

DONEGAL *Dialogue*

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Your leadership in transition

By *Charlie Gross, Acting Executive Presbyter*

The Presbytery of Donegal continues to prayerfully and carefully build its capacity to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. On Sept. 15, we elected a new executive presbyter—the Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes. Erin comes to us with a long list of talents, skills, abilities, and accomplishments that will serve us well in our mission and ministry to our global community. She will begin as our colleague in ministry on January 1, 2010.

As we prepare to welcome her to the team that is Donegal, I wanted to reflect on some helpful ideas from Robert E. Quinn's book, *Deep Change: Discovering the Leader Within*. This book repeatedly makes the strong point that an organization or system reflects the attitude of the leadership team. If we desire a change, we have to personally model this change before we can ask the system to embrace it. This stance is proven again and again in business organizations when top management sends down an edict for improvement, but the top managers do not personally embody that same improvement in their own work. Those baseless edicts fail to gain traction, and they do not cause deep change.

Here is the application for us. As we seek to transform our staff and integrate Erin's new talent, we will be wise to be guided by our mission and vision statements. We will blend her gifts with ours and become stronger as we work from the position of strength that is our unity in Christ.

Our leadership (and that means you) strives diligently to serve God with that servant model given us by our Lord Jesus. We are unified and made one through faith in Jesus Christ, and we demonstrate God's love in every way to one another and the world. The Presbytery of Donegal takes on the attitude of its leadership, and that attitude continues to be shaped by Jesus Christ.

Transitions are not always easy. They are fraught with possible misunderstandings and miscommunications. But as we lovingly labor in these fields as sisters and brothers in Christ, we will overcome the missteps and become stronger in our unique witness to the world. I give thanks to Almighty God for each one of you and pray God's extravagant blessings to you and yours as you gather around tables this season.

With Love, Charlie Gross



MISSION

*Together we are an expression
of the body of Christ,
working to bring the good news
of Jesus Christ in word and deed
in our community, presbytery,
and the world.*

CORE VALUES

*Education, Hospitality,
Passionate spirituality, Integrity,
Reformed orthodoxy, Grace,
Mission, Transformation,
History, Evangelism, Humility.*

OUR VISION

*Donegal Presbytery is united
through faith in Jesus Christ
and demonstrates God's love
to each other, the community,
and the world.*



Middle Octorara continues mission in Peru



Middle Octorara has provided the funds to build a Presbyterian Church in the village of Tamshiyacu, Peru, along the Amazon River. Thanks to private donations—not money from the church accounts—Middle Octorara has become a sister church to the Tamshiyacu congregation.

During the summer of 2008, several members of the Middle Octorara congregation participated in a mission trip during which they helped dig the foundation for the new church.

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Middle Octorara continues mission in Peru

(continued from front)

In 2009, the group that visited was privileged to attend the dedication of the new church. They were greeted warmly by Pastor Ricardo, his wife Lupe, many church members, and dozens of children. Pastor Ricardo was very grateful for supplies brought by the mission team. The supplies (anything from over-the-counter drugs to various clothing to toys), delivered to Tamshiyacu in seven suitcases, are being distributed throughout the community. All items were contributed by members of the Middle Octorara congregation.

Middle Octorara participates in this work through the Presbyterian organization, Medical Missions. Amazon Mission Fellowship conducts the efforts of Medical Mission and Sister Churches as per the eight Presbyterian Churches along the Amazon near Iquitos. Five of the eight now have Sister Churches who provide funds each month.

The Peru Mission Team this year included Dan and Boni Henry, Virgil Roark, Barry Girvin, Jeff and Kathy Evans, and Jodie Miller. They were joined by six others from First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. The Rev. Dave Henry led the group.

One special project this year consisted of building a fence (205 feet) around the SCOTA (Special Children of the Amazon) School, which is located next to the new church. Most rewarding was the interaction with the people of Tamshiyacu, particularly the children.

The women of the Peru Mission Team held Bible School (with the



help of an interpreter) each day, Monday through Thursday. By Thursday, 92 kids were attending. Special moments with the children included playing soccer. There were many picture-taking experiences.

According to Barry Girvin, who made his first trip to Peru, "When one sees how grateful the people are for our help, the love of the Lord that is evident in their worship, and how happy they are in spite of meager living conditions; the servant is served. I will never be the same person. I came away with a new appreciation for the life that I am privileged to lead."

For more information on the Peru Project, mission trips, or the Sister Church program, please contact Barry Girvin at 717-393-8560 or jbgseg60@comcast.net.

The Donegal Digest

Bellevue (W. Davies)—In October, the church hosted a meal exchange cleverly titled "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Host members signed up to provide main courses, and guests were assigned to bring salads or desserts. Host members did not know who would visit their homes, only how many would arrive. The event offered church members the opportunity to become better acquainted with others within the congregation.

Bethany (A. Dickey)—The church's latest Sunday School class for adults is called "Unplug the Christmas Machine!" Taught by the pastor, the course is designed specifically for those who find their holidays filled with stress and fatigue and offers an examination of how unhealthy habits can detract from meaningful celebration of God's greatest gift to us.

Centre (J. Biller)—The church took advantage of the mild mid-September weather by holding its annual picnic under the trees behind the church building. Worship was held outside, followed by barbecued chicken. Salad and dessert assignments were made alphabetically.

Covenant (Dr. J. Moyer)—The church has begun a prayer shawl ministry, creating shawls in a variety of shapes and sizes that are given to those in need of comfort or in celebration. The group creates lap robes as well.

First Church, Mount Joy (R. Burns)—The church recently held its first annual family banquet, and about 50 members joined

together for food and fellowship. The evening included prizes, speeches, awards, and a great deal of laughter.

First Church, York (Dr. J. Morgan)—Works of art by church members were displayed on the wall outside the church library over the summer. Church members and artists Jane Ann Delp and Anne McFeely shared their paintings of God's creations with the congregation for a time.

First Church, West Chester (Dr. W. Hess)—Ten Great Dates is a program that allows married couples to recreate their courtship by offering them a chance to have a monthly date night beginning with a short class at the church. The church offered the course during October, November, and December.

Little Britain (T. Milligan)—The church's softball team participated in the August tournament at Camp Donegal and walked away with the top prize for the eighth time in nine years. Congratulations to team members Jimmy Miller, Luke Knight, Andrew Gordon, Adam Blough, Jess Keefer, Matt Knarr, Nate Blough, Zach Knight, John Keefer, Casey Pierce, Jimmy Mullen, Jimmy Gordon, and Karen Keefer.

Trinity (Dr. J. Wilkins)—Adult Sunday school during the fall of 2009 included a study of Calvin that focused on the continuing relevance of the Reformation and Calvin in today's church. References to "Calvin and Hobbes" lightened up the classes.

Faith and leadership develop at Pequea

The Rev. Beth Engel, pastor at Pequea in Gap saw her church members grow in their leadership qualities before and during her knee replacement surgery recovery. "Prior to my knee replacement surgery on July 30, I held a one-day leadership retreat using Ephesians as a guide," said Engel.

Prior to that event, Engel had worked with the church in the area of prayer. She taught a series on intercessory prayer, and a group of seven began meeting four hours each week for prayer. Two members of the group attend other churches, which has helped Pequea to stay connected to other believers in the area. During Engel's recovery, a member of the group prayed for her daily.

In her ministry at Pequea, Engel has stressed "the priesthood of all believers," "community and union with God," and "the work of the Holy Spirit in gifts and calls." In addition, a large portion of the church's weekly service is devoted to intercessory prayer with the people praying aloud for the needs of those in the church, in the area, and in the world. "Occasionally the Spirit moves me to have the people pray a prayer from scripture for one another aloud," said Engel.

Over the summer, while Engel was recovering, church members planned a week of arts and crafts in August and Sunday eve worship services with guest speakers and musicians in July and August. "In my absence of six Sundays, the teaching elders filled the pulpit, and led Sunday evenings and the arts week," Engel said. "I received notes, e-mails, and calls from visitors and members commending our leaders. We are looking forward to God's plans for our future."

Presbyterian Foundation offers innovative gift program

The Presbyterian Foundation has recognized that the gift plan that has been around since 1843 was ready for an update. Historically, the donor who selects a Charitable Gift Annuity makes a gift and receives lifetime income and upon their passing, the charitable beneficiary receives the charitable remainder. The innovative, new Charitable Gift Annuity program offered by the Presbyterian Foundation will still provide the donor with an attractive lifetime income, but now, in most cases, the gift portion will be made available to the charity named by the donor immediately. This approach allows the donor to witness the impact of their giving during their lifetime, and the charity receives an immediate gift which is always welcome.

"This innovative program will provide a powerful tool for every ministry within the Presbyterian Church to immediately impact its mission funding," stated Paul H. Grier, acting vice president of development for the Presbyterian Foundation. He added, "The average length of time that a ministry traditionally waits for funds from a Charitable Gift Annuity is about 12 years. Imagine how many lives could be impacted during those years if the gift portion was available now!"

The new Charitable Gift Annuity program became effective August 1, 2009. The program adopted the rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities. Gifts are accepted at \$10,000 and above and can be for one or two lives.

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

www.donegalpby.com

The Rev. Guy Dunham (Executive Director of York County Council of Churches) has agreed to be our new Ecumenical Liaison with the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations (GACER). His job will be to channel information from the Department of Ecumenical and Agency Relations about local and national opportunities for ecumenical engagement, including workshops, conferences, Webinars, educational resources, and news articles. He will also contact GACER with news about ecumenical activities in our presbytery so that they may be more informed about local activities to help them better serve as a resource to presbyteries around their ecumenical commitments.

The Rev. Patty Stoltzfus, who has been associate pastor of music at Covenant Presbyterian Church since May of 2006, has agreed to be our representative on the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS). This group is seeking feedback for a new collection of congregational songs for the PC(USA). She will be the disseminator of important updates, questions, and contact information about the work of the national commission called PCOCS.

Community Meal for Columbia—Can your church volunteer to provide a meal in Columbia? Columbia Presbyterian needs to have congregations volunteer to cook and serve an evening meal for 30 to 40 needy folks on the third Wednesday of an upcoming month. Call David Powers 717-684-6271 now to help with this outreach. Remember Jean Webster's kitchen? This is a similar food program right here in Donegal.

Congratulations to the Rev. Daniel and Tara Moore! On September 7, at 7:30 p.m., Marilla Katherine Moore was born to the Moores. She weighed in at 8 pounds, 3.9 ounces, and was 19 and 3/4 inches long. Everyone is doing fine, and all are now at home. Daniel is pastor of the Guinston Presbyterian Church.

The fall 2009 issue of the Church Treasurer and Business Administrator News is now available. Much can change over the course of a year, and the fall 2009 issue of the Church Treasurer & Business Administrator News provides important updates from the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Published annually, this newsletter highlights crucial Benefits Plan and related information for church treasurers, business administrators, and others responsible for clergy benefits coverage.

The Presbytery of Donegal

Donegal Dialogue

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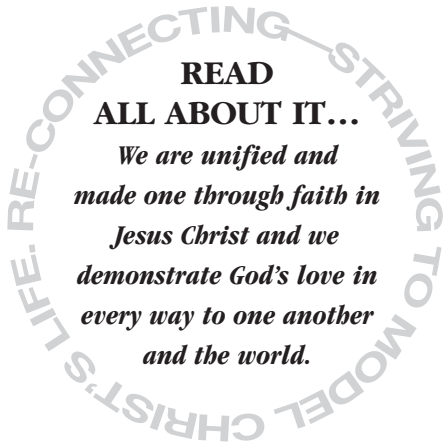
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**READ
ALL ABOUT IT...**

*We are unified and
made one through faith in
Jesus Christ and we
demonstrate God's love in
every way to one another
and the world.*

**No Blarney—
Serving Christ in Ireland** *by Jessica Crossan*

“What’s the form?” “What’s the craic?” “Alright?” “Bout ye?” At least once a day while we lived in Belfast over the past year, we were asked one of these questions. They didn’t make sense to us either at first, but we quickly learned that they all meant “How are you?”

Last September, my husband, Kevin, and I, along with six other young adults from all over the United States, landed in Belfast ready to serve in churches and community organizations around the city. We were going as Young Adult Volunteers, or YAVs, which is a program for people between ages 18 and 30 who would like to serve with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as short-term missionaries.

Kevin and I spent the year serving in three very different places in North Belfast. The first was a church called Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church where we primarily worked with youth and in the church office. We also helped out at the 174 Trust, a community center in a mostly working class area of the city. There we worked with an after-school program, a nursery (or preschool), disability clubs, a football (soccer) club, and with the groundskeeper. We also spent some time at WAVE Trauma Centre, which is an agency that helps victims and survivors of violence in Northern Ireland. There, we worked with women and men's groups that met regularly to provide support and to find healing in art therapy.

Needless to say, we had a very busy year. We met a ton of incredible people who taught us so much about life and about ourselves. We returned to the U.S.A. in late July and quickly began readjusting to life over here. We miss the friends we made, the tea, and sometimes even the rain (and it rained a LOT) in Belfast. But, we will never forget all that we learned about ourselves, God, the church, and our culture while we served as YAVs. If you are interested in becoming a YAV or hearing more about our experience, please feel free to e-mail us at wereinbelfast@gmail.com.

HAPPENINGS

**Happenings
at Bethany,
Mendenhall**

Stated Supply Ann Dickey reports that things are “going and growing” at Bethany. The church holds a “Second Sunday” event with programs about WW II veterans or missions, such as medical ministries in Honduras. A new monthly singalong includes a contemporary Christian music jam and worship service with a band.