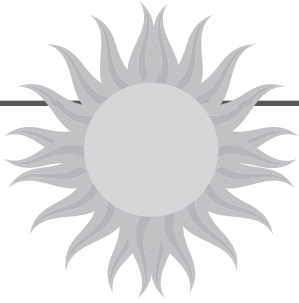


DONEGAL *Dialogue*

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Reflections on increasing gas prices and rising hopes!

By Charlie Gross, Associate Executive Presbyter

Summertime and the living is...EASY??????? Well, it is supposed to be easy! We are supposed to be going on vacation, sitting on porches, feeling the ocean spray, enjoying the boardwalk or the mountains, or visiting relatives near Lake Wobegon. Life is supposed to slow down during the lazy days of summer. But, this year, it might be different.

Almost every conversation now starts or ends with the price of gas or with emotion in the voice about a new record price to fill the tank. Other conversations mention the increasingly difficult decisions that have to be made concerning the continuation of business as usual. Some industries are being clobbered by the gas prices immediately. Others will lag in the impact. All of us are struggling to make tough decisions and understand the deeper meaning of our current situation.

Your staff, leadership, and Council in the Presbytery of Donegal are all engaging this work faithfully and valiantly. We continue to seek the Lord's will and guidance in prayer, worship, and fellowship as we craft responses to our unique situations. The transition team has labored long and hard to bring a comprehensive report and set of recommendations to the presbytery. It is available at:

<http://www.presbyteryofdonegalintransition.org/TTReportJune10.pdf>

The Council has been laboring in a season of discernment and prayer over the mission priorities of the presbytery. They are meeting in prayer teams and are now holding two retreats a year to wrestle with these knotty dilemmas. The Council and finance division are taking

steps toward providing a balanced budget for 2009 that reflects \$100,000 less in mission giving.

In the complexity of these situations, I am drawn to the prophet Habakkuk 3:17-18. Here I find an incredible response of trust that we are seeking to emulate. It says, "Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation."

Friends who love and serve Jesus, I believe that we are poised to grow our faith, our mission, and our ministry through even these difficult times! Our September 16, presbytery meeting will highlight Presbyterian mission with the Rev. Hunter Farrell (Director of the General Assembly Council's World Mission program area). We will rejoice to have our Mthatha sisters and brothers with us. We will throw a mission fair on Saturday, Sept 20, and host the Rev. Brian Clark (General Assembly Council field staff for New Church Development) at our annual Christian formation event on Sunday, Sept 21. The stage is being set for growth in our trust, our outreach, and our impact around the world! So, it's summertime and the living is not easy, but it is truly faithful, Christ-centered, and God-honoring! Thank you for your passion and heart that beats for the Lord!

It's an honor and a privilege to serve Christ beside you!

God Calls Crossans To Northern Ireland

Kevin and Jessica Crossan will complete their orientation in August and immediately travel to Northern Ireland for one year of service as Young Adult Volunteers.

These leaders in the PC(USA) have roots in Donegal Presbytery. Jessica Crossan grew up as a camper here at Donegal and was also on staff for two summers. Kevin grew up in the New London Presbyterian Church, where he was an active part of the youth group. He also interned for New London for two summers.

The couple will be living in Belfast, Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom. Both have been assigned to the Fort William Macrory Presbyterian Church where they will be teaching Sunday School, helping out with the music ministry, and leading youth group, among other assignments. Kevin has also been called to work with an organization called the 174 Trust. The 174 Trust does a lot of work with teenagers and youth. They run after-school programs, a drop-in center for teens, sports camps, and more.

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First York Sends Mission Delegation to Christian School in India

By The Rev. John Morgan

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:40

A team of 28 members of First Presbyterian of York recently participated in a trip to the Carmel Matriculation School in Dharmapuri, India. They left the United States on January 4 and arrived at Carmel on January 6. They returned to the U.S. on January 19. They spent eleven days at Carmel, staying at the recently constructed guest house right on the grounds.

Their ministry in India included working on a construction team to build new residential buildings for the school children alongside the Indian construction workers. There was, on any given day, two to four doctors conducting a free medical clinic for the impoverished residents of the area, and they were assisted by an equal number of nurses on the team. Many of the team members participated in teaching the children at the school.

In its eight-year history, the school has grown to over eight hundred students, all of whom are from very poor backgrounds, even by Indian

standards. MOST of these children would have NO opportunity for a basic education were it not for the Carmel Matriculation School, since the Dharmapuri area of Tamil Nadu, South India, where the school is located, is one of the most disadvantaged in the country. The poorest of the students, approximately two hundred, live on the school grounds and are directly supported monetarily and in prayer by the three congregations whose members make up most of the team. In addition to the ministry activities we provide, we plan to take numerous school supplies, medicines, and clothing for the children with us.

The trip has become an annual event, and has grown in participation from the first group of nine (in 2005) to this year's crew of 28. During the homeward-bound portion of the trip, participants had the opportunity to stay in the Indian capital of Delhi and visit the Taj Mahal in Agra. The group is already anticipating the planning stages of another trip to Carmel in January 2009! They are all deeply excited about this opportunity to share and live out their faith in ministering to these poorest of God's children.

The Donegal Digest

Centre (J. Biller)—The youth will travel to Owego, New York, on July 27 and return on Aug. 2. While there, they will help to refurbish homes for people who can't afford or aren't able to do repairs.

Covenant (Dr. J. Moyer)—CAMT stands for Covenant Adult Mission Teams. The church prints upcoming mission opportunities with contact names and numbers in their newsletter so that mission-minded adults will be able to follow God's lead into the field during the summer months.

Donegal (T. McKinnon)—A second annual flower party was held on the evening of June 20. Flower enthusiasts brought their cut flowers, cutting tools, and creativity and made centerpieces for the Donegal Society Day.

Fairview (Dr. M. Atkinson)—The church sent 11 members to New Orleans on April 12. They worked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on two homes in the area. They restored and repaired ceramic tile, wood floors, cabinets, windows, and other odd jobs. They found that God used their willingness to reach out to those in need and that they grew closer to each other as well as those they met in the mission field.

First, York (Dr. J. Morgan)—A summer Sunday breakfast social

event is scheduled monthly at 8 a.m. Participants enjoy early coffee, good food, and fellowship. The group believes this is a great way to meet and get to know others in the church community.

Trinity (Dr. J. Wilkins)—The church participates in the spring Swing and Fling, "Mission: Possible" golf tournament, auction, and fellowship event to support Mission Honduras and local charities. The golf tournament begins at 9 a.m., and it is followed by fellowship, food, door prizes, and silent and service auctions at 6 p.m.

Oxford (D. K. Slinkard)—Sunday, June 28, at 1 p.m., the church held a Gospel-Rama Unity Day involving musical groups and fun activities to support local needs. In addition, the Lighthouse Youth Center offers a chance for young people to memorize Bible verses and receive points for every verse they memorize. The points add up to prizes such as chips, soda, or a free meal at Pizza Hut or a trip to a sports event in Philadelphia.

Unionville (J. Howat)—On Father's Day, the church youth sponsored a tie contest. They asked fathers to wear their favorite "theme" tie to church that day. Winners were categorized in a wide number of themes, including Holiest, wooden, cartoon, patriotic, and plug ugliest.

Get your prescription for spiritual botox!

Provided by:

Keynote Speaker—The Rev. Brian Clark, founding pastor of Riverside Presbyterian Church, near Washington, D.C.

Clinic:

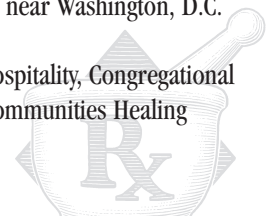
First Presbyterian Church, 140 East Orange Street, Lancaster PA, 717-394-6854

Treatment:

Inspiring Worship for Diverse Congregations, New Church Development, The Ministry of Hospitality, Congregational Involvement and Membership, Transformational Church Mission, Intergenerational Faith Communities Healing and Wholeness Ministry

Appointment date:

September 21, 2008 from 2 to 5:30 p.m.



Trimbles Appointed as Mission Co-Workers in Pakistan

Doug and Margy Trimble and their three children, Calvin (11), Anna (9), and Kate (6), will leave on July 30, for a long-term appointment at Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan, a ministry of the PC(USA). They were commissioned at General Assembly in June.

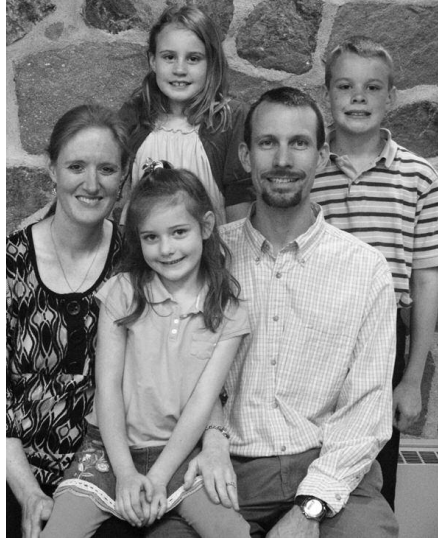
Margy (McLaughlin) Trimble grew up attending Camp Donegal and worked on staff three summers. The couple met while attending Messiah College and were the original permanent camp counselors at Camp Donegal in 1990. They were married at Centre Presbyterian Church by Jim Biller in 1991.

Doug earned a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Temple University, while Margy led the summer and short-term missions program for WEC International. After seven years teaching at Northwestern College in Orange City, IA, they returned to Donegal Presbytery and joined Central Presbyterian Church (Downingtown).

Here Doug has served as an elder and on the Evangelism Committee. Margy and he coordinated the Alpha ministry and led a small group Bible study. Margy was the nursery ministry coordinator and taught preschool.

In Pakistan, Doug will be the director of assessment and professor of psychology at Forman Christian College (FCC; www.fccollege.edu.pk) in Lahore. Forman was established in 1864 and gained the reputation as the "Harvard of the Subcontinent," until it was nationalized in the 1970s. The school was returned to the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2003—not a likely scenario in a country that is 96% Muslim. Presently, the college has a population of 4,330 students and is in the process of being accredited in the U.S., so it needs an assessment coordinator.

Going to Pakistan has the potential to further God's Kingdom in



three important areas. First, FCC can help provide high-quality education to the next generation of Christians in the country. In 2003, FCC had only 20 Christian students, but it now has over 700. Christians face educational and workplace discrimination.

Secondly, FCC is helping raise up the next generation of church leaders and enabling poor Christians to get jobs with which they can provide for their families. With over 96% of the population of Pakistan of the Muslim faith, most of the students at Forman are Muslim. Although direct proselytizing is improbable, the Trimbles will work to disciple local Christians and equip them for reaching their neighbors. Lahore is a city of over 7 million and has 16 Presbyterian

churches, so they will have significant opportunities to work with the local church.

Third, a prime goal of the school is to promote harmony between Muslims and Christians. The percentage of Christian faculty has skyrocketed to 35% in the past four years. Given the global situation, this goal is even more important for peace in Pakistan and around the world.

The Trimbles ask those here at home to pray for them. Spiritual warfare is real and will be waged against the Trimbles. Prayer warriors are needed to pray for them consistently to help prevent burnout or face a personal crisis that would cause them to return prematurely. Strong prayer support is essential, and the Trimbles ask that prayer warriors take this need very seriously. They will also need annual support. Their support will be shared between Forman Christian College and the denomination. Thus, churches in Donegal, as the sending presbytery, are asked to help fund this mission.

To learn more, contact the Trimbles at margytrimble@yahoo.com.

God Calls Crossans To Northern Ireland

(continued from front)

Jessica will work with an organization called Home Start during the week. Home Start provides support for young families and the differently-abled.

The Crossans felt led to the mission field in Ireland by circumstances the Lord allowed into their lives over the past few years. They also feel that God has given them a heart to work with youth and families, which will be a large part of their mission in Northern Ireland.

Among the challenges they expect to face in their new home is homesickness. Both are very close to their families, and they know it will be hard to be away for so long. However, they are blessed with an attitude of openness to God's will and look for Him to challenge their faith and help them to grow in

ways they cannot foresee. They look forward to being used by God while in their new home. They hope that when their year is up, they will leave Belfast a better place because of having been there. Along with the challenges, of course, there is the excitement of undertaking mission in the name of God. They look forward to the opportunity to do things they are passionate about for the God they love, and they look forward to seeing Europe, as well.

While the Crossans are in Ireland, they ask for your prayers. Prayer support is essential, and they ask specifically that people here pray that those they encounter in Ireland will have open hearts to what God wants for them. They would also appreciate letters and e-mails of encouragement and interest. Their e-mail address is wereinbelfast@gmail.com.

The Crossans are blessed with an attitude of openness to God's will and look for Him to challenge their faith and help them to grow in ways they cannot foresee.

2009 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study AND 2009 Children's Mission Yearbook are Available

One of the best ways to be familiar with the worldwide ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is through the Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study. The Mission Yearbook contains daily Scripture readings and commentary and information on all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as well as on PC(USA)-supported mission work throughout the world. The stories for the 2009 yearbook were collected around the theme it shares with the 218th General Assembly (2008), "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God," Micah 6:8.

By ordering your Mission Yearbooks through our Presbytery, you can be part of our "bulk order" and save costs. To obtain your Yearbooks this way, your order must be in the Presbytery Office by August 15.

The cost per Yearbook is \$5.00 each. Checks should be made payable to "The Presbytery of Donegal." If you want to order 100 or

more Yearbooks, you can order them from Louisville—in multiples of 25—and have them shipped directly to your church. They will cost you \$5.06 each that way, but you won't need to pick them up. Contact Presbyterian Distribution Service, phone 1-800-524-2612.

Children's Mission Yearbooks (CMYB) are also available through the presbytery office. The CMYB "is a personal devotional resource written for third- through sixth-graders. Users will learn more about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s mission work domestically and internationally and will be invited to engage in prayer for that mission. A wonderful and adaptive source of inspiration for parents, educators, and clergy, the CMYB is charmingly illustrated and filled with stories and activities that broaden awareness of the work of the church."

For more information on how to obtain Mission Yearbooks, contact Kathy Bartels at the Presbytery office at 717-392-4035 or e-mail her at kathy@donegalpby.com.

Central Presbyterian Church in

Downingtown 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 two years experience in a Children's Ministries or education position. Mail resume to: Director of Children's Education Search Committee, Central Presbyterian Church, 100 Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville is seeking a Worship and Praise Team Leader to lead the music and direct our Praise Team during our contemporary Rise and 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 resume to secretaryfpc@comcast.net or mail to: The First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville, 145 Main Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460 RE: Praise Team Leader.

Stewartstown Presbyterian Church announces an immediate opening for the position of Church Organist. Duties include playing for 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 e-mail stpresby@verizon.net.

Unionville Presbyterian Church in Unionville, PA is seeking a Director of Youth Ministry (DYM) part time, 15-20 hours/week. The DYM responsibilities include; lead planning and implementation of youth ministries for middle school, high school, and college-aged



youth, serving as lead resource and support for Confirmation Class, and supervision of youth programs including Sunday school,

Sunday night youth group and other projects, trips, etc. Please direct all inquiries and submit resumes to UPC Office, Attn: CE Ministry Team, 610-347-2327. Address: 815 Wollaston Rd., P.O. Box 447, Unionville, PA 19375, or via e-mail at: upcoffice@bee.net.

Wayside Presbyterian Church in Landisville has an urgent need for an interim choir director to lead our church choir through the Christmas 2008 and Easter 2009 seasons. This opportunity to direct an adult choir with a blended contemporary and traditional mix of Christian music will open in September 2008 and will involve a mid-week choir rehearsal and one Sunday morning worship service per week. Requirements: formal music training, familiarity with traditional and contemporary Christian music, skills to engage and enable others, and some orientation to children's music programs. The position will be compensated based on experience and skills. For more information, e-mail wayside@waysidepc.org or call 717-285-2648.

Lancaster Theological Seminary's Ministerial Formation Program is seeking a part-time Coordinator of Field Education to begin September 1, 2008. This position involves providing counsel to seminarians, training supervisors, team development, and experimenting with new forms of field education. Experience with small group processes, context analysis, and theological reflection are also crucial. Strong computer, administrative, organizational, communication, and relational skills, as well as appreciation for the mission of theological education and ministerial practice are essential. The successful candidate should have a minimum of five years of ministerial experience. To apply, send resume, cover letter, and three references to Peggy Stauffer, Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 W. James St., Lancaster, PA 17603 or pstauffer@lancasterseminary.edu.