

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

Issue No. 9 Published Monthly

## THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 White Street

BROOKVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

On **Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**, we will join with Christians around the world in celebrating **World Communion Sunday** and receive the **Peacemaking Offering**. This is a day that we share in the unity that we find at the Table of our Lord. We will receive the Peacemaking Offering to support the efforts of our congregation, our synod, our presbytery, and our denomination to spread the peace of Christ. Remember that 25% of the Offering will be used locally. Please take a few minutes to learn more about this special offering by reading the inserts in the Sunday bulletin.

**Presbyterian Women** will meet Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. in the education building. We will begin a new Bible Study entitled "Above and Beyond Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth." Lesson 1 is "Reading Jonah and Ruth for All They're Worth" based on scripture readings from Jonah and Ruth.

Presbyterian Women of Kiskiminetas Presbytery will hold their "fall gathering" at Pisgah Presbyterian Church in Corsica on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

REMEMBER - **ALL WOMEN** are welcome to attend any or all of these events!!!

### Sunday Morning Adult Education

October 7 <sup>th</sup>	"Esau and Jacob as Rivals" Men's Class Women's Class	Genesis 25: 19-34 Paul Gray Carolyn Motter
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	"Jacob's Dream at Bethel" Men's Class Women's Class	Genesis 28: 10-22 Ed Kelso Judi Paden
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	"Jacob and Rachel" Men's Class Women's Class	Genesis 29: 21-35 T.J. Parlette Joyce Johnson
October 28 <sup>th</sup>	"Esau and Jacob Reconciled" Men's Class Women's Class	Genesis 33: 1-11 Jerry Paden Sue Moser

**COME HEAR ABOUT RWANDA**

On **Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.** in the education building, our church will be hosting visitors from Rwanda. Gertrude and Pastor Eugene will do a presentation about the church in Rwanda. They will be in the United States from September 26<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>, traveling around our Presbytery speaking at various churches. Dessert will be provided.

As most of you are aware, Betty Grunstra has traveled to Rwanda and brought back many inspiring stories. We have just recently become a partner church in our Presbytery's Rwanda mission. So take this opportunity to learn more about what's happening in Rwanda, and might happen in the future as we step out in mission.

**Crop Walk** - On **Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**, following worship our church has organized our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual CROP WALK. Our walk will once again be 5 miles in length, starting at the church and traveling up Valley Street, past the high school across the boulevard to the Ruffner's house and then back to the church for refreshments and awards. CROP WALK is a program of Church World Service and the proceeds go towards hunger relief programs in the United States and abroad - and 25% of everything we raise will go directly to our own food pantry! If you would like to walk (and, again this year, the Steelers are not playing that day) call the church office at 849-2413 to get a pledge envelope. Last year's walk was a bigger success than the previous year with \$3,124 being raised - of that amount \$781 went to the local food pantry. Let's make this year's walk an even bigger success.

## **Gulf Coast Mission Trip**

In September of 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast of the United States with storm surges of up to 15 feet. The surge of water pushed inland for miles, and the path of the storm stretched from west of New Orleans. Louisiana all the way to the Florida panhandle. Presbyterians were some of the first folks on scene providing emergency aid.

D'Iberville, Mississippi is one of the hundreds of communities affected. It's located directly north of Biloxi, MS, separated by Biloxi Bay. The devastation was horrific. FEMA didn't arrive on scene for 7 weeks.

D'Iberville responded quickly, providing help to all citizens and establishing a volunteer worker camp, initially funded by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

To date: 405 homes completed out of 1,240 damaged, 370 destroyed. As of May 1, 2007, 410 are in the process of being repaired.

In late October of this year, our Presbytery is sending a mission team to help with the reconstruction of D'Iberville. Ann Himes and Betty Grunstra, from our church, will be part of that team, rebuilding housing for those who have lost so much.

Financial support is requested. All money donated will be used to pay for the costs of the trip and supplies to help with the housing project. Those wishing to contribute should make their checks out to Kiskiminetas Presbytery, clearly marked "Gulf Coast Trip" in the memo area, and mail them to the Presbytery Headquarters at P.O. Box 339, Yatesboro, PA 16263.

**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?**

The Nominating Committee has already begun its work on preparing a slate of officers for presentation at our November semi-annual meeting. If you would be interested in serving on one of the boards, or you know of someone you feel should be considered, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Committee members are: Dave Ray, Debi Ruffner, Don Rhoades, Maxine Galbraith, Ruth Jolley, Carolyn Motter and Cathy Steiner. Each position carries unique and important responsibilities in the life of our church, and each affords the opportunity of serving Christ through working actively in our ongoing programs and mission efforts. Duties of the various offices are:

**ELDERS** - are responsible for the administrative and spiritual oversight of the congregation. As a Session, the elders give direction to our Christian Education program, worship, mission outreach, and membership affairs. They establish the annual budget. They choose our commissioners to Presbytery.

**DEACONS** - serve in the compassionate ministry and in fellowship concerns for our congregation. They prepare and host our coffee hours on Sundays, and carry primary responsibility for our church picnic, Advent dinner, etc. They deliver flowers to at-home members, set-up communion and clean up afterward.

**TRUSTEES** - are those who concern themselves with our physical property and its maintenance. They also serve on certain of the Session committees such as Personnel and Finance.

## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### Applying Bible Principles

What comes to mind when someone mentions “work”? Is your initial tendency to moan and groan, wishing you could avoid work?

It might surprise you to learn that God described His creative acts as “work” and that He brought “work” into being shortly after He created man. Adam worked in the Garden before and after his fall due to his sin. Cain worked by raising vegetables. Abel worked by tending sheep. Throughout Scripture, people worked. Even the Lord Jesus worked while He was on earth, and He described God the Father as having worked. Work has always been part of God’s nature and eternal plan for mankind.

Wait a minute < If God created and owns everything, why should we His children have to work? Couldn’t He just provide for us in some supernatural way that would enable us not to have to work? Surely, God could do that, but He doesn’t do so. According to the admonition in 1 Thessalonians 4: 11-12, one of the primary benefits from working and providing for our needs is to be able to lead lives marked by integrity and a healthy self respect. And God’s plan is that we are best able to accomplish these worthy goals by working.

God also knows that by utilizing our talents and abilities through work, He will be able to minister to others through us in an effective way. Work, then, is one of the primary avenues by which we can demonstrate our Christian faith, particularly as we do our tasks to God’s glory. Work is also the primary way through which we obtain money to give to God.

What should be the Christian’s response to work? First, thank God for work and for the ability to work. As Solomon observed, this is a “gift of God.” Second, view your work as a means of bringing glory to God. Third, whatever you do < no matter what your vocation or occupation > do it “with your might,” as unto the Lord. And finally, remember that by providing work for us to do, God enables us to give to Him and to His ministry at The Presbyterian Church of Brookville.

Please **WELCOME** the **newest member** of our **church staff**, Elaine Thomas. Elaine began her duties as Music Director on September 24<sup>th</sup>. She was born and raised in Limestone Township, Clarion County and graduated from Clarion-Limestone High School in 1961. She graduated from Franklin Hospital School of Medical Radiography in 1963. As a child she attended Pisgah Presbyterian Church in Corsica. Elaine served as Music Director, Elder, Trustee and Sunday School teacher for 26 years at Pleasant View Presbyterian Church in Smoch, Fayette County. She was a member and soloist with Greater Uniontown Chorale for 15 years. She has attended handbell ringing and conducting classes at Westminster College, New Wilmington and in Hershey, PA. Elaine has 2 sons and 3 grand-daughters in Grove City and Jennerstown.

Choir rehearsals resumed Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. in the C.E. Wilson Classroom.  
Anyone who likes to sing is encouraged to come.

Handbell choir resumed Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in "ringing" you can come to rehearsal or contact Elaine Thomas.

## ADVENT STUDY

This year's Advent Study will begin on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., in the education building and will be a Bible study based on Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol." Over the course of four sessions, we will consider the character of Scrooge and his attitude of selfishness; Marley and the Ghost of Christmas past and the theme of regret; the Ghost of Christmas present and our need to repent; and the Ghost of Christmas future and celebrate the salvation of Scrooge. Around the world, two Christmas stories are most beloved - the story of the Birth of Christ and Charles Dicken's Christmas Carol. Come join us for a series of interesting evenings.