Journey:  
Spirituality for  
Ministry & Mission  
The 2007 Synod of the  
Trinity Summer  
Conference  
June 13-15, 2007  
Arcadia University,  
Glenside PA**

The official announcement of the Synod’s 2007 Summer Conference has been made and we are very pleased to reveal that The Rev. Joan Gray, Moderator of the 217 PC(USA) General Assembly, will not only be our keynote speaker but will join us for the entire three day conference. The planning committee is very excited about this year’s program and wishes to get the word out as soon as possible and we are asking for your assistance.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Synod office at 800-242-0534.

**Presbyterian Historical Society  
Announces 2007 Local Church History  
Seminar**

The Presbyterian Historical Society is pleased to announce the dates for the annual Local Church History Seminar. From April 19 to 22, 2007, the society will hold its 29th annual seminar at the William Black Lodge in Montreat, North Carolina. The event is designed for persons interested in the management and preservation of records, and writing congregation history. The seminar features workshops on Presbyterian history, oral history, researching and writing a church history, managing and preserving congregation records, disaster planning, exhibits, and anniversary celebrations.

The society is pleased to offer three scholarships for participants from small churches: two granted by the society and another sponsored by the Board of Directors of the William Black Lodge. Each scholarship covers the seminar fee and the housing costs. The Lodge Scholarship is awarded only to congregations of the Synod of Mid-Atlantic. All scholarships are open to congregations that have no more than 250 members, have been in existence for at least 50 years, and demonstrate financial need.

For additional information about the seminar, scholarships, housing at the William Black Lodge, and for a seminar registration form, visit the society’s website at: <http://www.history.pcusa.org/cong/lchs/index.html>

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**Adult Help Needed for  
2007 Triennium**

July, 2007 may seem far away, but Kiski Presbytery is already trying to identify candidates for the positions of adult advisors, including adult team leaders. If your congregation would like to nominate an adult, please contact Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes at [erinch@kiskipby.org](mailto:erinch@kiskipby.org) for further information about qualifications.

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

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

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



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

# ***Rwanda Mission Team Shares the Story***



## ***Team Members Present Programs for Kiski Congregations***

The Rwanda team has been busy since their return from Africa. In the time since their homecoming, they've either already covered or are scheduled for almost 30% of the churches in the Kiskiminetas Presbytery. The geographical spread of the team members enables them to cover every corner of the Presbytery. As your church plans their program calendar for 2007, please keep the Rwanda team in mind. They are anxious and willing to come to your church to present their program during worship time, or to Bible study groups, Presbyterian Women gatherings, or special mission programs in your church.

The members of the group are Chuck Bollinger and Kay Smith from Indiana/Graystone; Jack Loucks, United Presbyterian in Blairsville; Rev. Marty Cartmell, our Presbytery Moderator and pastor of St. Benedicts and St. Pauls; Betty Grunstra from the Brookville Church; Donna Douth from the Presbytery office; Rev. Boyd Edmondson of Mt. Tabor and Marienville churches; and Sally and Fred Carrier, members of Shiloh Church in St. Marys. To schedule a speaker, you can call the Presbytery office at 724-783-7196 or any of the team members.



The Partnership Gift Catalog is ready. If your church is planning their mission giving for 2007, you may request the catalog by calling the office, or view and print it from the Presbytery website at [http://www.kiskipby.org/Rwanda/Partnership\\_Catalog.pdf](http://www.kiskipby.org/Rwanda/Partnership_Catalog.pdf).

Please reflect on this important partnership when considering your 2007 mission pledges. Needs are many around the world. As representatives of the Presbytery, our team has seen firsthand how we can serve, share, and learn with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the churches of Rwanda.

We are also looking for Kiskiminetas churches to partner with our Rwanda churches. The Mpushi Church in Rwanda, a small rural church, has entered into a prayer relationship with the rural churches of Marienville and Mt. Tabor. November 18 is a day of mutual fasting and prayer for these churches.

You can expand your horizons and bring your mission giving and caring close to home by helping to support our local Kiskiminetas/Rwanda partnership.





# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NOVEMBER 2006



## Mission Trip



### Church World Service, New Windsor, Maryland

45 men and women (our largest group for several years) enjoyed the fellowship of each other and renewed friendships on our 3 day trip Sept. 26-28. Our bus was filled with mission projects such as blankets, sheets, baby layettes, health, school and clean up kits. On day one we toured 2 churches in Gettysburg that were used as hospitals during the Civil War and had lunch and shopped at Boyd's Bears. On days 2 & 3 the warehouse group packed 167 bales (each

100#) of clothing for disaster relief and the SERRV group processed over 8,000 pieces of handcrafted items. Again we thank Kay Deasey for making all the arrangements and for keeping us all straight. Mark your calendars and plan to join us next year Sept 25-27.

### PW Fall Gathering

I hope you were able to attend the PW Fall Gathering in Brookville on Oct. 4. We had a glorious day with much fun and celebration. Our appreciation to guest speakers Rev. Lorrie Ghering of Sligo and International Peacemaker Bishop Constante Claro from the Philippines. May God continue to bless each of them and their ministries. Thanks to our workshop leaders Eulene, Debbie, Judy and Betty, to the women of Brookville church, to all that helped in so many ways to make the day a huge success, and to you for coming. Our offering for the Synod PW mission project to support our local church camps is over \$5,000 and still growing. Again, our sincere thanks to all of you.



### Moderators:

Please share these newsletters with the women of your congregation. Copy them, post them or whatever you want to keep everyone informed.

## Reminder

Mission pledge forms due now in November.	Officers list due Jan. 1.	Mission opportunities report due Jan 5.
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As we now enter the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I want to say **"Thank You"** to the women of Kiskiminetas. Thank you for all your support to the ministry of God's Word and to me personally. Together in service, we have done much for God's people. We have supported each other thru prayer and Bible study, with our mission givings and community gatherings. May we look forward to 2007 with hope, celebration, and renewal. May we continue to work for justice and peace, and witness to the promise of God's kingdom. Have a joyous holiday, and God bless each of you.

Sincerely,  
Sally

## ACTS 16:5 INITIATIVE NEWS

There's good news for congregations still discerning whether to join the Acts 16:5 Initiative. **The original deadline of December 1 has been extended to January 4.** The extra time will allow Sessions the opportunity to view the Acts 16:5 DVD. The initial DVDs were flawed, and the presbytery now has new copies for any congregation which would like one.



There's also *great* news for congregations that would like to join this exciting journey of transformation, but were unable to attend the start-up event. The Vital Church Institute, led by Dr. Stan Ott, is finishing up DVDs featuring most of the content of the Start-Up seminar. This will enable Acts 16:5 teams to get up to speed.

*What is the Acts 16:5 Initiative?*

*"The churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." Acts 16:5*

Through the Acts 16:5 Initiative, congregations are invited to engage in a deliberate process of congregational transformation. This process permits a congregation to develop an understanding of the transformational congregation that is simultaneously communal (serving the congregation itself) and missional (reaching the surrounding community).

The Acts 16:5 process engages pastors and congregational leaders with the theology of transformational ministry and addresses the practical matters of implementation. Under the umbrella of the work of the Holy Spirit, there are a great many factors that influence the transformation and development of any given congregation. Such factors include: 1). a biblically-based Defining Vision, 2). a ministry design process, 3). relationships and accountability, 4). leadership, and 5). time. The Acts 16:5 process is designed to bring these factors together.

A full overview of the two-year process can be viewed on the presbytery website. It is easily located on the mainpage in the Acts 16:5 section, or can be accessed here:

<http://www.kiskipby.org/acts165/acts165overview.pdf>.

The Presbytery Council has voted to be a partner with Acts 16:5 congregations, and will share the costs of the Initiative. The application, including financial grant information can also be found on the website, using the presbytery password. If you do not have the password, it may be obtained from the presbytery office. Questions? Contact Erin Cox-Holmes at the office.

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## LEADER DEVELOPMENT DAY SET FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2007



Mark your calendars now for **Leader Development Day on February 11, 2007 from 3-6:45 p.m at the Marion Center Church.** This popular event provides Basic Training for Elders and Deacons, Clerk of Session Training, the annual Treasurer's workshop, and a Leader Development Opportunity for pastors, lay pastors, and church leaders.

This year's theme is on Spiritual Formation. The featured speaker is Dr. Martha Robbins, from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Martha Robbins, the Joan Marshall associate professor of pastoral care, has been a member of the Pittsburgh Seminary faculty since 1986. An Episcopalian, Martha earned her bachelor's from Maryville College, master's from St. Louis University, and Th.D. from Harvard University. Her academic and pastoral interests have revolved around the wholistic understanding of human beings' physical, psychological, and spiritual development and the role of faith in healing broken connections. A licensed clinical psychologist, Robbins brings this wide range of academic and clinical experience to life in her teaching. She is the author of numerous publications. Dr. Robbins is known for her engaging presenting style.

**The Presbyterian Historical Society**  
announces the  
**29th Annual**  
**Seminar on Local Church History**

**April 19-22, 2007**  
at the  
**William Black Lodge**  
**Montreat, North Carolina**

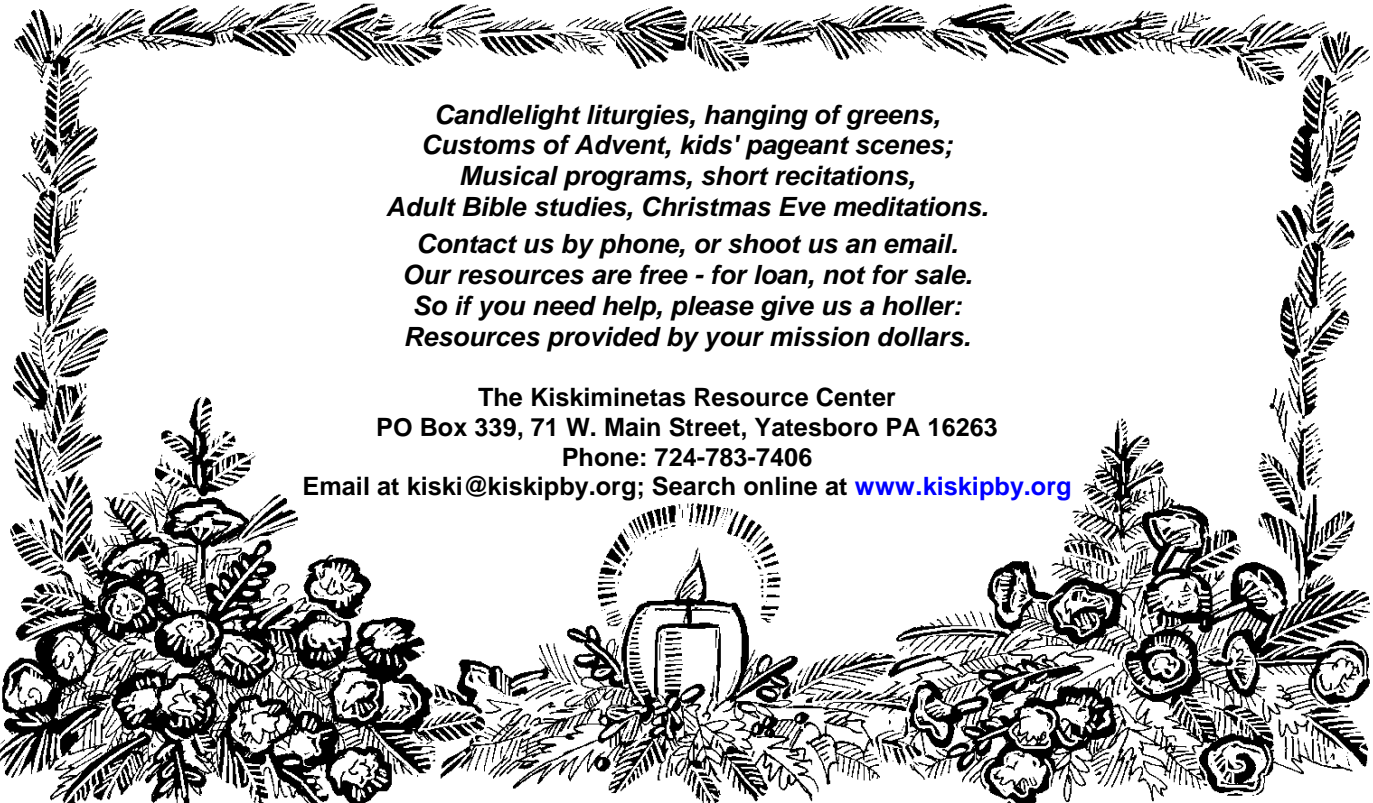
**Workshops On:**

- Presbyterian History
- Oral History
- Writing a Congregation History
- Managing and Preserving Congregation Records
- Exhibit Planning
- Disaster Preparedness
- Celebrating a Congregation Anniversary



For more information or an application  
contact:

Presbyterian Historical Society  
425 Lombard Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
215-627-1852  
[refdesk@history.pcusa.org](mailto:refdesk@history.pcusa.org)



*Candlelight liturgies, hanging of greens,  
Customs of Advent, kids' pageant scenes;  
Musical programs, short recitations,  
Adult Bible studies, Christmas Eve meditations.*

*Contact us by phone, or shoot us an email.  
Our resources are free - for loan, not for sale.  
So if you need help, please give us a holler:  
Resources provided by your mission dollars.*

The Kiskiminetas Resource Center  
PO Box 339, 71 W. Main Street, Yatesboro PA 16263  
Phone: 724-783-7406  
Email at [kiski@kiskipby.org](mailto:kiski@kiskipby.org); Search online at [www.kiskipby.org](http://www.kiskipby.org)

