

UPLIFT Newsletter

JUNE/JULY 2015

As we read the scriptures, we find a constant call to care for those in our midst who are vulnerable, the aged, the widowed, the traveler who is passing through, the poor, and the children. We are to be an advocate for those who cannot care for themselves because of physical or social circumstance. While it is an issue of justice, it is even more an issue of love and grace.

Probably the most vulnerable in society are children. In many instances they do not have the financial means to provide for themselves or the physical means to defend themselves or the emotional resources to know who they can trust. We live in a sinful world where some seek to take advantage of the disadvantaged. No longer do we leave our doors unlocked when we're away, or even at home. No longer do we assume that the neighbors will keep an eye on our children when they're playing in the neighborhood. No longer do we tell our youngsters to go out and play—and don't come back until dinnertime. There was a time when we didn't even think about what could happen, but sadly, it did.

Pennsylvania, along with many other states, has enacted new legislation that addresses the issue of child protection. In 1866, the SPCA was formed and pushed for legislation to protect animals against acts of cruelty. It wasn't until nearly half a century later in 1912, that the Federal Children's Bureau was established to manage child welfare efforts. And it wasn't until 1958 that the Social Security Act mandated that each state fund child protection services. One would think that a sense of social and moral decency would render legislation unnecessary, but as a society we often fail to see and do the obvious.

Jesus called the children to come to him and he blessed them. At the same time, Jesus warned anyone who put a stumbling block in front of the innocent and thereby harmed them that it would be better for the violator that "a great millstone be fastened around their neck and they be cast into the depth of the sea." I think we would all agree that it is better to prevent trouble than it is to punish someone for causing it.

Throughout our Commonwealth, anyone who works with children in a paid or volunteer position is now required to have background checks done and the reports kept on file by the organization in which they are serving. The first is a Report of Criminal History from the Pennsylvania State Police. The second is a Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services. If you have lived anywhere but Pennsylvania in the past ten years, you are also required to be finger printed and be cleared through the federal criminal system of the FBI. Your reaction may be "What! All this to work with children! Don't they trust me?" It's not a matter of trust. It's now a matter of State Law, but even more it's a matter of diminishing the risk of a child being abused. Will it guarantee that all children are kept safe? - Sadly, No. But if one child is spared the loss of their innocence, it's worth the efforts.

The law requires these clearances be done by July 1, 2015. Forms needed to be completed are available in the church office. The cost for processing the clearances will be paid by the church. If you have your clearances already, we ask that you bring the original to the church office. We must see the original and then make a copy for our files. All information is kept confidential. There is also a three hour training that can be done online that shows what to look for in children who have or are suffering abuse.

We appreciate your cooperation in complying with the state laws. If you are not comfortable having your clearances done, we understand, but cannot legally allow you to work with our children in the church. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, Deb Lint or Jill in the office. We simply want this to be a place of peace and safety for all.....

In Christ's love,

Pastor Jim

IN MEMORIUM

H. PERRY RANKIN

Born—

December 6, 1922

United with the Congregation—

March 29, 1956

Entered the Church

Triumphant—

May 8, 2015



Summer Schedule

Our worship services through the summer will begin at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School classes and our chancel choir are in recess and will begin anew after Labor Day. Special musicians will be sharing their talents with us during summer worship services. Please see Cindy Borbonus if you or someone you know would be interested in sharing special music during a worship service.

Scripture Texts for June

7..... Mark 3:20-35
 II Corinthians 4:13-5:1
14..... II Corinthians 6-10, 14-17
 Mark 4:26-34
21..... VBS Sunday
28..... II Corinthians 8:7-15
 Mark 5:21-43

Scripture Texts for July

5..... II Corinthians 12:2-10
 Mark 6:1-13
12..... II Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19
 Ephesians 1:3-14
19..... II Samuel 7:1-14
 Ephesians 2:11-22
26..... Ephesians 3:14-21
 John 6:1-21

Worship Assistants—10:00 a.m.

June 7:

Sp. Music Our Bell Choir
Flowers Ed & Becky Bence
Projector Julia Holby
Audio Alex Baker

June 14:

Flowers Elaine Jellison
Projector Kayla Moran
Audio Tyler Moran

June 21:

Flowers Richard & Nancy
 Campbell
Projector Blake Tonkin
Audio Mitchell Tonkin

June 28:

Sp. Music Matt & Dani Cyphert
Flowers Mary Anzelone
Projector Jonathan Clayton
Audio Jaison McKinney

June Treasurer's Helpers:

Charlotte Cosharek &
Janeen Swope

July 5:

Flowers Pat & Janeen Swope
Projector Julia Holby
Audio Alex Baker

July 12:

Flowers Bessie & Linda George
Projector Kayla Moran
Audio Tyler Moran

July 19:

Flowers Bonni Dunlap
Projector Kayla Moran
Audio Tyler Moran

July 26:

Sp. Music The Nightengals
Flowers Dr. & Mrs. Petersen
Projector Kayla Moran
Audio Tyler Moran

July Treasurer's Helpers:

Charlotte Cosharek &
Janeen Swope

110th New Wilmington Mission Conference

The 110th Annual New Willmington Mission Conference will be held July 18-25 at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. The week is filled with worship, Bible studies, interaction with current and former mission workers, and presentations by dozens of national speakers. You can attend for one day or the entire week. For details, visit, www.nwmcmission.org.

Blanket Offering Update

We received the Blanket Offering Sunday, May 10th. A total of \$1,061.00 has been given to supply blankets to comfort people in times of crisis. Through Church World Service and the Blanket Offering we are able to help our neighbors in need recover from disaster. The monies we received will supply 106 blankets. Thank you for your generosity!

Family Promise

We will host families in the Family Promise Program from July 19-26. Many volunteers are needed to make this a successful week. We need meals, overnight volunteers, set-up and clean-up and many others. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Gene Artman or the church office at 724-459-7991.

Newsletter Deadline

Please have articles to be published in the August issue of the UPLIFT Newsletter to the church office by Wednesday, July 15. Thank you.

Report of the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas

There are 63 Teaching Elders in the Presbytery.

Membership:

Active Members7,598
* 6 Asian * 10 Hispanic
* 20 African-American * 3 Other

Church School Enrollment2,114
Baptism of Children97
Baptism of Adults15

Finances:

Total Receipts\$7,533,007
Total Expenses\$7,002,813
Variance\$530,194

Mission, Vision and Values Gatherings

All are invited to gather with Cabinet Representatives to review and discuss the Mission, Vision and Values that the Cabinet has been working on developing with consultant Rev. Alan Adams. In this time of transition, the Presbytery Leadership Team and the Cabinet have worked diligently to keep the ministry and mission of our presbytery and congregations working. But they have not been able to look forward and do the necessary visioning work that is needed. Rev. Adams was hired to walk through this time with the leadership as they seek clarity and God's will for the presbytery. They have prayed, and listened and brainstormed. Now they would like input from others. All Pastors, CRE's Elders and interested members of Kiski are invited to gather and review the work already done and make the changes that you think are needed. Three different gatherings have been scheduled each to be about 2 hours long. You may attend any of the three. You do not have to attend the one in your district.

District 1—Tuesday, June 30—1:00 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

District 2—Wednesday, July 15—6:30 p.m. at Marion Center Church

District 3—Tuesday, July 21—6:30 p.m. at Sligo Church

The outcome from these gatherings will be compiled together and hopefully the visioning work will be presented to the presbytery at the September 8th presbytery meeting for a vote.

Family Promise Ride & Dine Fundraiser Sunday, June 7 beginning at Yellow Creek State Park at 1:30 pm. Riders will stop in Fellowship Hall for light refreshments & rest. Family activities at the park for non-riders.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 15—19

6:00—8:30 PM

Light meal served at 5:30 PM

Ages 3 thru Grade 5
(must be potty trained)

Register children with the form
included in this newsletter

Call for more information,
724.459.7991

All of our volunteers have PA Clearances
and follow the Child Protection Policy of our church.

Church Camp Ministry

The Camping Association of the Presbyteries of NW Pennsylvania own and operate two camp and retreat centers: Camp Lambec and Westminster Highlands. Summer camps offer valuable mind, body and spiritual development experiences for all. Camp Lambec and Westminster Highlands are spiritually safe spaces to explore and grow in faith. Whether you are new to Christian camping or a returning camper everyone will experience something new. Spend a week making new friends and connections living in Christian community. The staff are experienced, qualified and trained to care for all ages. The programs and activities are age appropriate. The camps meet or exceed the American Camping Association camper to staff supervision ratios. For more information, check out the website online at www.capnwp.org.

Camp Scholarships are available to those attending Summer Camps but are limited. To be considered for a scholarship, applications are due to the Presbytery Office by June 10th. If you are interested in more information, contact Rev. Monroe or call the church office.

DID YOU KNOW? The name "Camp Lambec" comes from the initials of the six bodies that purchased the camp in 1947. That list includes the presbyteries of Lake County and Ashtabula County in OH and Mercer County, Butler County, Erie County and Crawford County in PA.

The Fellowship Community

The Fellowship Community is a new ministry whose aim is to bring together like-minded congregations who seek to be faithful to God's Word. It is not a new denomination, rather it is a gathering of congregations who seek to stay in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and work for reform within the current structure. There are hundreds of individuals and congregations who currently belong, giving a greater voice to concerns about recent decisions made at the General Assembly. Our Session has set up a meeting to learn more about The Fellowship Community. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, July 2 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Ralph Hawkins, new Executive Presbyter of Shenango Presbytery and Board Member of The Fellowship Community will be here to share information and answer questions. The gathering is open to anyone from the congregation who wants to learn more about this opportunity. We have also invited neighboring Presbyterians to attend. Please plan to come and be a part of the discussion.

Summer Sunshine for Your Soul

Summer is here, but as the days are heating up, do you find your faith growing cold? It can be tempting to trade time with God for that pool or barbecue! But don't let your faith burn out just because it's time for summer break. Pack your picnic bag with these faith essentials, and stay burning bright for Jesus all summer long!

Sunscreen—Prayer. Cover yourself with prayer every day for protection from burnout.

Snacks—Scripture. Taste and see the Lord is good all summer by packing your favorite Scripture verses with you in bite-sized pieces to nibble on throughout the day.

Sunglasses—Focus. Keep your eyes on Jesus, and you won't be blinded by temptations that distract you from following your faith.

Beach mat—Rest. Take a break from stress...and find your rest in Jesus.

There Is Time

The pastor takes your needs seriously. Although he is busy, he is not too busy to attend to helping you with particular concerns. If you would like to meet with him at the church, or if you would like him to visit with you in your home, all you need do is call for a convenient time.

Park Ministry Sites

BALD EAGLE STATE PARK 9:30 a.m.
Chaplain Tom Clabaugh
Sponsor: Bald Eagle Area Churches

BLACK MOSHANNON STATE PARK 10:00 a.m.
Chaplain Kevin Brady
Sponsor: Volunteers

CANOE CREEK STATE PARK 8:30 a.m.
Chaplain Amy Webster Sill

CHAPMAN STATE PARK 10:00 a.m.
BUCKALOONS CAMPGROUNDS 8:30 a.m.
Chaplain David Johnson
Sponsor: Warren County Ministerium

CODORUS STATE PARK 9:30 a.m.
Chaplain Jason Lyons
Sponsor: Southern Pennsylvania District,
Church of the Brethren

COLONEL DENNING STATE PARK 9:30 a.m.
DOGWOOD ACRES CAMPGROUND 11:00 a.m.
Chaplain Neal McCulloch
Sponsors: Big Spring Inter-Church Council & Dogwood
Acres Campground

COOK FOREST STATE PARK 9:00 a.m.
CLEAR CREEK STATE PARK 11:15 a.m.
CAMPERS PARADISE 10:15 a.m.
Chaplain Jim Porter
Sponsor: Kiskiminetas Presbytery, PC(USA)

COWANS GAP STATE PARK 10:00 a.m.
GRIST MILL CAMPGROUND 8:30 a.m.
Chaplain Bruce Carriker
Sponsor: Penn Central Conference,
United Church of Christ

FRENCH CREEK STATE PARK 10:00 a.m.
Sponsor: Volunteers, High Point Baptist Church

GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK 9:30 a.m.
Chaplain Douglas Kennedy
Sponsor: Southern Pennsylvania District,
Church of the Brethren

Park Ministry Sites cont'd

HICKORY RUN STATE PARK 10:00 a.m.
Chaplain Maurice Berger
Sponsor: Pocono Area Lutheran Ministry

KEYSTONE STATE PARK 8:30 a.m.
Chaplain Art Day, Jr.
Sponsor: Blairsville, Derry & Greater Latrobe
Ministerium

LAUREL HILL STATE PARK 9:00 a.m.
PIONEER CAMPGROUND 10:00 a.m.
KOOSER STATE PARK 11:15 a.m.
Chaplain Gary Hiler
Sponsor: Western Pennsylvania District,
Church of the Brethren

LOCUST LAKE STATE PARK 9:30 a.m.
ROSEMOUNT CAMPING RESORT 11:00 a.m.
Chaplain Donald Lyons
Sponsor: Pennsylvania Southeast Conference,
United Church of Christ

PARKER DAM STATE PARK 10:00 a.m.
Chaplain Brian Vineyard
Sponsor: DuBois Ministerium

POE VALLEY STATE PARK no services
HEMLOCK ACRES CAMPGROUND 1 in 2014
Sponsor: Poe Valley Area Campground Committee

PRINCE GALLITZIN STATE PARK 9:00 a.m.
Chaplain David Flumerfelt
Sponsor: Middle Pennsylvania District,
Church of the Brethren

PROMISED LAND STATE PARK 5:00 p.m. Saturday
Chaplains Team of Lay Speakers
Sponsor: Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PYMATUNING (TUTTLE) STATE PARK
No Camping in 2014

PYMATUNING (JAMESTOWN) STATE PARK 9:30 am
Chaplain Jacob Young
Sponsor: Shenango Presbytery,
Presbyterian Church (USA)

LAKE RAYSTOWN RESORT 8:30 a.m.
PLEASANT HILL CAMPGROUND 10:00 a.m.
SEVEN POINTS AMPHITHEATER 11:30 a.m.
Chaplain Laurie Stiles
Sponsor: Local Area Churches

R.B. WINTER STATE PARK 10:30 a.m.
PINE VALLEY CAMPGROUND 9:00 a.m.
Chaplain Marc Snyder
Sponsor: Susquehanna Conference,
United Methodist Church

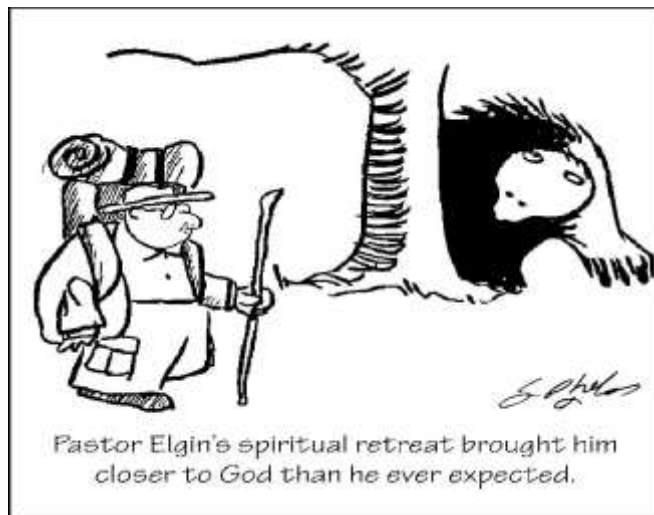
RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK 10:00 a.m.
Chaplain – volunteers
Sponsor: Christians United in Beaver County

SHAWNEE STATE PARK 8:45 a.m.
CHOICE CAMPGROUND 10:00 a.m.
HILLEGASS CAMPGROUND 11:15 a.m.
Chaplain Brenda Scheffer
Sponsor: Allegheny Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America and Bedford County Area Churches

SHENANGO RIVER LAKE CAMPGROUND 9:30 a.m.
Sponsor: Christian Associates of the Shenango Valley

TIONESTA LAKE CAMPGROUND 9:30 a.m.
Chaplain Hannah Pratt
Sponsor: Local committee

WORLD'S END STATE PARK 9:00 a.m.
RICKETTS GLEN STATE PARK 11:00 a.m.
Chaplain Beccy Brown
Sponsor: Susquehanna Conference,
United Methodist Church



Minute for Mission

Men of the Church

Jesus said: "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me" (John 15:4). This is the secret of spiritual growth: to abide. To abide means to stay in a given place. For believers, it means maintaining unbroken fellowship with God. It is regularity. It is consistency. And the result of abiding is lasting fruit.

Another way of abiding is walking with God. As 1 John 2:6 says, "Whoever says, 'I abide in him,' ought walk just as he walked." Walking involves constant, regular motion. That means making time for the Word of God and prayer every day. If you are too busy, then get up earlier. Go to bed earlier. Isn't it funny; we always find time for what is important to us. But if you and I are to grow and bear fruit in our spiritual lives, we must abide in and with our Savior.

As our church wrestles with policy decisions and our Presbyterian men's ministry struggles to discern its mission, we see small groups of men throughout the country striving to change their communities by leading, assisting, and guiding others to know the love of Christ through service and discipleship. Does your church have a men's group committed to fellowship with God, to supporting each other and their community? If not, please consider starting one, and invite men who have stopped coming to church to set out once again on a journey that includes our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Being a disciple of Christ is difficult but ever more necessary today. The world was changed because of this one man and his teaching. His call is "abide in me as I abide in you." If we do, all is possible.

—Marvin Brangan, moderator, Presbyterian Men

Church Festival

Ebenezer Church will host a Festival Saturday, June 13 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The event will include a used book sale, homemade baked goods, sandwiches: lamb, hot dogs, ham BBQ & sausage, potato salad, baked beans and the "Special", ice cream, Angel food cake and strawberries. Directions to the church: follow signs off Route 217 N at Newport Road out of Blairsville & off Route 286 by Jacksonville Family Medicine.

Blood Pressure Checks

Several of our Deacons have been blessed with training in the medical field. They have set a schedule to check blood pressures following worship every other Sunday (June 7, 21, July 5, 19). If you would like to have your numbers checked, please see Kim McKinney or Beverly Lindsey after worship.