

DONEGAL *Dialogue*

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In Search Of Godly Leaders

By Charlie Gross, Associate Executive Presbyter

The world is crying out for good Godly leaders! Women and men who are filled with the Holy Spirit, who are on fire for the Lord, and who have the guts, character, skills, and integrity to lead God's people! Or, perhaps the world is simply looking for men and women who have eyes to see and who have the heart to respond. Perhaps God is nudging you into service through your special awareness of a need, your unique ability to pay attention to unusual events, and your willingness to respond with action.

In Exodus 3:1-4, God only speaks to Moses AFTER he first pays attention to the burning bush (that does not burn up), and AFTER he goes over closer to take a better look. Then and only then is Moses told that he is standing on holy ground.

My dear friends who love the Lord Jesus Christ! We are truly on holy

ground. We are seeking to see clearly, to pay attention, and to respond to the many needs around us. We struggle to become more focused, more relational, and more loving as we collaborate with God and one another in kingdom-building work.

Our unique challenge is to work diligently for clarity concerning the needs of God's people (what is YOUR burning bush?) and for better alignment in using our gifts and skills (do we approach the bush and listen?). Let's pray with and for one another, hold one another, and support one another in our calling to be the Church!

Let me know how I can more effectively support, equip, and encourage you!

Extravagant Blessings!

Charlie Gross

Mission Blossoms In Center City

By Don Lincoln, Pastor, Westminster

Throughout their history, Presbyterians have adjusted their understandings of mission/outreach, and allocated resources to meet changes in the world that previous generations might never have imagined. This time is no different. Like those before us, we are called to discern what it means to be "strategic" in ministry—how to be used by God for the greatest impact in the world to which God sends us.

Three years ago, Westminster (West Chester) was invited to join forces with other Presbyterians in a strategic ministry in urban Philadelphia called BROAD STREET MINISTRIES (BSM). BSM is the vision of convening minister Bill Golderer and a handful of persons who believed there was room for a new strategic ministry in the center of the city, once dominated by a downtown Presbyterian presence. We continue to be amazed at what God is doing there!

Broad Street Ministries is aptly named; but the name signifies more than its location in Center City Philadelphia. Founded in 2005, and housed in the once closed Chambers-Wylie Presbyterian Church across from the Kimmel Center, BSM's vision continues to unfold as it forms

an alternative church community in the urban trenches.

BSM's ministry is "broad" enough to invite anyone in the neighborhood into community.

For instance, the church Web site puts this openness into action: BSM welcomes into its body not just those who are on the margins of faith, but those who are on the margins of society. The member of prestigious private clubs worships alongside the homeless person. The gay and lesbian activist passes the peace with the Pentecostal lay preacher. The possessor of a PhD. in theology prays alongside the summa cum laude graduate of the School of Hard Knocks.

BSM worships on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m., and in less than two years, weekly worship attendance has grown from a handful to more than a hundred. The last Wednesday of each month, BSM's "No Barriers Dinner" hosts up to 300 from the neighborhood for a free meal. Youth and adult members from Westminster and other supporting churches drive into Philadelphia to help serve, and sit down and break bread with "neighbors" at a dinner that reflects diversity seldom experienced

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Leadership Tools

By Charlie Gross

Here are some excellent tools you might try in your unique leadership role.

- Use your own method of reminders (datebook, PDA, planning calendar) to send out agendas a week ahead of time for your meetings.
- Use a matrix like this one to insure that everyone is notified:

(Include just the item in the matrix to use for communication. In the example, Will likes to receive agendas and minutes by fax.)

Name	E-mail	Fax	Address	Phone
Will B. Notified		717-392-8922		

- During the meeting, keep a matrix on the board or on butcher paper that looks like this:

Action Item	Who does it?	When is it due?	Resources?	Comments?
Send agenda	Chair	1 week		

This type of planning matrix will help you with clarity around action items. It can list the items to be done, who will do them, when they are due, what other resources are needed, and comments to help make the item crystal clear. This matrix can then be entered into the minutes of the meeting giving some accountability for the action items.

Then, the minutes can be sent out within a couple of days of the meeting—using the above matrix to insure that everyone receives them according to their own preferences.

- One of the most powerful sets of questions that you should ask at the end of every meeting is: “What conclusion from this meeting should we communicate to our congregation or others? Who will do it? What medium should be used (letter, newsletter, pulpit announcement, bulletin article, etc)? When will this be done?”

- As we seek to cut down the number of miles driven for meetings, an excellent way to gather for brief meetings or to make decisions is through free conference calling. To use free conference calling: Tell everyone when to meet. Tell them to call 1-218-862-6100, and enter access code 3928922, followed by the # key (or make up your own

7-digit code). It is that easy. **Note:** Other phone numbers are available through www.freeconference.com.

- To easily schedule your next meeting or conference call, use www.doodle.ch and click on “Create a Poll.” This free Web site helps you find the optimum date and time to hold your meeting. The only premise is that your people must be Web savvy and check their e-mail frequently.

- The final tip is to check out the Center for Creative Leadership (www.ccl.org) and search for their excellent podcast series called *Leading Effectively*. You could also subscribe to my podcast series at: www.charliegross.com/charliecreativity.rss.

*May God richly bless you as you lead your team
into a vibrant future!*

Charlie Gross

Mission Blossoms In Center City (continued from front)

by many of us. From December through April, BSM’s ministry offers hospitality each night to some of the city’s most vulnerable homeless who will not enter the traditional shelter system. BSM’s Youth Initiative provides opportunities through the year for youth from other churches to experience first-hand the urban setting and participate in Broad Street’s weekly ministries.

Creative learning opportunities—film viewings, guest speakers, study groups—are regularly offered as BSM challenges people to explore new ways of thinking and believing and living out the Gospel. Westminster members and resources are participating in the newest BSM ministry effort—Neighborhood Solutions. This ministry, being developed in partnership with Princeton Theological Seminary, seeks to build community-based experiences for seminarians who will live in the

Broad Street neighborhood, be together in community in one home, and participate in the ministry itself. Such urban ministry immersion is a unique opportunity to train seminary students in creative and entrepreneurial ministries—in other words, strategic training for strategic ministry!

In an age of declining centralized resources for outreach, downtown churches continuing to close their doors, and the disappearance of vital urban ministries, Broad Street offers a new approach to being strategic in ministry. Westminster’s life has been invigorated and “BROAD-ened” by our participation in this opportunity to be God’s missional people in the world—including just down the street! For more information, contact Leah Johnson, Westminster’s Clerk of Session and Broad Street Ministries liaison, or visit www.broadstreetministry.org.



Help wanted

Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown, is seeking a Director of Children's Education (full-time, 40 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. Candidates must have a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, a great love for children, and a strong desire to nurture them in their Christian journey. In addition, proven organizational skills, attention to details, and written and oral communication skills are needed. Qualifications are a degree in education and/or two years proven experience. Mail resumes to: Director of Children's Education Search Committee, 100 Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335, or fax to 610-269-9842.

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 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, Unionville, PA is seeking a Director of Children's Ministry. The position includes planning and implementation of educational programs for infants through fifth grade, developing Christian-based curricula, coordination of Sunday School teachers, and family programs. **Unionville Presbyterian Church in Unionville, PA**, is also seeking a Director of Youth Ministry (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 for these positions 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. 2008 is the Year of World Mission!

The Donegal Digest

Bellevue (W. Davies)—The church has planned a fall retreat at Camp Donegal around the theme "Hiking Through Narnia." The retreat will focus on C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* and the Christian themes found therein. Bellevue's own Alleluia Praise Team will lead worship.

First Church, York (Dr. J. Morgan)—This September, the church will begin offering a "Journey Through the Bible," in addition to its other adult education classes. The class will begin with the Creation story in Genesis and continue through Revelation with the goal of discovering God's plan for salvation as revealed in His word.

First Church, W. Chester (Dr. W. Hess)—A new evening worship service at 6 p.m. on Sundays will offer a contemporary service that is family friendly. Educational opportunities will be available both before and after the service.

Highland (Dr. W. Jackson, Interim)—A Day For Caregivers Workshop will be offered at Highland by the church's Stephen Ministry on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the church. The program will focus on providing practical information and support to those who are caring for an ill or aging loved one. Topics covered include: Family Dynamics, Ethical and Legal Concerns, Community Resources, Spiritual Support, Long-Distance Issues, and Taking Care of the Caregiver. Registration brochures are available through the church office. Deadline for registration and fee (\$25) is September 8. For more information, contact Marilyn Ebel 393-7722, or Eleanor Sharp (Highland Presbyterian Church) 569-2651.

Leacock (R. Birch)—On Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Leacock will be the site of Donegal's Day of Mission Fair. The event will be cosponsored by the Peace, Justice & Care of Creation Department (formerly Outreach to Larger Community) and Presbyterian Women. On display will be booths galore on mission. There will also be workshops on mission at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. There is no cost involved. For a flyer on the Mission Fair to post at your church, visit: www.donegalpy.com/2008_Presbytery_Mission_Fair_Flyer.pdf.

New Harmony (R. Edmundson)—The church hosted a very unusual outreach on Pentecost, when they sent 48 red balloons aloft with notes attached. The notes included the date, the name and address of the church, and the church phone number. In response, the church received calls from Myerstown and Factoryville, PA, as well as from Toronto, Ontario Canada.

Paoli (Dr. J. Churchill)—The church is forming classes for the Disciple Bible Study, a program designed to develop strong local churches by studying scripture in depth. The goal is to strengthen people in their faith and guide them into service through a Biblically nourishing and nurturing program that encourages attendees to live as disciples of Christ.

Stewartstown (Dr. R. Laforce)—During the summer, the church held a Kid's Cooking Camp based on the theme "God Provides—Morning, Noon, and Night." For a small fee, plus a canned good for the food pantry, children in grades 1 through 5 can enjoy five mornings of a camp with a delicious program of activities on the menu for the day.



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

Day of Mission at our Presbytery's First Mission Fair— Co-sponsored by the Peace, Justice & Care of Creation Department (formerly Outreach to Larger Community) and Presbyterian Women. It will be held at Leacock Presbyterian Church in Paradise, on Saturday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will include booths galore on mission as well as workshops on mission at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Note there is no cost involved. For a flyer on the Mission Fair to post at your church, visit:
www.donegalpby.com/2008_Presbytery_Mission_Fair_Flyer.pdf.

On Friday, Oct 24, at 12:00 noon, there will be a Lancaster Missionary Fellowship Luncheon at the World Mission Resource Center, 600-C Eden Road, Lancaster. The speaker will be Dr. Richard Showalter of Silk Road Caravans and Christians: Then and Now. He recently spent three months traveling the Silk Road. A free will offering will be collected. For information, please call Verna Schwartz (Acting Secretary), Missions Fest Lancaster, (717) 509-0938 or mail to: info@missionsfestlancaster.org.

Did you know that you may be eligible for a charitable giving deduction for your mission trip travel and expenses? See the IRS Publication 526, page 5, under travel where it says, "Generally, you can claim a charitable contribution deduction for travel expenses necessarily incurred while you are away from home performing services for a charitable organization only if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation in the travel. This applies whether you pay the expenses directly or indirectly. You are paying the expenses indirectly if you make a payment to the charitable organization and the organization pays for your travel expenses." This publication then gives some good examples of what is allowed and not allowed. Many of you will fall into the category of an allowed deduction.

First Presbyterian West Chester is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year, and, in honor of the anniversary, and to raise money for the church's capital campaign, they have published an 890-recipe cookbook, The Best of First.

The hard-cover book, designed by artist Nancy Thompson, includes a history of the church, table graces, and recipes from their sister church, Iglesia Getsemani in Guatemala. To order a copy (\$20), contact the church at 610-696-0554 or e-mail Elizabeth Hess at ehess@firstpreswc.com.

TO: Clerks of Session FROM: Administration Department, Presbytery of Donegal RE: Corporate Registration. Each year you need to review your registration with the PA Department

of State Corporation Bureau to make sure you're filing as a non-profit corporation is up to date. If there has been a change in your elected officers since the last time you filed, you need to file the Annual Statement-Nonprofit Corporation form. You can do this by clicking on this link: <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/corps/lib/corps/20/7/5110.pdf>.

You can check the status of your church by clicking on this link <http://www.corporations.state.pa.us/corp/soskb/csearch.asp>, and then search by the name of the church, or by entity number. If no record is available, you may have to file another type of report.

Please call Kathy at the Presbytery office to request a form. It is important to file these reports because if your church is not registered at the Corporation Bureau, your church will lose the exclusive right to your church's name. Any other entity may use it to do business in Pennsylvania. It may also be possible that you will be unable to borrow funds for any church projects or to register a preschool or any other such project.

The Presbytery of Donegal—Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training Workshop will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bellevue Presbyterian Church, 810 Newport Ave., Gap. Lunch will be included, but preregistration is strongly encouraged. Please contact Kathy at kathy@donegalpby.com. All ministers of Word and Sacrament, employees, and volunteers of the Presbytery must get this training. If you haven't had this training in the last three years, you need to come! If you have had it, make sure that Rev. Dr. Bill Netting (the Stated Clerk) has your proof. Contact him at: netting@epix.net.

"Marching In" From November 12 to 15, 2008, National Presbyterian Youth Workers Association (PYWA) Gathering, will be held in New Orleans at the Double Tree Hotel. A Day of Mission, work alongside other youth workers in mission will occur. Come November 11 and stay overnight in churches. The day of mission is November 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee \$435 for PYWA members and \$475 for non-members (Annual PYWA Membership is \$50). Registration includes conference fee, hotel, and four meals. To register or learn more go to www.pywa.org.

Leadership Development event! On Sunday, September 21, from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m., come to the Christian Formation event at First Presbyterian Lancaster! Workshops on inspiring worship, new church development, ministry of hospitality, membership, and intergenerational issues! PLUS, the keynoter is the Rev. Brian Clark, General Assembly Council field staff for New Church Development! To learn more visit: <http://www.donegalpby.com/podcasts/cfef.pdf>.