

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BROOKVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
MAY 2007**

NEWSLETTER

“That very Spirit!”

Romans 8:16

Dear Friends,

On the Day of Pentecost, a great sound of rushing wind filled the upper room where the disciples met and tongues as of fire rested on them. In explaining this strange happening, Peter reaches back into Scripture and brings forth the words of the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions” (Acts 2:17)

The Spirit of God was poured out on the church that day and is still God’s gift to all believers, unto children’s children. The Spirit is no respecter of age - it often uses children and youth to accomplish God’s purposes in this world. The stories of young Miriam, David, and Samuel remind us that God chooses people not because of age, but because of heart.

What a precious gift young people are. Yet, in today’s world, many live without hope for the future or support to meet daily needs. What better place could there be to make spiritual and financial investments than in our children and youth!

The Pentecost Offering, while the newest of the PC(USA) special offerings, is also one of the most exciting. When a congregation received this Offering, 40 percent stays with the congregation to fund mission and ministry with children at risk. At the General Assembly level, the Pentecost Offering funds ministries with children at risk, youth, and young adults. Youth ministries provide opportunities for spiritual growth and leadership development for Presbyterian youth. Young adults explore their call to mission service through the Young Adult Volunteer program. Child advocacy ministries speak and act on behalf of those who cannot protect themselves. All of these ministries act to help bring God’s love and care to younger members of God’s family.

I say again, *What better place could there be to make spiritual and financial investments than in our children and youth?* I encourage you to search out the needs in your community and find ways to show Jesus’ love to these “little ones” and give generously to the Pentecost Offering. Let the Holy Spirit who moved the disciples out to the ends of the earth on that first Pentecost move you to give sacrificially. Together we can have a significant positive impact on the children and youth of our churches and of the world.

Joan S. Gray

Moderator, 217th General Assembly (2006)

The symbols for Pentecost are rich and varied. On Pentecost Sunday, May 29th, the color red will be seen throughout the church and if you have any red clothing this is the Sunday to wear it. Wind and flame and the dove are also a part of Pentecost as the Spirit moves like the wind and falls like tongues of flame and yet alights like a dove as it did on Jesus’ baptism. All these symbols will be part of our worship as we share with our church family, brothers and sisters in Christ the Sacrament of Holy Communion and reception of new members.

Presbyterian Women will meet Thursday, May 3rd, 11:30 a.m. in the education building.

Kathy Kesterholt will lead the devotions and act as hostess. The Bible Study will be

Lesson 7 - "Perspectives on Matriarchs - Rebekah, Leah, Rachel" based on scripture readings from Genesis 24-25, 27, and 29-32. Please bring a sack lunch.

REMEMBER - ALL WOMEN are welcome to attend!!!

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women presents the **2007 Birthday Offering**

recipients. Begun in 1922, the offering celebrates Presbyterian Women's heritage of mission giving. This year it recognizes five exciting projects involved in three areas of ministry - healing, hospitality and education. Each year, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee (CMOC) of Presbyterian Women reviews proposals and selects recipients before the Birthday Offering is collected. The grant amounts for the recipients will depend on funds contributed during 2007. The Birthday Offering is received each spring. This year's recipients are:

Living Waters For the World, Clean Water U Program Expansion - Franklin, Tennessee. Clean Water U, the training school for Living Waters for the World, equips mission teams to form partnerships with communities in need of clean water and to install water purification systems in those communities.

Mulanje Mission Hospital, Renovation and Expansion Family Shelter - Mulanje, Malawi. The Mulanje Mission Hospital will renovate and expand the family shelter, and construct a new kitchen, laundry facility and latrines for families caring for hospitalized relatives.

National Organization of Korean Presbyterian Women, House of Peace - Seoul, South Korea. The House of Peace will provide housing, religious education and social services for refugees from North Korea.

Hope's Promise Orphan Ministries, Talitha-Kumi Christian School - Arandis, Namibia. The Talitha-Kumi Christian School will convert an abandoned hospital and all of its facilities into classrooms for a private Christian boarding school for Namibian children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Kwangju Christian Hospital, Physical Rehabilitation Ward - Gwangju, South Korea. A physical rehabilitation ward will be established by renovating old operating rooms as a step toward creating a physical rehabilitation center for patients disabled by strokes or other injuries. This offering will be received on Mother's Day, May 13th.

MOSQUITO NETS FOR AFRICA

Betty Grunstra

Each year in sub-Saharan Africa, malaria causes more than one million deaths, most of them children under five and pregnant women. Malaria is the number one killer of children under five in Africa, claiming 3,000 young lives every day. Women are four times as likely to contract malaria during pregnancy and twice as likely to die from it. Using insecticide treated mosquito nets, coupled with malaria prevention education, has shown to significantly reduce these tragic statistics.

I have just received an e-mail from Chantal in Gitarama. She was the house girl in the house that I lived. She went to school but has had a reoccurrence of malaria and has found it difficult to study and finish her term.

The Networkers Mother's Day Project is an opportunity for Presbyterians to help protect women and children in Africa from malaria, while we honor our own mothers. We have attractive Mother's Day cards that are available for a donation. These donations provide mosquito nets and malaria prevention education to families in Africa. Presbyterians have sent over 100,000 Mother's

Day cards to loved ones, since the project began in 2001.

These cards are available in the church office or at coffee hour on May 6th for a donation. This mission activity brings the gift of health to women and children in Africa, as we honor our mothers and other cherished women in our lives.

REMINDER: the choirs of the Presbyterian Church of Beechwoods, Brookville, Mt. Tabor, New Rehoboth, Pisgah and Sugar Hill will join in celebration at the Pisgah Presbyterian Church, Corsica, on Sunday, May 6th, beginning at 7 p.m. An offering will be received and refreshments will follow.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

May 6 th	“Who Is Worthy?” Men’s Class Women’s Class	Revelation 5: 1-10 Bill Kutz Sue Moser
May 13 th	“Provision for the Redeemed” Men’s/Women’s Class	Revelation 7: 1-3, 9-10, 13-17 Don Musgrave
May 20 th	“The Victorious Christ” Men’s Class Women’s Class	Revelation 19: 11-16; 20: 11-15 Jerry Paden Linda Taylor
May 27 th	“A New Heaven and Earth” Men’s/Women’s Class	Revelation 21: 1-7, 22-27 T.J. Parlette

PLEASE NOTE:

Last year our church purchased an AED (automated external defibrillator) to be used in an emergency.

On Wednesday, May 9th, there will be training for those interested in learning about the use of this instrument or for those who need re-certified in its use. The course will be CPR/AED taught by the American Red Cross. It will be from 6-10 p.m. If you are interested in taking this training, please call Judy at the church office (849-2413). The church will cover the cost of the training for church members. If anyone from the community is interested in taking the training, there will be a \$20 fee.

FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Judy Greeley has submitted her letter of resignation effective December 31, 2007. The Personnel Committee is in the process of reviewing the Administrative Assistant job description. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in applying for this position, please contact the Personnel Committee (Heidi Dennison, John Park, Nancy Smoose and Dave Taylor) or the church office.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Applying Bible Principles

Someone once said, "Experience is a good teacher, but she gives the test first and then the lesson." That's certainly true, and based on many of life's experiences, we frequently fail the test before we can benefit from the lesson.

The formula "e equals mc²" is familiar to many college students but understood by very few people. Most of us know it had something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous power and to the nuclear age. Similarly, in funding the local church, "e" might stand for every, "M" for member, "c" for commitment, and the "2" for the effort multiplied by itself. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered, even as Jesus described it in Matthew 21:22 "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Right now, as we consider the opportunity to support the ministries here at the Presbyterian Church of Brookville, God is putting us to the test. As Gordon Moyes stated, "Responsible giving or stewardship is not man's way of raising money, but God's way of raising people....The church's budget is not a list of its expenses, but a record of its vision. It is not a list of bills to be met, but a program of ministry to be achieved."

As each of us prayerfully considers what God would have us give, and as we obey what God asks of us, we can trust Him to provide the resources. That's a test, a test of where we are spiritually much more than where we are financially. It's a test of us as individuals and of us as a church. The question is whether or not we really believe that God has the power and ability to bless our obedience "far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

How are you doing concerning God's tests regarding money in your life? If God's provision in your life in the days ahead depends on how you obey His leading now concerning your giving, what will the future be like for you?

It just might, you know

LOOKING AHEAD

Beginning **Sunday, June 3rd**, (continuing through, and including, August 26th) we will go to our summer schedule. Worship will begin at 10 a.m.

Graduation time is approaching. We will honor our 2007 high school graduates for their academic accomplishment on Sunday, June 10th. Parents are asked to call the church office (849-2413) with the name of their graduate. We would also appreciate information about those graduating from college or trade schools so that we may share their accomplishment with our church family in the next Newsletter. Thank You!!

The **Church Picnic** will be Sunday, June 17th, at the Memorial Park. Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. Please bring a dish to share and come hungry for some good food and good fellowship.

Our church will be hosting a "**Community Cook-out**" on Friday, June 22nd, from 6 - 8 p.m. More information will be available in the June Newsletter.

Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, August 6th, through Friday, August 10th. The theme is "Avalanche Ranch."