

Kiski Courier



Presbytery of Kiskiminetas

September 2009



“Deep and Wide” events:

November 14 & 15 with Rev. Raafat Girgis

PC(USA) Associate for Multi-cultural Ministries.

Co-sponsored by the Kiskiminetas Committees on Representation & Transformational Ministries

Presbytery Meeting

Saturday, November 14, 2009

Grace Presbyterian Church, Kittanning

In the morning, the Rev. Girgis will preach and interpret his ministry with the PC(USA).

Grow the Church Deep and Wide:

PT 2 —The Practice

Sunday, November 15, 2009

Calvary Presbyterian Church, Indiana

3:00 to 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner

1:00 P.M. Grow Christ’s Church Deep & Wide Workshop Part 1—

for Pastors, Elders and Church Leaders

In 2008, the General Assembly of the PCUSA approved a strategy to “grow the church of Jesus Christ Deep and Wide.” This workshop will help you understand the growing diversity in your community, discuss God’s intention for the church, and provide tools for a holistic evangelism .

In the second part of this workshop, we will start with a summary of the biblical and theological foundation for a holistic approach to evangelism, using cutting edge media resources to explore innovative approaches for growing the church deep and wide. We will then undertake the practice of transforming outreach ministry that leads us from where we are to where we become, from a declining church to thriving and growing community of faith. We will do so through a discussion around leadership, vision, models of ministry, community outreach, worship and music, Christian Education, and team building.



For the last eight years, Raafat has been on the staff of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He holds multiple degrees in Social Sciences, and Theology. His work experience includes ministering churches, teaching , and lecturing in conferences in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and North America. An ordained minister, Raafat is married to Phoebe Girgis. They have three daughters.

Register online or by phoning the Presbytery office, 724-783-7196 or email kiski@kiskipby.org

Registration Deadline: November 3

There is no charge to attendees for the workshops.

Sunday’s Dinner Cost: \$5.00

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Grow You Church Deep And Wide	Cover	News from PW	Page 6
Announcements	Page 2	Rwanda Partnership Committee	Page 6
News From Erin Cox-Holmes	Page 3	Between Me and Thee—Wayne Yost	Page 7
Resource Center	Pages 4-5	2010 Youth Triennium Information	Page 8



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH LEADERS' WORKSHOP

Breakthroughs for Youth Ministry
Friday, October 23, 2009, 5:00 PM through

Saturday, October 24, 2009,
at 5:00 PM

At Westminster Highlands,
Emlenton, PA

Workshop Goals:

- To Provide tangible and useful youth ministry tools for congregational youth leaders to use in their programming.
- To provide spiritual development tools and experiences that will enrich the ministry of the youth leaders and those they serve
- To encourage networking among youth leaders on local, Presbytery and Northwest PA levels.

To Register, go to

<http://www.capnwp.org/>

and click on **Youth Leader Workshop** to download the registration form

DEADLINE TO REGISTER

IS OCTOBER 9th!



Creation and Re-Creation

An evening of biblical stories and folk tales about our beginning...

And our new beginning!

As told by

The Rev. T.J. Parlette
Pastor, Brookville Presbyterian Church
Certified Biblical Storyteller

October 25, 2009

7:00 pm

Pisgah Presbyterian Church
36 Church Street
Corsica, PA

Our Young Adult Volunteers



Gloria King is working with Young Adult Volunteers and is serving in New Orleans, LA. She is volunteering at the University of New Orleans Center for Hazard Assessment and Risk Technologies. Her work involves creating educational literature for long-term education and public policy advocacy for preserving the wetlands. She is far from home, but takes comfort in the fact that God is with her and she asks for your continued prayers.



Katelyn Hendrickson is working for the World Mission Initiative with the World Christian Discipleship Program in Pittsburgh, PA. Along with working in a local business, volunteering in a local ministry and working in a local church, she will also go on a 2-4 week cross-cultural mission trip. Any donations made to help with Katelyn's cost are greatly appreciated. You can send any donations to the Presbytery Office marked for Katelyn with the YAV.



The Kiskiminetas Presbytery raised over \$20,500 to buy Motorbikes for our Ministers in Rwanda!

That is almost enough for **3 BIKES!**

THANK YOU!!!

You can continue to send money in to the Presbytery Office for Motorbikes for Ministers



Dear Friends –

As most of you will have heard by now, we will soon be saying “goodbye.” At the November Presbytery meeting, I will ask the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas to concur with my request to dissolve our relationship, so that I may accept the call of Donegal Presbytery to be their next Executive Presbyter, beginning January 1.

Let me repeat what I said in my letter to pastors and clerks of session: While I am excited about this new call, I also feel the deepest sadness. I have loved my 18 years residing in the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas and my fifteen years on the staff. As a Presbytery, you have affirmed my ministry. You have equipped me with the skills needed to serve in these changing times. You have celebrated my gifts and been forgiving of my failures. You have supported our family in difficult health circum-

stances. You have been genuine friends and colleagues. I will miss the mission and ministry we share here in Kiski. Leaving is hard to do.

I am deeply grateful for, and commend to you the Presbytery Staff. Holly, Carol, Debbie, and Wayne labor tirelessly for the health of our congregations. My departure will add to the workloads each of them carry, and I know that you share my gratitude for their work. I extend to each of them my sincere thanks for their friendship, their patience, and for the excellent spirit we share in working together.

The staff and I are working together to ensure a smooth transition. My prayers are with you as you look toward the exciting future to which God is calling you.

And, I have a request to make of you. Just last spring, the Presbytery celebrated my 15

years on the staff with a surprise “shower” of cards and gifts. I continue to be so very grateful for my scrapbook, which will go with me as a treasure. As I depart so soon after that grand occasion, if you would like to make a donation in my honor, please contribute, at my urging, to our two stunning Young Adult Volunteers, Gloria King and Katelyn Hendrickson. I can think of no finer tribute for my years of service here than your generous nurture of the next generation of Presbyterian Leaders. Make out your check to the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas, and put YAV Contribution in the memo line. You will have my personal thanks!

Blessings now and forever more!

Erin
Cox-Holmes



Simple Gifts: Exploring God’s Generosity

... Serve One Another with whatever gift each of you has received

Presbyterian Women of the **Brookville Presbyterian Church** present a series of programs and fellowship opportunities for the Brookville Community

The Gift of Self Worth—October 28, 2009, 6:00 pm

The Gift of Family—February 24, 2010, 6:00 pm

The Gift of Giving—November 22, 2009, 12:00 noon

The Gift of Memories—March 31, 2010, 6:00 pm

The Gift of Wellness—December 29, 2009, 6:00 pm

The Gift of Nurture—April 25, 2010, 2:00 pm

The Gift of Food—January 26, 2010, 6:00 pm

The Gift of Summer—May 26, 2010, 6:00 pm

An evening meal will be provided before, or as part of, some of the sessions to make it easier for busy families to participate.

Contact the Brookville Presbyterian Church at **814-849-2413** or **psbychbv@windstream.net** to register



Advent/Christmas is coming

It's time to gear up for **Advent/Christmas**. Hopefully you kept your Resource Booklet from last year to help you decide on the resources you need. Below are a few **new** resources that have been added since last year. Remember you can stop by to visit the Resource Center, call us OR go to www.kiskipby.org and search for resources on our webpage.

Bethlehem's Closet: A Reunion of Grace (BK 5AX 278)

If you want something different for Advent, this is a great resource that provides congregations with an intriguing learning experience. It's a unique series of five monologues telling the fascinating stories, warts and all, of the women mentioned in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. Author, Donald Neidigk believes that the embarrassing events in some of these women's lives are important for us to know, since they demonstrate that Jesus was born into an imperfect family, with secrets in the closet, just like you and me.

Purpose of Christmas (BK 5AX 298)

Beautifully written, author Rick Warren, stirs readers to honor the true significance of Christmas and to nurture God's gifts of love and peace in this world.

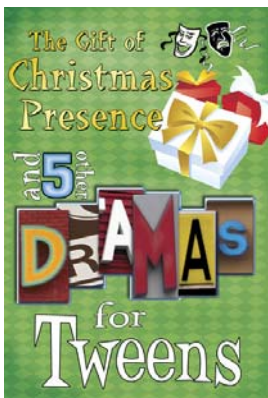


Jingle Bells (KT 5AX 087)

One night every year, bells from all over the country gather to perform in the Bell Choir's annual Christmas Eve service. This year, all the bells are there - Dessa Bell, Clara Belle (the Southern Bell), Paco Bell and the rest - all except Alexander Bell. Normally one of the "ring leaders," Alexander has been injured in a snow storm and cannot perform his part. When his replacement, Bing-Can-Ring Bell, can't seem to ring the part correctly, Dr. J.B. Jangles is sent to diagnose the problem. He is suffering from "Disaortic-iambictic-ring-a-ding-a-do-sis," an ailment of the heart - he doesn't know Jesus. Your children will love performing Jingle Bells, a fantastic musical story rich in spiritual symbolism. With easy-to-sing songs that can help kids learn harmony - and can even be used in Sunday morning services - your children will discover the cure for the ailment that ails us all, leading them to become "Bell"-ievers in Christ.

A Bethlehem Christmas (BK 5AX 300)

The world changed forever one Bethlehem night. Best-selling author Charles R. Swindoll invites us to sit back and enjoy his personal and engaging retelling of the first Christmas story. Combining both regal mystery and humble human experience, the book focuses on four major characters: Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, and Immanuel. A Bethlehem Christmas provides biblical insight with the heart and warmth of a gifted storyteller to bring what happened at the nativity to life and renew the joyful hope of Christmas.



The Gift of Christmas Presence and 5 Other Dramas for Tweens

(BK 5AX 302)

Contains 6 dramas, both in modern and biblical settings. These dramas will allow tweens to role play certain situations they may find themselves in every day. They will also have the opportunity to discover and experience biblical stories in a whole new way. Includes Christmas and Advent dramas.

The Lion Book of Five-Minute Christmas Stories (BK 5AX 303)

Take a unique look at the birth of Jesus with this collection of 10 fun tales, each of which tells the story from a different point of view. The donkey who carries Mary to Bethlehem takes pride in his job; the caring innkeeper's wife notices that Mary needs a bit of comfort; and the choir of angels have their rehearsal interrupted due to an important and sudden concert they must give! The stories are all faithful to the Gospels and together provide a special perspective on the message of Christmas. Each of the stories can be read in just five minutes.



Faith Files: Signs of Christmas (CU 5AX 003)

Curriculum lessons include the Signs of Christmas: **Unit 1 --Fishing for a Clue:** the fish shape was used by early Christians like a password. It is a symbol for Christ today. Acts 8:1-3 **Unit 2--O Come, Let Us Adore Him:** The manger and the shepherd's crook are signs that remind us of the birth of Jesus and the shepherds who came to worship him. Luke 2:1-20 and John 10:11 **Unit 3--Stars and Crown:** The star reminds us of the Magi who looked for the newborn Savior, and the crown reminds us of Jesus, the King of kings. Matthew 2:1-12 **Unit 4--The Cross and the Bible:** The cross reminds us that God sent Jesus to take away our sins, and the Bible tells us about Jesus. 1 John 4:9-10, Philippians 2:8b, John 20:31, and Psalm 119:105. CD included



Sing a Song of Christmas (KT 5AX 088)

A Simple musical for children that celebrates the birth of Christ using familiar carols and easy narration. This 25-minute program is easy-to-learn and presents the Christmas story in a fun way that children can understand and enjoy. Everyone loves to hear children sing - especially at Christmas, so let the joy of the season ring throughout your church as your children present Sing A Song of Christmas.



Services for the Advent Wreath - Cycle C (BK 5AX 141 C)

The Advent wreath is a powerful symbol that draws our attention to the coming of Christ -- past, present, and future. But while it's a traditional element of Advent worship, the Advent wreath is often vaguely linked to the rest of the service, especially for those who follow the lectionary. Building on his successful volume *Services For The Advent Wreath*, Robert Jarboe offers a wide selection of adaptable resources that firmly place the Advent candles in the context of the day's scripture readings. There are complete orders of service based on each Cycle C lectionary text for every Sunday in Advent, as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Each service is conveniently formatted, with reproducible sheets that can be given to participants as well as bulletin inserts with congregational readings. It's everything you need to make this important symbol a centerpiece of the worship celebration -- all in one place!

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany (BK 5AX 301)

These theologically sound and creative worship resources include prayers, litanies, calls to worship, and complete liturgies crafted to encourage rhythmic public responses during worship. All material is drawn from the readings from all three years of the Revised Common Lectionary. This collection also contains Scripture selections from the nativity narratives in Matthew and Luke and the messianic sections of Isaiah and the Psalms, making it useful to churches that do not follow the RCL.

Faith Files: C'sons Greetings (CU 5AX 002)

Curriculum lessons include: "C" is for Candle, "C" is for Color, "C" is for Carol, "C" is for Creche. CD included

Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior (KT 5AX 086)

On a hill just outside of Bethlehem, lowly shepherds were tending their sheep at night. They didn't get much company out there. People had been passing through for several days as the census was underway, but they hardly spoke at all as they walked by on their way to Bethlehem. Nobody really wanted to talk to the shepherds. That is, nobody except an angel! They may have been at the bottom of the social ladder in Bethlehem, but God chose shepherds to be the first ones to see the Savior! This is their story - what they heard and what they saw that marvelous night when God came to dwell with men. **Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior** is a 23-minute musical about one of the most familiar parts of the Christmas story.



News from the Rwanda Partnership Committee:

God has certainly blessed our efforts toward the Presbytery wide campaign "Motorbikes for Pastors in Rwanda". Because God has moved in the hearts of our churches, the Gitarama Presbytery will be purchasing 3 motor bikes for pastors in Rwanda.

Currently, the Kiskiminetas partnership committee is planning a "Clean Water in Rwanda" campaign with a Presbytery wide kick-

off to begin in January, 2010. This project includes a proposal to provide clean water by gravitation for 1650 homes in the District of Muhanga, Rwanda.

The committee is presently planning the exchange of missionaries from Rwanda scheduled for 2010. As we work with Pastor Eugene and Gitarama Partnership Committee, we are praying that this exchange might include at least one young person to attend the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

We ask for your continued prayers, that our God might con-

tinue to guide us and show us the ways to strengthen the partnership He has placed before us.

The Kiskiminetas Partnership Committee



As this is written, Presbyterian Women are packing up to travel to New Windsor Maryland.

There, for two days, they will work together, pray and laugh together, eat and walk together as they offer up their time and talents to further the work of SERRV and Church World Service. At the CWS headquarters, using buildings that have been added to an former college campus, they will prepare shipments which will impact the lives of countless people in the US and abroad.

One group will work in the massive warehouse, where donations are sorted and repackaged for shipment. School Kits, Layettes, Sewing Kits, Health Kits, quilts and soap come in from around the country, and

must be counted, checked, and boxed uniformly for shipment to areas of need. Last year, over 6 tons were boxed and banded for shipment, and tractor trailer loads leave the warehouse daily. In any given week, somewhere in the world, disaster strikes and CWS responds. Your contributions are needed, and the bus will carry many boxes of Kits and other items from Kiski!

The rest of the volunteers will unpack shipments of craft and food items from vendors around the world who sell their wares through the Fair Trade auspices of SERRV. Each item is inspected, tagged and priced for individual resale, then boxed for storage until shipment. Beautiful handmade jewelry, clothing, ornaments and other items pass through, as well as oils, soaps, jams, coffee, nuts and chocolate. Check the online catalog at www.serrv.org or receive a free catalog by calling 1-800-423-0071.

We are also getting ready for Fall Gathering at Slate Lick Presbyterian Church. On October 7, join us at 10 AM for a wonderful day of worship, fellowship and workshops. We will dedicate the Hunger Offering, Least Coin offering and Thank Offering, as well as our annual Mission Pledges. Bring your organization's checks and save the postage!

Our workshops are varied and interesting this year, and we guarantee you'll find something that you never thought of before! Cost of registration is \$5, which includes lunch. Reservations are due by Sept 29 to Liz Riggle at 814-265-4185 or to Rachel Grubbs at rachelgrubbs@windstream.net. Come join us - all are welcome!

Yours in Christ,
Debbie McCanna,
Moderator, PW in Kiski



BETWEEN ME & THEE

Every day, as I drive from my house to the presbytery office, I pass one of the most beautiful fields of soybeans I have ever seen. Since early Spring with the planting to now when the plant leaves have begun to turn yellow and fall from the stems, it has been a joy to see this particular field of beans.

The plants have all stood at about the same height across the field, almost table top flat. Between each section of the field the farmer has maintained a mown passage lane. It kind of reminds me of the roads in Kansas dividing mile square sections into quarter sections.

Very few weeds appear in the expansive field. Down the road is another field planted in "bottom land" where the plants failed to grow due to being too wet. Weeds are easily visible throughout the field.

I have been tempted to pull off the road, walk into the wonderful field, and to sample the beans before they began to dry for harvest. Also, I have been tempted to find the owner of the field and pass on my admiration of the field. Alas, I have done neither.

I would be very interested to know the harvest yield from that field. How many bushels per acre

does it produce? It has to be a good harvest for that farmer with such an eye pleasing field.

I wonder what the end product of those soybeans will be. Will they be used for: cattle feed, human consumption in soy milk, tofu, bio-diesel fuel, printer's ink. cooking oil, crayons, cooler foam or many other uses? It is amazing how many different uses can be found this simple but highly complex bean.

Yet, one wonders, given the vast starvation across the globe, why we use such a precious food item for non-food purposes. I do know, however, that some of the other uses for soybeans produce a greater profit than human consumption purposes. Regardless, I have thoroughly enjoyed watching this one field go from planting to near harvest.

What does God see when looking across us as God's field, God's vineyard? Are we looked at with enjoyment and awe, as I have looked at that field of soybeans? I wonder as I see the weeds of fear, anger, blame, entitlement, heated arguments, and so many more choking out the ability to produce an abundant harvest in our lives and in our life and the Church.

It really does not matter if we are a large or small church. We can either be a glorious field producing

an abundant harvest, or a field choked with weeds and stunted plants.

For the last several years, some of the best agricultural specialists have itinerated within our presbytery. Each one has pointed to and advised on ways we could have better fields and more abundant harvests.

We have heard from the likes of Callahan whose 12 Keys seem like plowing, discing, harrowing, planting, cultivating all in the hope of a harvest. We have tried what some might refer to as "no till" methods. The response to these specialists, and many others, has been spotty at best.

Not every method of farming will work in every field, nor with every method of planting. Luke 8:4 - 15 makes that abundantly clear. With each passing year, I keep expecting a more beautiful field and a greater harvest. When it comes down to it, *it is God who gives the growth.* (I Cor 3:7)

Yours in service to Christ and the Church,

Wayne Yost, General Presbyter

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2010 LEADER TRAINING DAY

Sunday, January 31 , 2010, 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm

(The Sunday between NFL playoffs and the Super Bowl)

Workshops will be: **Basic Training for Elders, Basic Training for Deacons, Clerk of Session Training, Church Treasurer Workshop,** And a **Keynote Speaker** for pastors and other experienced church officers. More information will be coming soon!





Kiskiminetas Presbytery

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*Seeking to be faithful to the Great
Commission of Christ and to fulfill the
Great Ends of the Church*



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www.kiskipby.org



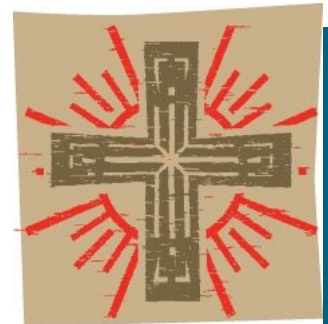
PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2010

2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

“For Such a Time as This”

July 20—24, 2010

Purdue University; West Lafayette, IN



WHO: The Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering of youth and adults from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Participants must travel as a part of a registered delegation and can register through either a Presbytery delegation or a Church delegation. Youth Participants must be entering high school and no older than 19 years old on July 20, 2010.

THEME: The theme for the 2010 Triennium is “For Such a Time as This” from Esther 4:14. The theme will be developed throughout the week through daily presentations, worship, prayer, recreation, and small groups. A theme grid, or guide, to the primary scriptures, liturgical elements and theological questions can be found on the website.

COST: Cost per person of \$409.00 includes housing, meals, conference T-shirt and all programming.

REGISTRATION: Online through the Presbytery Website, www.kiskipby.org, or by calling into the Presbytery Office at 724-783-7196.

QUESTIONS: Contact Holly Wadding at 724-783-7196 or Judi Paden at 814-849-2413

More information at <http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>