

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

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The Presbyterian Church

100 White Street

Brookville , PA 15825

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CHOIR FESTIVAL

APRIL 27TH

7:00 P.M.



We are hosting the annual Choir Festival this year.

Choirs from Pisgah/ New Rehoboth, Beechwoods/Sugar Hill, Sigel and Greenville; along with our own choir, will gather to provide an evening of music and inspiration. Each choir will perform pieces they have prepared for the evening. The highlight of the evening is always the joy and beauty of the combined pieces when the 90 voices from the choirs join to sing.

A social hour will follow in the Education Building.

DOUG BAKER TO VISIT FROM IRELAND

APRIL 30TH 6:00 P.M.

Come to a pot-luck dinner and hear about the work being done by the Bakers in their mission field of Northern Ireland. Much is happening in this area of the world and the Bakers will fill us in on how the work they are doing fits into the big picture.

So, bring a covered dish and plan on an evening of fun and fellowship.



SEMINAR OFFERED

The Acts 16:5 Initiative Team invites interested church and community members to a seminar presented by the Community Action Partnership on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 10 a.m.-12 noon in the Education Building. The seminar will present information on several programs available through the Community Action Partnership dealing with child care assistance, self-sufficiency, parenting education, and New Choices/New Options - a career choice course for displaced homemakers and other adults.

Your Acts 16:5 Initiative Team members are TJ Parlette, Geoff Seacrist, Bob and Cathy Steiner, and Gretchen Dinger. As a community outreach, we hope that this is the first of several seminars that we as a church can offer to our members and the community to support each other in sometimes a difficult day and age to raise children. Childcare will be available. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact the church office @ 849-2413 or Gretchen Dinger @ 849-3879.



H E L P W A N T E D	<p>POSITION LISTED</p> <p>The Personnel Committee announces the search for a Coordinator of Youth Ministries. The candidate will be asked to provide leadership and creative resourcing for all areas of Christian Education in the church with special focus on youth ministries in accordance with the theology of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to offer encouragement and support for the volunteers working in our education program.</p> <p>If you or someone you know has a calling to this work, please contact the church office for a job description and application.</p>
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Applying Bible Principles

God's Word has more to say about money and material possessions than about heaven and hell combined. Obviously, how we as His children handle what God has entrusted to us is a very important subject to Him.

Money is also the only subject about which God says, in essence, "Prove Me. Trust Me. Try Me." He does not issue that challenge concerning any other aspect of our Christian walk of faith. Not about prayer; not about sharing our faith with others; not even about salvation. Just money.

God said to Malachi, the prophet, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test . . . see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

Some promises in the Bible are unconditional in nature. They are going to be fulfilled, regardless of what we might or might not do. Others could be described as "if . . . then" promises. If we will do our part, then God will do His part. This passage from Malachi 3:10 is one of the latter. If we will bring our tithes to God's storehouse, then He will open for us the windows of heaven and pour out for us such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

The question is whether we really believe God when He makes a promise like this. If we do, we will take Him at His Word. We will accept His challenge and "test" Him by giving to Him as He direct. And if we do that by faith, then we can be confident that God will meet that "test" by providing all we need < and more.

Upcoming Worship

April 6
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41: Peter, the premier disciple, preaches boldly to a mocking crowd, proclaiming to them the truth of the resurrection of Christ.
 1 Peter 1:17-23: Christians are those who have been born anew to a living hope in the resurrection.
 Luke 24: 13-35: On the way to the village of Emmaus a stranger, who is revealed to be none other than the risen Christ, meets the disciples.

April 13
 Acts 2:42-47: We who have been Christians for some time treat the resurrection like a concept that is worthy of an annual celebration, not a life-transforming event that alters everything. The early church was so affected by the resurrection that they did what we would consider unimaginable: they held all things in common so that no one had need. In doing so, their witness was authentic, inspiring, and enticing for those who were now drawn to a God who could do this. According to Tertullian, early observers of the Church remarked, "See how they love." The faith was made visible in such sharing.
 1 Peter 2:19-25: When our faithfulness elicits suffering, this passage seeks to assure us, we are not alone. Jesus, our example and our Savior, suffered for our sake, choosing not to return abuse for abuse. Instead, his suffering was to our salvation, just as our response to suffering can be a testament to our faith. By surrendering to the hope of the Cross, our temporary anguish is met by an unyielding eschatological hope.
 John 10: 1-10: In contrast to the murderous, thieving destroyers, Jesus, the gate, provides sanctuary for the sheep. This sanctuary grants abundant life, pasture, and salvation for those who follow the shepherd's trustworthy voice.

April 20
 Acts 7: 55-60: Stephen, the first Christian martyr, dies praying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
 1 Peter 2:2-10: First Peter proclaims the great mystery of God's grace.
 John 14: 1-14: "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied," says Philip to Jesus. "He who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus replies. When we look at Jesus, we believe that we have seen as much of God as we ever hope to see.

April 27
 Acts 17: 22-31: In Athens, Paul takes the opportunity to proclaim the gospel to the cultured Greeks.
 1 Peter 3: 13-22: The first letter of Peter instructs an early congregation in Christian morality, morality that is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus.
 John 14: 15-21: Jesus, in his farewell remarks to his disciples, links their love for him to obedience to him. "I will not leave you desolate," he says to them as he prepares to depart from them. He gives us his commands as a means of his continuing presence with us. Jesus, Lord of love, commands his disciples to love and gives them his Holy Spirit to enable them to obey his commands.

Presbytery Day 2008

April 20th 3:00-5:30 p.m.
Punxsutawney Presbyterian Church

An Afternoon with Author Philip Gulley

Over a million readers have visited the small town of Harmony, Indiana. Join author Philip Gulley, the men of the Harmony Odd Fellows Lodge, and singing sensation Amanda Hodge as they travel to Chattanooga, Tennessee to visit the Reverend Lester Hickam's Gospel Hour and Variety Show and participate in the first-ever Christian Idol program. Philip Gulley will also be sharing stories from his next book, "My Life on Broadway; Memories of a Misspent Youth".

OR Bible Study with Peter Bower

Peter Bower returns with the 2008 edition of his popular Bible Studies on the power, passion, mystery, and intrigue of the biblical narrative. Don't miss what he has up his sleeve this year as he brings the Bible to life. Peter Bower is the Interim Pastor of the Rural Valley and Numine Churches.

Call the church office to register today!!

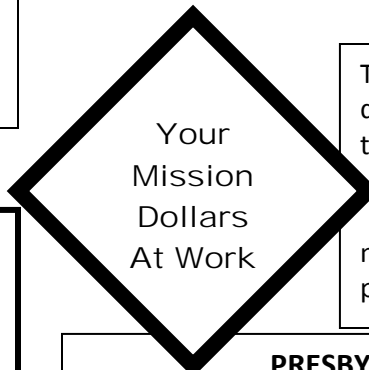
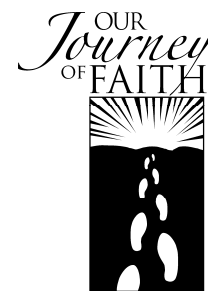
Stepping stones

It is just a step to the Father's love —
No farther than the heart,
No farther than a faith that knows
God sets each life apart.

It is just a step to the Father's work —
No farther than a door,
No farther than the lonely soul
So easy to ignore.

It is just a step to eternity —
No farther than the spring,
No farther than the laws of life
That govern everything.

—Peggy Ferrell



Thanks to your kind donations to date more than thirty school kits will be assembled and shipped to children in need through the CWS project.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANK YOU: A special thanks to the young people who made Youth Sunday such a success.

CONGRATULATIONS: Nicole and Len McMillen were united in marriage on March 8, 2008 in our sanctuary. We wish them many years of happiness.

WELCOME: A special welcome to our newest family members:

Ashlyn Regina Jones, born February 22nd; daughter of Melissa and Ryan Jones; Granddaughter of Karen and Barr Shriver; Great-granddaughter of Barbara Shriver.

Hunter Scott Taube, born February 27th; son of Charity and Josh Taube; grandson of Dave and Jane Duncan; and great-grandson of Dave and Betty Duncan.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

All women are invited to the next meeting of the Presbyterian Women on April 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the Education Building. The Bible study focus for the next meeting is Jonah 3 & 4.

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held on Saturday, April 12th at Crossroads Church in Leechburg. This day of speakers, fellowship and fun is open to all.

The Birthday Offering that benefits projects designated by Presbyterian Women will be received Sunday April 13th. The offering funds up to five projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support, such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

April 6th "Daniel Keeps Covenant in a Foreign Land"

Daniel 1:8-20

Teachers: Don Musgrave

Judy Greeley

April 13th "Three Refuse to Break Covenant"

Daniel 3:10-13, 16-18, 21,24

Teachers: Paul Gray

Judi Paden

April 20th "Daniel's Life-and-Death Test"

Daniel 6:4-7, 1-,16,19,21,25-26

Teachers: Ed Kelso

Sue Moser

April 27th "Daniel's Prayer for the People"

Daniel 9:1-7, 17-19

Teachers: Jerry Paden

Joyce Johnson



Mark 14:66-72

Participants in the recent Lenten study series were challenged to create a poem using the scripture of Peter's denial. Let us share with you the results:

Denial

Pull Away

Talk, Moving away, Swearing, Hiding

Fear group guilt signs

Abandonment

Denial

Confirmed sighting

Knows, Confronts,

Denies

Afraid to be

discovered

Shame

Bravado

Never depart

Confirming, Challenging, Denying

Reality comes to light

Defeated

Denial

Rooster crowed

Fear, Uncertainty, Self



Notes from the Choir Loft

April Showers bring May flowers. They also bring the Choir Celebration. On April 27, the choirs from Beechwood/Sugar Hill, Pisgah/New Rehoboth, Greenville and Sigel will join our own choir to make up a massed choir of about 90 voices. The concert will be at 7:00 p.m. with "tea and crumpets" to be served after. Our church is asked to provide cookies. If you could help out, please e-mail me.

If your child would like to be a part of the "Next Generation" choir, we are meeting at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays in the education building.

On April 6, Valerie Vernon-Thomas (who just happens to be my daughter-in-law) will be singing Handel's "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" as an offering of music. Valerie is part of the professional core of the Mendellsohn Choir of Pittsburgh.

As always, I am actively seeking singers for the choir and bell ringers. Someone who was watching us ring one Sunday said, "You look like you are in agony. Why would I want to join a group like that?" Concentration is often mistaken for agony. We really do have fun and we will try to smile more!

Spring is coming and the music ministry has a lot going on. I hope you will be part of everything.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Elaine ethomas123@winstream.net



"Look, I didn't say I could sing. I just said I could carry a tune."

THIS JUST IN...

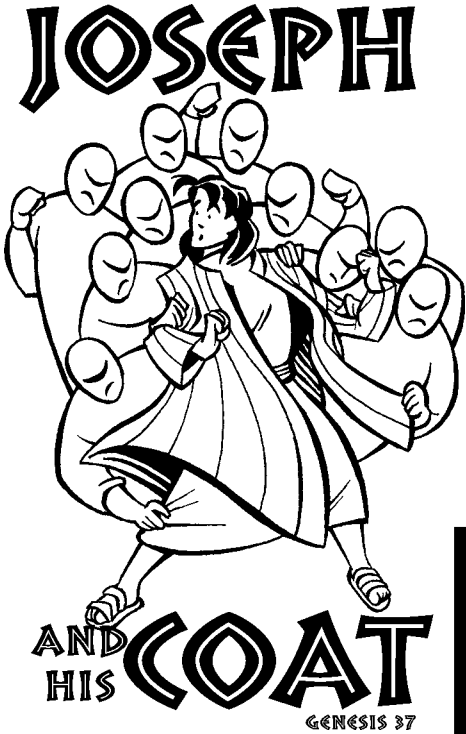
APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL

"GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US"

THE LORD ALL-POWERFUL IS WITH US

PSALM 46:7

Learn about Jacob's Ladder, Joseph's Life in Egypt, and much more!



Westminster Highlands
 April 18-19
 Youth 7th-12th grade
 Spring retreat
 Ropes course
 Fun, Fellowship, and Food
 Cost - \$45.00 per person
 Call the office to register



WORSHIP ACTIVITY BAGS
 Worship Committee has updated the activity bags available for children during worship. They can be found in the coat room located behind the vestibule.

Youth Calendar of Events

The Continuing Education Committee is working on future programs including, but not limited to:

- * **summer family canoe trip**
- * **elementary school age sleep-over**
- * **Vacation Bible School June 23-27**
- * **Fall mission trip**

Stay tuned for details!!!