

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

Going to San Jose?

Those who plan to attend GA in San Jose, CA—June 21-28—are urged to consider joining the Presbytery of Donegal dinner on Tuesday, June 24th. If you're interested, please give Kathy Bartels a call and let her know! Charlie would love to host a dinner for you and the hard-working servants of Christ in our presbytery! Call 717-392-4035 or kathy@donegalpby.com.

Or maybe Honduras?

A Clothing/Medical Mission trip to Honduras is planned for July 20-27 and July 27-Aug 4, 2008. The cost is \$1,350 and includes all but a few meals. You'll travel with Steve Mentzer to the Southern Region of Honduras to 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 to the New Wilmington Mission Conference?

Put this on your calendar to enhance the Year of World Mission! There are scholarships available! The New Wilmington Mission Conference will be held July 19-26, 2008, in New Wilmington, PA. Visit <http://www.NWCMission.org> for more information. The 2008 theme is "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" from Luke 4:18. Call 724-946-7195.

Or help out right here at home!

Help a refugee in Lancaster through iHope—International Homes of Hope—in Lancaster, PA, is committed to developing a holistic approach to integrate refugees into our community. Our vision is to provide a network of transitional living homes (3-5 month stay) to help welcome refugees into our city and communities of faith. International Homes of Hope are maintained and managed by local churches through the direction of a steering committee. Churches covenant together to: locate homes to use; cover the costs of utilities, furnishings, and upkeep of each home; pay for the case-worker's services for each home; provide teams to repair and clean the homes; provide mentors to assist families living in the homes (training provided); and pray for God to use us greatly to provide the hospitality of Jesus Christ. If you or your church is interested in this exciting mission project, contact: Don Hackett at don@fpclanc.org or 717-394-6854 ext. 302.

Prayer labyrinth available

The Presbytery office has a 30x30' labyrinth available. To borrow it, call Kathy 717-392-4035. It is a great resource for your retreats or prayer time.

Help Wanted

Stewartstown Presbyterian Church announces an immediate opening for the position of Church Organist. Duties include playing one service per week plus additional special services throughout the year. For full information regarding job description, terms, and salary, please contact our church office via phone 717-993-6278 or email stpresby@verizon.net.

Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown, PA is seeking a Director of Children's Education (part-time, 26-28 hours per week). The Director is responsible for the coordination and oversight of children's education from birth through high school. Major duties include recruiting, equipping, and training of teachers/assistants, ministering Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings plus curriculum selection and evaluation. Minimum requirements are an Associates degree and/or a minimum of 2 years experience in a Children Ministries or Education position. Mail resumés to: Director of Children's Education Search Committee, Central Presbyterian Church, 100 Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Full-time Youth Pastor Position: A Biblically-based, evangelical Lancaster County Church with a thriving and growing youth ministry seeks a Biblically-centered, spiritually alive, full-time Youth Pastor. Minimum of a Bachelor's degree and experience in Youth Ministry or related field is desired. Duties include directing youth and young-adult

ministries. Youth Pastor is also expected to contribute administrative and pastoral support. Forward resume to bellevue@epix.net or Bellevue Presbyterian Church, 810 Newport Ave., Gap, PA 17527. Contact person: Linda Perella, phone 717-442-4077 or fax 717-442-4622.

Wayside Presbyterian Church has an immediate need to secure an interim musical accompanist to play for worship while they determine a long-term position description. Wayside does not have an organ, but it does have a Kurzweil keyboard instrument with much flexibility. The interim period could be 3-6 months. Compensation would be determined based on the number of hours we negotiate. For more information on this position, call Dick Regensburger at 717-285-2648 or email regensburgerdn@tds.net.

The First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville is seeking a Worship & Praise Team Leader to lead the music and direct our Praise Team during our contemporary Rise & Shine service. This is a salaried, part-time position (approximately 10 hours per week). This is your opportunity to contribute to a loving, growing, and thriving church. Interested musicians should forward their resumé to secretaryfpc@comcast.net or mail to: The First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville, 145 Main Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460 RE: Praise Team Leader.

DONEGAL *Dialogue*
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 **Antsy with Anticipation, Eagerly Enthusiastic, Groping for God's Vision for Donegal!**

By Charlie Gross, Associate Executive Presbyter

"Antsy with anticipation, eagerly enthusiastic, groping for God's vision for Donegal!" That sums up my feelings and emotions as I await the report and recommendations of the Transition Team and Transitional Consultant, the Rev. Dr. John Sharick.

This report will be coming out in early June and will be distributed for a "first reading" at the June Presbytery meeting. It will summarize what was heard in the many "Holy Conversations" held in January and February of this year. I anticipate that this report will reflect who we really are as a presbytery—what we truly value as we work together. I anticipate that this will lay the groundwork for our future structures and relationships as we seek to glorify God and be used as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ for the world!

I am eagerly enthusiastic to hear the rhythm of the presbytery and the tune that we jointly value! I'm groping for the vision because, let me be perfectly honest, I have this feeling that, as your Acting Executive Presbyter, I should be casting a strong, bold, compelling vision! It should be a unifying vision for bringing this presbytery together around mission and ministry that serves others and glorifies the Sovereign Holy Lord God.

But, I don't seem to have that larger-than-life perspective, yet. I continue to beat the drum about teaching, learning, listening, and raising the bar of excellence in ministry. I see myself as more of a symphony conductor with a large staff of very professional and capable

musicians. Or, sometimes, I see myself as the Dean of Donegal or the Provost of the Presbytery—terms that conjure up a scene in an academic situation. But, I don't, by myself, profess to have the contagious vision for the presbytery.

That's why I am quite excited about hearing what the "Holy Conversations" revealed about who we are and what we value. We are, together, much wiser than we are as lone individuals. For this reason, I love being Presbyterian, and, for this reason, I love to serve Jesus Christ beside you! Finally, I love to listen to the exquisite symphony that you are playing!

With Love,
Charlie Gross

What have I been reading? *UNChristian* by David Kinnaman (what the world thinks of Christians), *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller (our problem is our self-absorption—great writer), *Hope in Conflict, Discovering Wisdom in Congregational Turmoil*, by David R. Sawyer (speaks of the hopeful hypothesis).

What have I heard that stirred my soul? The Rev. Dr. David Dickey expressed the urgent need for us to build and develop better relationships throughout the presbytery. Build ministerial support networks and cultivate encouraging and supportive conversations and relationships. Let's do this!

Four Eyes

By The Rev. David Hall, Director of Mobilization, WEC International

When I was a computer programmer I took to heart the expression, "It takes four eyes to find a (programming) bug." So often I found it to be true. Sometimes just explaining the problem would unearth the solution. Other times walking through the problem with another person helped. Usually I found the problem wasn't that I wasn't looking hard enough, but rather that I was looking in the wrong place or asking the wrong questions.

It seems that today when the church in America is confronted with a major cultural shift, and we see a disconnection between the PCUSA

and American society, we should be checking our observations with others and asking questions, sometimes in "outside-the-box" ways. We need four eyes.

One striking example of this is found in *Jim & Casper Go to Church*. Jim Henderson, veteran Christian and director of Off the Map, hired atheist Matt Casper to visit twelve American churches from Rich Warren's Saddleback to Joel Osteen's Lakewood with some Pentecostal, emergent and even house churches. Jim figured if companies hire

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Amani Ya Juu (“Higher Peace”)

By Laura Fenwick

Kenya has been in the news a lot recently. The post-election violence and the subsequent talks between President Kibaki and Raila Odinga have garnered attention. Having been in Nairobi since January 9th, I have witnessed first-hand the political developments and the social strife. While a few weeks were tense, and there were outbreaks of violence, the situations were isolated, and the majority of Kenyans wanted a return to peace. Nairobi, especially, has been removed from the chaos, and my life here has been relatively normal.

My name is Laura Fenwick, and I am a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Berwyn, PA. I am a junior at American University in Washington, D.C., but currently I am on a study-abroad program in Nairobi, Kenya. During my four months here, I am taking classes at the United States International University, working towards my International Relations undergraduate degree. I also have an internship with Amani Ya Juu—a woman’s empowerment non-profit organization based here in Nairobi.

This internship has been the most enriching aspect of my semester. Amani Ya Juu (“higher peace” in Kiswahili) is a non-profit organization that empowers destitute women from Central and Eastern Africa with sewing and marketing skills in a four-year training program. Amani provides a holistic approach to women’s empowerment as women are strengthened in their faith by daily devotions and weekly Bible studies and have access to counseling services and seminars on health issues.

The women make a variety of high-quality products including: women’s and children’s clothes, house goods (tablecloths, quilts), and accessories (purses, jewelry). These are sold in the store on-site, online at www.amaniafrica.org, and through volunteers in the United States.

Amani was formed in 1996 in Nairobi to help women who had been displaced and marginalized due to conflict in East Africa. It has since

grown into a network of 600 women with sister centers in Rwanda and Burundi. At Amani, the women become strong and confident with a full understanding of their rights and the ability to sustain themselves. They also develop the desire to share their higher peace with their families, neighborhoods, and the global community.

Organizations like Amani are vital during this significant time in Kenya’s history. The international community and Kenyans alike were shocked by the tribal conflict which broke out after the December 2007 presidential election results were announced. Women at Amani were also affected by the election crisis but, despite representing over 18 different ethnic groups, there was no tribal conflict. These women have learned to work together because peace from God transcends all cultural and ethnic differences.

During my time here, I am working with Sankofa: Look to the Past; Walk into the Future. This ministry-through-drama fashion narrative was created in 2007, and we are in the process of adapting the show for a 5-city U.S. tour in October 2008. Through music, lighting, choreography, and costumes, Sankofa depicts a woman’s journey from her war-torn home to her new community of Amani Ya Juu where, despite struggles, she can celebrate peace found in God.

My focus at Amani is to plan the D.C. show. As I will be back in D.C. this fall, I will be able to see the project through to the end. I am asking for your support to help with the costs of the D.C. portion of the tour. I have set up a fund at Trinity Presbyterian to receive donations from congregations and the greater community. Amani is a registered non-profit in both Kenya and the U.S. Therefore all donations are tax-deductible.

I appreciate your consideration of my request. If you have any questions about Amani or Sankofa, please visit www.amaniafrica.org and/or contact me at fenwick.laura@gmail.com.

Four Eyes (continued from front)

‘mystery shoppers’ to test a store’s quality of service, why not hire non-Christians to attend a church service and learn from their impressions? The honesty of Henderson and Casper are disarming. Here are a number of Casper’s observations:

“Light shows, fog machines, worship bands, offering plates—is this what Jesus intended?”

“One of the most touching churches was a small group that meets in the house of Jason, a drummer friend of Casper. And even though I don’t share Jason’s beliefs, I really respect and enjoy the guy—his friends, too. Jason doesn’t have a big church or a million bucks or ten trips to Africa under his belt, but I see first-hand—almost every time we speak or get together—that he walks the walk.”

When asked about an inner-city church in Chicago, he stated, *“What was bothering me at those (big) churches was the amount of money that was clearly being spent on technology and equipment,*

which I see as vain at best, hypocritical at worst.

How are you helping others by spending your offering money on a Hollywood stage show?”

“And at Saddleback, when you’re basically at ground zero for American wealth and prosperity, the words on the PowerPoint ‘Don’t give up’ just made no sense.” Then Casper makes a contrast with this inner-city church: *“But these folks are singing these words with abandon, real feeling. And I think that if you do worship God and you are in the literal act of worshipping God, you are giving yourself over to a higher power which, in my opinion, should be done with abandon”* (Henderson, 67-68).

This book is truly a four-eyes experience. Jim Henderson has a number of simple, practical suggestions that could help your church better understand how ‘outsiders’ perceive that church thing we do.



The Donegal Digest

Bellevue (W. Davies)—The Men of Bellevue have undertaken to complete the “Wild at Heart” book study. The group, which meets on Saturdays at 8 a.m., is using the accompanying video series and learning about “Healing the Wound.” This section focuses on the wounds many men endure when they are injured by the words or actions of their own father or a father figure. The goal is to heal these wounds with the help of the Savior.

Centre (J. Biller)—On “Woman’s Sunday,” April 6, the guest speakers were Mary, daughter of Joachim and Anna and mother of Jesus, as portrayed by Judy Smitley. Smitley has brought biblical characters to life for more than a decade, and she presents Naomi, Abigail, and more with an understanding of their unique contribution to scripture.

Covenant (Dr. J. Moyer)—Vision of Harvest Ministries is an arm of the church that reaches out to the home-bound and those in assisted living facilities. Covenant members knit and crochet lap robes, which are then distributed to shut-ins with love and warmth.

First, York (Dr. J. Morgan)—Does your nominating committee need help finding church members who are prime officer material? First uses a very comprehensive suggestion form in their newsletter to ask members for names. The form includes the qualifications of an officer, places to write in suggestions, and the names and phone numbers of nominating committee members in case there are questions.

Responding to the world

Two Donegal Presbytery churches have had opportunities to respond to intrusions from the world in the last year. Guinston Church in Airville, PA, was attacked by vandals in July 2007. Leacock, in Paradise, found graffiti, including obscenities against God, that had been painted on the side of the church during the night of March 3rd.

Both churches reacted by reaching out to the vandals in ways that demonstrate the love of Christ for the lost.

At Guinston, the Rev. Daniel Moore discovered the graffiti at his church just before July 4, 2007. “They graffitied the outside of the new church, the inside of the old church, the sidewalks, and a shed,” said Moore. The graffiti on the outside of the church was cleaned up fairly quickly, but it took a little longer to clean up the interior of the old church. In the meantime, the three vandals who had perpetrated the crime were caught. One of them posted bail, and one was not able to post bail and remained in custody. The third was a minor.

Both the adults who were involved in the crime contacted the church to apologize. The one who posted bail came to the church within a few weeks to apologize. The one who remained incarcerated sent a letter to the church. The letter gave Moore a chance to begin a relationship with the perpetrator. “I corresponded with him,” said Moore. “He was set free on February 22, 2008, after seven months in prison. He’s on parole now, and I’m planning to get together with him,” he added.

The Sunday after the incident occurred, Moore preached on Joseph utilizing Genesis 50:20. “I used the passage ‘what you meant for evil, God intended for good,’” explained Moore. “We talked about how Joseph was able to forgive and how God can and will use this for good,” he said.

First, West Chester (Dr. W. D. Hess)—A group within the church, called Sweet Dreams, makes and donates a quilt to each child who is baptized. The group collects fabrics from the church members so that those who don’t sew may participate in this important ministry.

Highland (Dr. W. Jackson, Interim)—The Sweet Hour of Prayer group meets on Fridays at 3 p.m., in the choir room. The group seeks to enhance relations with God by studying prayer methods of the past 2,000 years. A deeper prayer life and stronger connection with God are the goals of this class.

Second, Oxford (K. Slinkard, Moderator)—The church presented Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*, at the Oxford Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. Funds raised by the event will benefit the annual scholarship and community outreach programs.

Paoli (Dr. J.P. Vaughn)—The toy-shop ministry collected toys on the weekend of March 8. The group’s vision, as they move forward, is to serve those in the community whose children need toys by giving them free items from their shelves, and to take the church truck—loaded with toys—to shelters where they can give the toys to those in need.

Trinity (Dr. W. Wilkins)—The church offers continuing opportunities for spiritual growth with a Tuesday morning group that is studying Flannery O’Connor’s *Spiritual Writings* and Eugene Peterson’s *Eat this Book*.

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Moore went on to tell of how the incident has changed the man he’s corresponding with. “The one young man has exhibited significant changes in his life. He’s not doing any drugs. He has a job. That’s one of the positive things that has come out of it.”

In addition to the changes in the perpetrator, the church had an opportunity to rise to the occasion. “The church was challenged to embrace forgiveness, and that was a growing point for the church,” said Moore. “Being able to accept the apology and grant forgiveness was character-building (for our membership).”

The Rev. Robert W. Birch, of Leacock, knew that he had to think of the brokenness of those who would vandalize a church after similar graffiti was discovered at Leacock in early March. In the sermon he preached the following Sunday, Birch spoke of this brokenness and invited attendees to respond by writing their own messages to the vandals on a 4x8 sign located outside the church.

To Birch’s amazement, the congregation took his suggestion seriously and penned messages of forgiveness on the board. Among the words was the message “God heals all our pain!!!” Someone crossed the top of the first exclamation point to make it read “God heals all our pain!!!” Others remembered their own struggles to understand God’s love and noted them on the board.

Birch hopes that the perpetrators will either seek help or be caught so that he can have a chance to tell them about the love and forgiveness that has allowed church members to reach out with messages of welcome and peace.