



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

Small Group Workshop recordings! Listen to the 3 recorded sessions of the Small Group Pre-Presbytery workshop by going to www.donegalpby.com/Smallgroup1.WMA, and then substituting a 2 and 3 in the above link. Open with Windows Media Player. Jeff Lampl, Amy Haehle, and Lenny Gawlikowski from New London Presbyterian did an outstanding job!

Mission Chair people—Take Note! Jamie Roth, intern at an Immigration and Refugee Program of Church World Service (CWS/IRP) has requested our help in making welcome kits for each refugee to receive when they arrive. We are in much need of them due to the many refugees we are resettling. Here is a little more information about the welcome kits: www.churchworldservice.org/kits/index.html. If you have anymore questions or would like to participate please contact Jamie Roth at Jlroth1@marauder.millersville.edu, 215-284-1923 (cell) or 717-871-4244 (home).

Our missionaries are being encouraged to raise their Designated Mission Support funds! Mission Beyond the Presbytery will tell us more about this soon, but I'd love for our presbytery to support our own missionaries in the field. The names that come immediately to mind are: Doug Baker, Eric and Becky Hinderliter, and Marcia Towers.

Clothing/Medical Mission to Honduras—From February 24-March 1, 2008, cost of \$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 or E-mail at ssmentzer@comcast.net.

Palestinian aid from Alternative Gift Market—Now is the time to start thinking of alternative Christmas gifts to support struggling Palestinian families. PAL Craftaid purchases olivewood sculptures and counted cross-stitch needlework from Palestinian families, sells them in the U.S., and donates the proceeds to Palestinian Christian NGSS. For more info or a brochure, contact: Carol Hylkema (Dearborn, MI), 313-561-1372 or CHylkema@wowway.com

The “E” Word Is Spoken by Presbyterians

by Nan Best

Don't fall over! The PCUSA held a 4 day conference on Evangelism in early September in Nashville, and Donegal had eight people attend. We learned some things we probably knew in our hearts and some new ideas for bringing the skills of evangelism to our member churches. The reality is that Christendom is no longer a majority faith ethos in our world, especially in the US. Yet we are called to witness more than ever in this culture which is post-modern—to witness even as Presbyterians.

In Nashville, there were workshops for small churches, for parish nurse and mental health ministries, at least 11 discussions around immigrant ministries, immigration issues, and multi-cultural evangelism. There were presentations about Gen Xers, spirituality, discipleship, worship. What an array of topics to help us engage in evangelism with fresh energy!

Here are some gleanings from the event—practical ways to initiate an approach to evangelism:

- Practice telling your own faith story. Be ready to share the “God sightings” of your days.
- Become at ease in praying for another right on the spot.
- Include new people in an existing framework of the congregation in a care and adoption system.
- Have small groups be engaged in a missional church effort.
- Start “house churches” for worship, prayer, and outreach.
- Set up a volleyball net in the parking lot—or anything that will gather folks and “evangelists.”
- Plan authentic worship with solid content in any style that resonates with those who gather.
- Measure growth in the capacity to release, rather than in the hope to retain.
- Sharing your faith will connect others to God. That's being incarnational.
- Strive to make friends, not to make disciples of the unchurched.
- Link every church member to others who have something in common.
- What counts are the stories of people, not the numbers of people we attract.
- There is internal evangelism meant to build up those within the congregation. There is external, to focus on those who are unchurched. We hope to create energy for each of these audiences.

There is one cluster of churches ready to learn and practice “E.” Call me to suggest what other clusters might engage in “E” dialogues.

DONEGAL *Dialogue*
NOVEMBER 2007 VOL. XLIIII NO. 6

Excitement is in the air!

by Charlie Gross, Acting Executive Presbyter

I am excited about what I see God doing in Donegal! We are welcoming new pastors—the Rev. Bob Birch at Leacock, the Rev. Ann Osborne at Highland, the Rev. David McCabe at First Phoenixville, the Rev. Carletta Curley at the Slate Churches, and the Rev. David Willerup at Nottingham. We celebrated our 275th anniversary in grand style! (Specially minted coins are available at 717-392-4035.) Thanks to Bill and Nancy Brown and their committee! We met our transition consultant, the Rev. Dr. John Sharick, and we are making progress. We are working diligently in a Christ-like manner to dismiss three of our churches to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Tony Sundermeier's course at Lancaster Theological Seminary is causing us to think in wonderful new directions.

Lastly, I would urge you to look at the skills database we are developing. Add your name to it by entering the master password: *dpres* in the appropriate place and then add your skills. To use this tool, go to: www.donegalpby.com/skillsearch.htm

It's an honor to serve Jesus with you! I think of *1 Thess 1:2-3* when I think of you, “*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*”
May God Richly Bless You!

A Moment with our Moderator by Gail Benjamin

In the beginning “churches” met in homes—small groups of people supporting each other through financial aid, prayers, love, and concern. They knew they needed each other, and that Jesus had instructed them to love each other as He had loved them.

I have thought about that as I traveled around the Presbytery, visiting churches celebrating groundbreaking, installations, and ordinations, with a few from presbytery present, but without our sister Presbyterian (USA) churches. I have visited churches who are losing members and worrying about keeping the doors open. Where are our sister churches to support and comfort them?

I have met many wonderful Presbyterians. I feel as if I have an extended family. And I think, just because we no longer meet in homes; Jesus has not revoked His admonition to love each other. Wouldn't it be exciting to have emissaries visit each other's churches to say, “We love and care about you, and we want to share in your joys and sorrows.” Think about it...it could happen.

MISSION: Guinston Gutters Trip Tales

by Linda Jordan Zimmerman

Guinston PC has just completed its eighth mission trip to Louisiana to help with Hurricane Katrina relief work. Each trip has been unique, with all having some kind of special meaning to the team and hopefully the homeowners. Each has shown us that God is still performing miracles. Here are the highlights of a few of our trips:

On the first trip the team witnessed miracles of God throughout. We saw storm damage as early as

Meridian, Mississippi, with blue tarps on houses and trees broken like matchsticks. The first miracle occurred when the Lord led us to our destination. We had realized we had no way to contact John Calvin, our destination church, for better directions, and no one had thought that the cell phone towers and road signs would all have been destroyed. After much prayer, we picked an exit, and discovered that the Lord miraculously had sent us to the exact exit we needed.

On our third trip, we became very aware that talking with the owners and helping them to see that the Lord is still by their side is just as important as the physical work we do for them at their homes. At each worksite, God would lead each of us to the area where He wanted us to be. Sometimes it was tearing up hardwood floors, sawing trees, and taking the limbs to the curb, or ministering to the people we met at each site.

We were probably shown the greatest miracle to date in our travels on our fifth adventure. With God's help—and we know it was ONLY through God's help—our team of ten emptied a house—Daniel's house—of all the debris from the flood that had been there for a year. Then we totally gutted the house and did outside tree and trim work. All this was accomplished in one day! The realization of the Miracle of Daniel's house didn't appear to most of us until after the fact when we were looking back and reflecting over the past nine days. It was physically impossible for our team to finish Daniel's house in one day, but we did... thanks to the Lord.

Just home from our eighth trip, we were able to do both gutting and rebuilding this time. The majority of our week was spent helping Inga and Ricky Johnson complete their home for occupancy by week's end. Despite many obstacles, we were able to finish their house, which included scrubbing floors, mowing lawns, and vacuuming carpets. This enabled the family to move in after the electric company installed their meter and turned on their electric. Part of the



team was able to be present on Friday for the dedication of their new home. We were also blessed by much financial generosity on this trip. We were provided supplies for our lunch every day by a local family that owns a Subway. This family also treated us to lunch at a local Italian restaurant on Friday before we started for home. Also, on Tuesday evening, we were tired and decided to go to Shoney's for dinner. While at Shoney's, some of the team struck up a conversation with an elderly couple that were members of the John Calvin Presbyterian Church. When we finished the meal and went to pay the bill, the couple had paid our bill before leaving for home.

God willing, we plan to leave for "Trip 9," January 12, 2008.

This is an edited excerpt. To read the complete article log onto:
www.donegalpby.com/DonegalMissionPage.php or log onto Guinston's Katrina
Web page: www.guinston.org/katrina.htm.

Extended Communion...FAQs

by Don Lincoln

What is it?

Extended Communion is the Lord's Supper served to members of a congregation who are isolated from worship by OFFICERS of the church .

Why would we do this?

So those who cannot be physically present for regular worship can participate in the sacrament. So those who are called can extend the ministry of the church to others. To provide for the inclusion of the faithful not by their request, but by the regular extension of the congregation and the sacrament beyond to any member's location. It provides for mutual nurture of the faithful through the unity of the sacrament.

How can this be done without an ordained pastor?

The Book of Order allows...see section W-3.3616(e).

When does it take place?

On the day the congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper, or as soon thereafter as practically feasible.

By whom is it served? To whom is it extended?

By officers of the church (Deacons and Elders) who have been equipped for this ministry.

To church members who have accepted the invitation to receive the sacrament

A Few Reflections:

We offer an annual training, led by one of the pastors, and invite both currently serving and resting officers to participate. This provides us with an ever-growing pool of persons who can serve. Deacons, who have oversight of our regular visitation of the homebound, develop and coordinate the list of volunteers and servers for each extended communion.

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Bellevue (W. Davies)—The month of October was very busy for Bellevue. On October 4, a team of nearly a dozen headed to Ukholovo, Russia. The team returned on October 14, and shared the story of their trip on November 11. Back at the church, an all-church retreat took place on October 12-14. The retreat was organized by the Membership and Evangelism Committees, and worship was led by Alleluia Praise.

Cedar Grove (W. Elliott, Pre-Interim)—*Lyra*, an a cappella group from St. Petersburg, Russia, performed both traditional folk and sacred music at the church on October 13, 2007. More than 80 people attended the concert followed by a dessert reception.

Covenant (Dr. J. Moyer)—On October 27, a Spiritual Formation Workshop was held from 8:30 to noon. Dr. Joseph Modica, Chaplain and Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at Eastern University led this experience of spiritual renewal.

Donegal (T. McKinnon)—A Sunday school called "The Wired Word" focuses on current events that involve faith. Topics for Sunday are E-mailed to participants the Thursday before so that they can be prepared for lively discussion on Sunday morning.

Fairview (Dr. M. Atkinson)—The annual Fall Fest event included a baking contest in which any baked dessert could be entered. A Chili Cook Off and cornbread contest accompanied the baking contest. Divisions for both children and adults added to the fun of the activities.

First Church, Mount Joy (Dr. R. Burns)—Not to be outdone in the kitchen, First of Mount Joy held a fellowship night with the theme of a "Men's Bake-off." All attendees voted on the entries and three winners in the "Most Creative," "Best Looking," and "Best Tasting" categories were chosen.

Highland (W. Jackson)—Ann M. Osborne was ordained on October 13, 2007, at Centre Presbyterian in Loysville PA. Osborne is joining the ministry team at Highland in Lancaster.

Little Britain (T. Milligan)—Sleep out for charity! Little Britain held a Tent Event on September 29, 2007, in which participants sought pledges to sleep out overnight at the church in a tent. Funds raised went to Habitat for Humanity and Helping Hands Fund.

Paoli (Dr. J. P. Vaughn)—Parents deserve interesting activities while their children are participating in Youth Group. A four-week seminar that teaches God's practical principles for handling money is held for parents during Youth Group time to give them the benefit of the Bible's more than 2,300 verses that talk about money.

Trinity (Dr. J. Wilkins)—The outreach committee serves up book discussion with light lunch on designated Sundays. On November 11, the discussion centered on *Islam: What Non-Muslims Should Know*.