



HARD COPY— *E-news that's jumped off line!*

275th Anniversary Celebration of the Presbytery of Donegal—October 14, 2007 at Hempfield Performing Arts Center at 3pm! Mark and Save The Date! Consider opening your church for “visitation Sundays” with some type of historical display or presentation. Get information from Bill or Nancy Brown at wjb453@verizon.net

Clothing/Medical Mission Trip to Honduras—February 24-March 1, 2008. Cost \$1,250 includes all but a few meals. Travel with Steve Mentzer to the Southern Region of Honduras where we will work in several rural villages and worship with our Presbyterian Friends. For more information see: www.missiontrav.com or call Steve 717-299-4942. Thanks, Steven C. Mentzer, Central American Relief Efforts, ssmentzer@comcast.net 717-203-4942

Mission Challenge '07—During October, 47 PC(USA) missionaries will spend a week sharing the stories of their ministry in 143 presbyteries. Our missionary friends, Ted and Sue Wright, now labor in Zambia as Regional Coordinators for Southern Africa. Sue will be taking a full month away from family and normal work to invest in the vital task of interpretation that will help our members understand and get behind the wider world mission of our denomination. She is available for preaching, has a power point presentation and is here in order to meet with church groups throughout her stay. To reserve a time for Sue's presentation for your congregation, contact Larry Moir at 717-354-5311 or LarryandBarbMoir@comcast.net.

What's going on in the religious and spiritual lives of American teenagers? Come hear Tony Compolo and Bob McCarty address this on October 15 from 10 am till 2:30 pm at: Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 717-657-4804 or register at: <http://www.pachurches.org>. Register before October 5.



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Stewartstown (Dr. R. LaForce)—The busy church held a cooking camp for kids with the theme “Serving Up God’s Word” and a focus on serving others from August 6-9, 2007. The week wrapped up with a coffee house featuring Mike Kirwin on August 10, 2007.

Wayside (S. Fritz)—The church held an evening study led by Dr. Harry Kintzi entitled “The Ethics of Bio-Engineering” (particularly Stem Cell Research).

The Bulletin is published bimonthly by The Presbytery of Donegal: **Acting Executive Presbyter:** Charlie Gross
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DONEGAL *Dialogue*

SEPTEMBER 2007

VOL. XLIII

NO. 5

“The Final Bulletin” Article

by Charlie Gross, Acting Executive Presbyter—August 13, 2007

“The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13, NRSV)

WOW! We have gifted preachers, teachers, and ministers in our midst! I am blessed to be surrounded by so many competent, professional, Christ-following servant leaders! We have faithful servants working to bring resolution to the three churches who sought to leave our denomination; wonderful servants working to build up the multi-cultural body of Christ in Lancaster city (formerly Memorial); a hard-working commission for Nottingham; and a very dedicated committee to help us celebrate our 275th Anniversary.

For the Fall, I am pleased to announce new teaching and learning opportunities! In October, we are partnering with Lancaster Theological Seminary and the Rev. Tony Sundermeier to offer, “Being the Church—Moves for Missional Reformation.” In November, we are delighted to announce a preaching workshop at Bellevue, led by the Rev. Dr. Sally Brown.

Faithful friends, we raise the bar in ministry as we encourage one another, listen to one another, learn from one another, and volunteer to teach one another! Let me know what you will teach or what you need to learn!



A Moment with our Moderator *by Gail Benjamin*

I remember my first visit to Presbytery. It was sometime in 1984. It was my first time to attend a large church gathering and I did not know another soul there except for my pastor. He seemed to have lots of people to see and things to do, so I was pretty much on my own. It was one of the longest, loneliest days of my life, and I did not readily return.

I am reminded of this whenever first-time attending commissioners are introduced, and I do not want the same for them. Whereas I think our hospitality has improved, I want to remind all of us to be on the lookout for those appearing to be alone. Take a risk, stick out your hand, dare to introduce yourself, and make a new friend. We should never leave presbytery without at least one new face to recognize and a new name to call out.

At the next Presbytery meeting in September in Stewartstown, I will be offering a "Moderator's Table" for dinner. I am inviting all first-time, attending commissioners, those alone or those just wishing to make a new friend while taking part in some lively conversation, to please join me. You will find a tall, yellow "Moderator's" flag, flying on one of the tables.

Please feel free to join me. I love company and making new friends.

MISSION: Honduras *by Steve Clark*

First Presbyterian, Strasburg, is just one of several Donegal congregations involved in mission efforts in the Central American nation of Honduras. One of the poorest nations in the western hemisphere, Honduras is a land of incredible beauty, great need, and vital congregations of Christian disciples looking to partner for ministry. The Strasburg congregation's connection with Honduras began in November 1998. In the wake of devastation wrought by Hurricane Mitch, the congregation teamed with members of Memorial Presbyterian in Lancaster and Wesley United Methodist in Strasburg, to respond to immediate relief needs of the battered country. Youth and adults assembled more than 200 Health Kits for shipment to Honduras through Church World Service.

"We didn't realize at the time," says elder Steve Echternach, one of the leaders in the Strasburg church's efforts, "how that act of quick response would begin a mission partnership that continues to this day." Following the relief effort, leaders of the Presbyterian Church in Honduras (PCH) contacted First Strasburg with an invitation to enter into a longer-term connection, and the Strasburg folks responded with enthusiasm.

In June 2001 and again in July 2005 a team of more than twenty adults and teens traveled to the village of Quebrada Grande to spend a week working alongside villagers, congregation members, and PCH leaders, to construct a new church building for the Camino de Luz y Vida ("Way of Light and Life") congregation in that village. But more than erecting a building, the Strasburg teams found themselves building friendship and understanding with sisters and brothers in Christ from another culture. Individual church members participated in a February 2006 medical trip to Honduras organized and led by elder Steve Mentzer of First Presbyterian, Lancaster. In October 2006, Steve Echternach and Strasburg co-pastor Steve Clark were present at the dedication of the Quebrada Grande facility, and participated in a three-day conference of PCH leaders and representatives from Carlisle Presbytery, Tampa (FL) Presbytery, and First Lancaster. That conference focused on celebrating the mission partnership accomplishments of the past, and looking to new opportunities for shared ministry in the future.

"There is a great deal of energy and interest in our congregation for this partnership to continue," says Pastor Clark. "With the Quebrada Grande building finished, our conversation with Honduran church leaders suggests that our future focus will be supporting medical clinics and leadership development."

The Strasburg congregation is just one part of an informal network of Donegal congregations and individuals with a heart for participating in the Lord's work in a neighbor to the south. Plans are currently under way to develop that network in a more formal structure; watch upcoming presbytery dockets for more information.

If you'd like to know more about the Strasburg effort and how you might develop your own ministry partnership in Honduras or elsewhere, contact Pastor Steve Clark at the church at 717-687-6030 or stevec@straspres.org.

Donegal Digest

Bethany (L. Kelsey)—On July 1, 2007, The Reverend Laura Kelsey was installed. In addition to a new pastor, the church has received a grant from Presbytery to cover a large part of their sending a team to the National Evangelism Conference in Nashville.

Columbia Presbyterian Church (D. Powers)—The church will celebrate its bicentennial on September 22, 2007, from 10 am until 5 pm at the church. The theme for the occasion is: Celebrating 200 Years of Ministry: 1807-2007. Events will include: an open house, a display of the contents of the cornerstone (last removed in 1957 for the church's 150th anniversary), and historical artifacts. The bicentennial celebration will also feature an outreach to the community with a picnic in the church grounds and live music by the church's own *Found Grace* Worship Band.

Donegal (T. McKinnon)—The Donegal Society held its 94th annual reunion on Saturday, June 16, 2007. A presentation was made by avid historian John A. Jarvis, formerly of Scotland, who expounded on the early Presbyterians of his homeland. On Wednesday, September 19, at 7:30 pm, they will host Scottish troubadour, Bruce Davies, in concert.

First, West Chester (Dr. W. Hess II)—The church offers a booklet to outline all the Fall activities available at the church. This includes men's and women's groups and all Bible Studies. One such class is the Men's 34 Week Basic Training. This opportunity to grow closer to the Lord occurs each Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

Guinston (D. Moore)—The church has scheduled its 8th trip to New Orleans for September 22-30. They have now begun the long and arduous task of rebuilding homes and lives...one person, one family at a time. They average 12-16 people per trip including members of Guinston, other local churches, and the community.

Highland (Dr. W. Jackson, Interim)—John Bell of Iona is coming to Lancaster on October 22-23! Best known as one of the leaders of the Wild Goose Worship Group of Iona, Scotland, John Bell joins traditional lyrics and passages from scripture with music influenced by the Celtic Christian tradition. He will be giving the Carson Lectures at Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster on the theme of "God in the Ordinary."

Nottingham (A. Osborne, Pulpit Supply)—On July 8, 2007, the church held a "Hot Fudge Sunday." Choirs from Nottingham and Middle Octorara provided music for the gathering, which was followed by a "make-your-own" sundae treat under a tent on the lawn. On June 9, 2007, the church Deacons held a fundraiser in which they served 350 chicken dinners from a drive-thru BBQ. The profits were donated to help defray medical expenses for a child from southern Lancaster County who was critically injured in an automobile accident.

Oxford (D. K. Slinkard)—On September 23, 2007, at 3:00 pm, the church will host the Brandywine Celtic Harp Orchestra. The group has 15 harpists who have played together at both Longwood Gardens and Winterthur.

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