



News for the Churches

Presbytery of Kiskiminetas
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Yatesboro, PA 16263
January 2007

Officers Installed at January Presbytery Meeting

The Kiskiminetas Presbytery met at 10:00 a.m. at the Calvary Church in Indiana on Saturday, January 13. Worship was led by outgoing moderator Rev. Marty Cartmell and host pastor Rev. David Hanna. The service included the celebration of the Lord's Supper and a time to remember those elders and ministers who had died in 2006.

New Officers Installed

Elder Bill Smith and Rev. Jim Dietrich were installed as 2007 Moderator and Vice Moderator of Presbytery, respectively. Rev. Cartmell was recognized for her service and presented with a gavel. Pam Cavalier was re-elected as Recording Clerk, and Fran Trusal was named Stated Clerk Pro Tem. Rev. Don Rising was honored with a plaque recognizing his 5 years of service as Stated Clerk.

Camping Association Report

Rev. Jay Montgomery spoke of the renewed focus of the camping ministry. He announced that both camps, Lambec and Westminster, would be offering summer camping in 2007 and special group camping events throughout the year.

Candidate to Be Ordained

Preparation for Ministry Chair Rev. T.J. Parlette introduced candidate Johanna Wagner, who read her statement of faith, was examined, and was approved for ordination. Johanna is a member of the Lewisville Ebenezer Church and a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She will serve as Chaplain and Chair of the Religion Department at the Williston Northampton School in Massachusetts.

Upcoming Presbytery Events

Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes highlighted the upcoming Leader Training Event on February 11, featuring basic training for elders, deacons, treasurers, and clerks, in addition to a keynote presentation by Dr. Martha Robbins. She also announced that the Acts 16:5 Initiative has 14 churches participating, with the next meeting date set for March 8.

Rwanda Partnerships Established

Kay Smith shared information about the ongoing Rwanda presentations throughout the presbytery, noting that 4 partnerships between Kiski congregations and sister congregations in Rwanda have been formed. A total of \$27,549 to date has been contributed by our churches to the Rwanda partnership. Kay also reported for the Diaconal Committee that the Prison Task Force provided a Christmas worship service for 26 inmates at SCI Pine Grove, and that 700 large Hershey bars and 700 Little Debbie cakes were given as gifts.

Committee on Ministry Notes

On behalf of COM, Rev. Jim Dietrich:

- moved the reception as a first reading of the "Process to Extend Authorization to Moderate Session to Commissioned Lay Pastors."

- moved dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Donald Rising and the Dayton Glade Run congregation, effective February 28.

- Don has accepted a call to the Wicomico Presbyterian Church in the New Castle Presbytery. Members said farewell and expressed best wishes to Don.

- announced that Rev. Terri Swails would chair COM in 2007, and that Rev. Mark Davis, Rev. Bruce Shannon, and Elder Roberta Dinsmore would serve as COM coordinators of Districts 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

- reminded ministers and treasurers that the 2007 changes in terms of call forms are to be turned into the Presbytery Office as soon as possible for approval at the March meeting.

Next Meeting

Moderator Smith thanked the members of the Calvary congregation for the delicious lunch and the hospitality expressed. He adjourned the meeting with prayer at 1:40 p.m. The next stated meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the West Glade Run Church.

U Please note: the Presbytery newsletter "News for the Churches" will no longer be published as a print document. It will be replaced by the Kiski Enews, which will be emailed to those people in the presbytery database beginning in March. Watch for more information about the upcoming Enews!

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.

DON'T MISS THIS!

VBS Preview Kit Open House February 6 & 7, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Resource Center in Yatesboro



This 2-day Open House is an opportunity for all Vacation Bible School planners to view preview kits from Gospel Light, Augsburg, Standard, David C. Cook, Group, and Cokesbury. Take some time to explore each, view the DVDs, listen to the music, and compare. The kits will be available for a limited checkout period after March 13.

Some permanent VBS pieces can also be borrowed, and a few of the 2006 kits are available free of charge to the first interested persons. For more information, contact the Resource Center at 724-783-7406.

Please Note . . .

- < 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.
- < Effective January 1, 2007, **Pennsylvania's minimum wage is increasing to \$6.25** per hour. This rate will be in effect for 6 months until July 1, 2007, at which time the rate will increase to \$7.15 an hour. For more information, contact the Presbytery Office.



BETWEEN ME & THEE

I have been confronted with two phrases which, on the surface, seem contradictory. One phrase is from Scripture and the other from the Book of Order. I know some people would not be surprised that the one would seem to contradict the other. Actually, I believe both statements are true.

The first statement is found in Matthew 16:18 (NRSV). *“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”*

The second statement is found in the Book of Order G-3.0000. *The Church of Jesus Christ is the provisional demonstration of what God intends for all of humanity.*

The first statement seems to point to the permanence of the Church. The second to the church as something which is less than permanent. In the first instance, Jesus was not referring to Peter but to the declaration of faith (Mt 16:16) proclaimed by Peter when he said, *on this rock I will build my church*. We have to refer back to Matthew 7:24-27 and the story of building a house on rock or on sand. The rock upon which the church is built, is faith in Jesus as *“The Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”* (Mt. 16:16)

The citation from the Book of Order reminds us that our buildings, our structures, our programs, our congregations are all “provisional.” Provisional means “arranged or existing for the present, possibly to be changed later.” We live in an area of the country where some of the oldest congregations exist. Just a few weeks ago the 300th anniversary of the first Presbyterian congregation in America was celebrated. Some of the congregations of this Presbytery are 200 years old. While that may seem like a long time, it is nothing compared to some congregations in Europe which go back into the 10th Century and earlier. They are nothing compared to the congregations in the Mid-East which go back to the first years of the Church.

As American Presbyterians, we were once referred to as “main line.” The denominations which grew out of European roots once dominated the Protestant landscape. It was once said, “Presbyterians are more dense in Western Pennsylvania than anywhere else.” That was probably true in several meanings of “dense.” Now, we, and several other denominations, are referred to as “old line or side lined.”

I do not believe that must be the case. However, I do see that if we keep doing the same old things the same old ways our house will be blown down by the winds and washed out to the depths of the seas by the waves. One definition of insanity is, “Doing the same thing over and over, but expecting a different result.”

For many of us the “way we have always done it” is to be the “way we will always do it.” We forget the provisional nature of the church. When we forget its provisional nature, we tend to move into idolatry. There are significant pieces of our theology, polity and liturgy which should be held on to. They are the bedrock of who we are as Presbyterian Christians. Deacons, elders and ministers are all asked the ordination/ installation question, *Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?*

Peter’s confession is essential. Our buildings, our programs, our systems, everything we hold dear in the church are provisional, “arranged or existing for the present, possibly to be changed later.”

Yours in service to Christ and the Church,

Wayne Yost

The Kiski Digest

Highlighting Some of the Churches and People in our Presbytery



From St. Andrew's Village

On behalf of all the residents and staff of St. Andrew's Village, I would like to thank everyone for their outstanding support of the 2006 Christmas Gift and Stocking Stuffer program. We are grateful beyond words, for all the kindness that was shown. Not only did many churches provide gifts, stockings stuffers, and money to purchase the gifts for those whose names weren't given out, but both the Marion Center Presbyterian and Dayton Glade Run Presbyterian churches brought their youth to assist at the Christmas party. We have been blessed by so many people this Christmas! May God bless each and every one of you in the New Year!

Calvary Church Celebrates 200 Years

2007 will feature several Bicentennial events at the Calvary Church in Indiana, beginning with hosting the January Presbytery meeting where Moderator Bill Smith was installed. Special activities will occur throughout the year, with a Bicentennial and Homecoming dinner and special worship service to take place in October.

Seminary Assistant at Union Church

Blake Hudson, an Inquirer of Greater Atlanta Presbytery, is doing his field education with the congregation of the Union Church, Cowansville, and Rev. Mary Marks King. Blake spends 8-10 hours per week in the field in addition to taking a full course load at the seminary. His duties include helping to lead worship, teach Sunday School, lead Bible study, and shadowing Mary during visitation, meetings, and congregational events. The congregation undertook this responsibility as a way of being in mission in theological education, believing that offering experience in the smaller church is an important contribution to that endeavor. Members see themselves as helping to educate future pastors.

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 4, 2007

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 4, volunteers, mostly young people armed with soup pots, will be collecting canned goods and dollars at churches, businesses and Super Bowl parties for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. The Presbyterian-founded, youth-oriented anti-hunger campaign takes advantage of the NFL championship game to raise money for the poor and ill-nourished. The program has raised \$33 million for charities like food banks and soup kitchens since its inception in 1990. Organizers hope this year to get 17,000 congregations from a variety of faith groups involved and raise \$8 million.



"This God-given idea that began with one church youth group is transforming Super Bowl Sunday into the largest youth-led day of giving and serving in our country," said the Rev. Brad Smith, a Presbyterian minister who founded the Souper Bowl of Caring and serves as its executive director.

The groups that participate are asked only to report their totals so that a national figure can be calculated. All the money raised is given to local charities by the groups who raise it.

"Presbyterians have a rich history and strong tradition of bearing witness of the gospel to the world," Smith said. "The Souper Bowl of Caring is a contemporary example of that."

Second Mission Trip for Cross Roads Group

Nine members of the Cross Roads Community Church in Leechburg, including pastors Gary & Lisa Lyon, traveled to Mississippi in January to work on properties affected by the hurricane disasters of a year ago. Read about their experience at the church's web page (www.crcpc.org) by clicking on Mission 2007.

Our banner is finished and it's gorgeous!

The Resource Center is proud to display a beautiful new banner featuring the logo designed by Chris Goossen. Visit us at the Resource Center in Yatesboro to browse a marvelous collection of almost 4,400 resources, and check out the banner. Many thanks to Nancy Schrecengost and Jeanne Henry for their work.



You're Invited

The congregation of the Dayton Glade Run Church invites you to an Open House on Sunday, February 18, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. to share food, fellowship, and farewell wishes with their pastor, Rev. Dr. Donald Rising. The Open House will be in the Academy, located beside the church at 2540 Dayton Smicksburg Rd. After 9 years at DGR, Don has accepted a call to the Wicomico Presbyterian Church in Salisbury MD beginning March 1st.

Triennium Reminder

Registrations for the 2007 Youth Triennium at Purdue University, July 17-22, are now being accepted. Check the December InfoPak or the packet for the January Presbytery meeting for registration forms and information, or contact the Presbytery Office at 724-783-7196.

Update from the Kiski/Rwanda Partnership

As most of you know, a Team from Kiskiminetas Presbytery visited the African nation of Rwanda in September 2006. The Team returned with memories that will never leave them and have shared these in person with more than 30 congregations in the Presbytery. The stories are not only of unspeakable terror and tragedy but also of a faith in God's goodness that fosters hope in the lives of the population. This hope is being fulfilled by the generosity of the people and churches of Kiskiminetas.



Contributions totaling \$12,075.00, from a Bible Study group and Prime Time Sunday School class at Indiana Graystone and from two members of Bethel Church, have been designated for use in completing a dormitory for orphaned girls at the Presbyterian Center for the Love of Youth. Other contributions will support our partnership with the Gitarama Region of the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda. Altogether, the Presbytery has sent approximately \$28,000.00 to the region, over and above the denominational contributions. Of more importance, at least three small churches have entered into direct partnerships with individual churches there.

Are you, your church, small group, youth program or Sunday School class able to give further support to the education, evangelization, or care for orphans and persons with HIV/AIDS, an effort that will make a difference in the lives of people who have so much need and such strong faith? By American standards, a little does a lot: \$100.00 will pay a teacher's salary and a primary student's tuition (including meals) for a month. Challenge yourself and challenge your friends in Christ to do what you can to help. And remember, "Inasmuch as you have done this for the least of these, my children..."

Checks payable to Kiskiminetas Presbytery and marked for Rwanda Partnership may be submitted with your church's Mission Remittance form. Opportunities to designate money to specific needs can be found in The Partnership Gift Catalog, available at your church or the Presbytery office. Contributions are reported at each Presbytery meeting.

In December, the first financial transfer of contributed funds was transacted. Following is a translated note from Pastor Eugene Rubanda, the Regional Director of Gitarama (their equivalent to our General Presbyter) expressing appreciation for our gifts:

"Everyone in the Region where you visited send you greetings. The Kabadaha church and Mpushi church are thankful for the assistance. Thank you for helping us. It is like a cup of cold water given to a thirsty person. Surely it will not be forgotten in hearts and in front of God. Please convey our lovely greetings to our fellow Christians in Kiskiminetas Presbytery.
In God's love, EUGENE

Rwanda Angels

Members of the Beechwoods Presbyterian Church of Falls Creek have been able to make a generous contribution to the Center for the Love of Children in Rwanda. Their choir director, Jeanne Henry, and her sisters have created these little Rwanda Angels, approximately 4 inches high, that are available for a \$5 contribution. Proceeds from the angels all go for the homeless children at the Center.

There are approximately 6,000 homeless children in Rwanda, and the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda runs the Center to feed, educate, and clothe some of these children. Now through the generous contributions of our Presbytery, a dormitory will be completed to accommodate some of the children at night.

For more information about the Rwanda Angels, you can contact the Beechwoods Presbyterian Church at 814-371-2981.



Please see the next page for a current list of contributors to the Rwanda Partnership.

The Presbytery also thanks the following churches, groups, and individuals who contributed to the Rwanda Partnership through December of 2006:



Biesinger, Jane
Blair, Mrs. & Mrs. Sid
Burwell, S. L.
Carrier, Mrs. & Mrs. David
Carrier, Mrs. & Mrs. Fred in honor of Martha
Carrier & Mary Jane Bryant & in memory of
Becky Carrier Bieber
Cassel, Rev. Richard
Doutt, Donna
Edmondson, Rev. Boyd, Shirley, & Matthew
Frank, Mrs. & Mrs. Douglas
Goossen, Rev. Robert & Chris
Grunstra, Rev. Maynard & Betty
Hetrick, Mrs. & Mrs. Lenny
Hilyer, Waynda in Memory of Carole Pentz
LaMorte, Mr. & Mrs. John in memory of Herman &
Jean Neal & John & Grace LaMorte
Lehman, Neil
Lindgren, Deborah
Loucks, Jack
Lundgren, Debbie
Masler, Ila Anne
McDonald, Robert

Shane, William & Esther
Shannon, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick
Shearer, Mr. & Mrs. Glen
Smith, Kay & David
Stahlman, Mrs. & Mrs. Nelson
Taylor, Lola
Varughese, Keiko
Viser, Peggy

Beth El Covenant Community Fund/Indiana
Clarksburg/Trinity Presbyterian Church
Dayton Glade Run Presbyterian Church
East Brady Presbyterian Church
Elderton Presbyterian Church
Falls Creek/Beechwoods Presbyterian Church
Indiana/Graystone Presbyterian Church
Indiana/Graystone Prime Time Sunday School Class
Marion Center/Gilgal Presbyterian Church
Rochester Mills Presbyterian Church
Sigel/Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church
Slate Lick Presbyterian Women
St. Marys/Shiloh Presbyterian Church
William G Mechling Insurance Agency

News You Can Use

"Lift Up Your Eyes on High & 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 or by calling 888-828-7228, ext 2417.



11th Annual Summer Youth Institute July 7-21, 2007

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Students entering their senior year of high school will enjoy 2 weeks of theological inquiry and spiritual formation. Acceptance begins April 1. For a brochure or more information, call 1-800-451-4194 or visit www.summeryouthinstitute.org.



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.

Meet Marcus Borg March 16-18, Sixth Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh

Dr. Marcus Borg, internationally renowned Jesus scholar and author, will be at Sixth Presbyterian, 1688 Murray Avenue, the weekend of March 16-18, presenting lectures on Friday evening and Saturday, and leading Sunday School and worship on Sunday. Watch for registration information at www.sixthchurch.org or call 412-421-2752.

Faith in Times of Transition

led by Dr. Martha Robbins

For Pastors and Church Leaders



So often we think of Christian faith as having a set of beliefs or truths given to us by Scripture and Tradition to guide our lives as Christians. We forget that faith is also a journey encompassing moments of rupture, transition, darkness, insight or revelation, and a re-patterning of our lives in Christian discipleship and mission. In this seminar, author and professor Martha Robbins helps participants explore the transformative gift of prayer and faith during the unsettling times of transition in our lives, our congregations, and our world. Dr. Robbins not only offers rich biblical, theological, psychological and spiritual insights in dealing with transitions, but also invites and guides participants in reflections, exercises, and spiritual practices that deepen our journey in faith.

Martha Robbins, Th.D., is Joan Marshall Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where she teaches courses in spiritual formation, pastoral care and counseling, family systems among others.



Dr. Robbins has led national and international workshops on various aspects of Christian Spirituality, Discernment, and Prayer, and Spiritual Growth. Martha, also a licensed psychologist, continues to explore the role of imagination, prayer and faith in the dynamics of healing and transformation from both psychological and Christian perspectives.

An Episcopalian, Dr. Robbins is a graduate of Maryville University (B.A.), St. Louis University (M.A.) and Harvard University (Th.D). She is the author of *Midlife Women and Death of Mother*, numerous journal articles, and three professional CD's on *Guided Meditations on Sacred Scripture: Come and See, What Do You Want, and Put Into the Deep*. For more information about these resources or to order them visit www.martharobbins.net.

SCHEDULE FOR LEADER DEVELOPMENT DAY

2:30 p.m. REGISTRATION & FELLOWSHIP

3:00 p.m. WORKSHOPS:

1. **“Faith in Times of Transition”** Led by Martha Robbins
2. **BASIC TRAINING FOR ELDERS** *Transformational Ministries Comm*
This workshop will provide basic training for new elders, and for those who would like a better grasp of their responsibilities and to know more about the Presbyterian Church (USA).
3. **BASIC TRAINING FOR DEACONS** *Diaconal Ministries Comm*
This workshop will provide basic training for new deacons, and for those who would like a better grasp of their responsibilities and to know more about the Presbyterian Church (USA).
4. **CLERK OF SESSION TRAINING** led by Don Rising, *Stated Clerk*
All Clerks of Session of local congregations who have NOT previously received Clerk of Session training should plan to attend this vital and essential training. Clerks who HAVE been trained are also encouraged to attend to learn about new issues and developments.
5. **CHURCH TREASURERS** led by the *Presbytery Administration Committee & Treasurer*
This workshop will provide overviews of the responsibilities of treasurers and respond to your questions about the PC (U.S.A.).

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

6:45 p.m. EVENT CONCLUDES

The Cost for Leader Development 2007 is \$8.00 (with or without dinner.) Leader Development 2007 is sponsored by the Transformational Ministries Committee. The day is provided with little direct cost to participants through your Mission Dollars.

Looking for more help on faith development in changing times? Check out resources available to all members of the presbytery at the **Kiski Resource Center**. Visit us at 71 W. Main Street in Yatesboro, phone 724-783-7406, email kiski@kiskipby.org, or visit online at www.kiskipby.org.

