



August 18, 2015

ADVENTURES IN MISSIONS



Over the past eleven months Christopher and Margeaux Cronce have been working with Adventures in Missions. Chris is the son of Doug and Roberta Cronce. Doug is the pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua.

Adventures in Missions provides an “*eleven months in eleven countries*” opportunity to be partners in mission around the world. Chris and Margeaux were one of the few married couples on the mission. They served in partnership with churches and ministries in local communities to preach the Gospel, plant churches, work in orphanages, fight human trafficking, and bring the restorative hope of God’s love to many.

In August, Chris and Margeaux will be returning to the states. Here is a look at where Christ’s mission has taken them on what has been called “The World Race”: Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal (in February before the earthquake), India, Swaziland, Botswana, Bosnia, Slovakia. Their last mission in Slovakia has been ministering to the Roma; a persecuted ethnic people.

Christopher and Margeaux felt led to give a year to mission after graduating from Messiah College in Grantham, PA. They both gave up good jobs in Pittsburgh to respond to this call from God.

In October and November they will be in the Lehigh Valley. If you would like to extend an opportunity for them to come and share their experience with your church group you may contact them at margeaux.cronce@gmail.com.

Visit their blog at <http://croncemc.theworldrace.org/>. Pray for their transition back to life here in the U.S.A.

Moderators Forums

Join us at the next Moderator’s Forum on **August 25, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.** at **Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA.** Lehigh Presbytery Moderator Dave Duquette has held three Moderator’s Forum’s from the beginning of the year. The purpose of these forums is to discuss what our challenges are and what our future might be.

Let us come together and discover what God has in store for us!

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Lehigh Presbytery I would like to thank Pat & Suzi Campbell, Ann Anderson, Tim Wells, Ed Bianchi, and Jeff Heagele of the College Hill Presbyterian Church of Easton for their volunteer efforts in taking care of the grounds around the Olivet United Presbyterian Church of Easton on Sunday, July 26, 2015.

We are truly God's people when we work together to help one another.

Blessings,



Dave Duquette, Chair
Lehigh Presbytery Lead Team

2015 - 2017 BOOK OF ORDER



This book is Part II of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and contains the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, the Form of Government, the Directory for Worship, and the Rules of Discipline. If you or your church wishes to order any printed copies, Lehigh Presbytery will be placing a bulk order to receive the lowest price of **\$8.50** per book. Please fill out the form and return it with your check to the presbytery office.

Please respond to the Presbytery office by September 1, 2015 if you wish to take advantage of Lehigh's bulk order.

2015-2017 Book of Order (Item Number: OGA15001) - ORDER FORM

Discounted Price of \$8.50 each Quantity _____ Total Due \$ _____

Name of Person ordering: _____

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Address: _____

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If you prefer, there is a free electronic version in pdf format. Please visit the Lehigh Presbytery website to download. <http://lehighpresbytery.org/resources/for-clerks/>

From the 2015 Monthly Prayer Guide:

AUGUST 2015

**CHURCH OF THE MOUNTAIN, DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA
CUBA MISSION**

*"Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker,
but those who are kind to the needy honor him." Proverbs 14:31 (NRSV)*



The Delaware Water Gap Presbyterian Church of the Mountain initiated its Cuba mission in 1998 when it sent church members to Cardenas, a city about three hours east of Havana along the north coast of the island. Those church members carried medicines that are in critically short supply in Cuba because of the U.S. embargo.

On that first trip we formed close personal bonds with members of the Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church, even signing a partnership agreement with them. Since then the church has sent members to Cardenas seven times. The medicines they carry with them each time are distributed to the Cardenas community by physicians who are members of the Juan G. Hall Church. Mission participants also take part in the work of the Cardenas church. They visit the poor and elderly, worship in the church and in people's homes, and participate in various celebrations in the life of the church and its congregation.

The Church of the Mountain has brought members of the Cardenas church to Delaware Water Gap on two separate occasions.

The mission seeks to encourage a better relationship between our two countries through person-to-person contact.

Join Us in Prayer ...

- for an easing of tensions between our countries.
- for an end to the embargo against Cuba.

Organist Wanted



Community Presbyterian Church of Mt. Bethel and Portland is seeking an organist to lead the congregation with music for Sunday worship.

Please submit your letter of intent/resume to:

Community Presbyterian Church
1755 S. Delaware Drive
Mt. Bethel, PA 18343

or email to: cpcmbp@gmail.com. You may also call the church office at (570) 897-6766 and leave a message.



PC(USA) membership lies in medium-sized congregations

May 12, 2015

Office of the General Assembly

Toya Richards Jackson, Director of Communications and Assistant Stated Clerk, Louisville

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) members, by and large, belong to churches with medium-sized congregations of between 150 to 599 members, according to 2014 statistics released by the Office of the General Assembly.

Based on the numbers, 708,062 congregants—42.5 percent of total membership—belongs to churches directly in the middle between small- and large-sized congregations. That breaks down to 349,241 in churches with membership between 150 to 299, and 358,821 in churches with membership between 300 and 599.

“The PC(USA) is a church made up of vibrant congregations doing their best to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ in their communities and in the world,” said the Reverend Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA). “Membership declines continue, but on a whole the denomination is settling into the new thing God is creating.”

Total membership at the end of 2014 was 1,667,767. That’s compared to 1,760,200 at the end of 2013 and 1,849,496 at the end of 2012.

The total number of churches in 2014 was 9,829, compared to 10,038 in 2013 and 10,262 in 2012. Significant of the 209-church loss of 2014 was the fact that only 101 of those were dismissed to other denominations, a decrease from the 148 congregations dismissed to other denominations in 2013.

Also significant was the tally churches reported of non-members their congregations served or ministered among in 2014 through activities, programs, and outreach. The average reported was 815 people.

“Membership statistics and church numbers tell one story, but it’s not the entire message of how the PC(USA) is impacting the world,” Parsons said. “God continues to breathe new life into our work and challenges us to find new, creative ways to touch and transform lives.”

Read the [complete summary of statistics](#).

PRESENTATIONS AT LUTHER CREST

The public is cordially invited to attend the following [free](#) presentations at **2:30 p.m.** in **Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104**:

- Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on “*God of Covenants*”: Tuesday, **September 15, 2015**
- Dr. William Jennings on “*Pope Francis: His Visit and his Recent Encyclical*”: Friday, **September 25, 2015**
- Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on “*How Christianity Must Change (Part 2)*”: Tuesday, **October 20, 2015**

For more information, please contact Luther Crest’s Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).



"...hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts..."

Romans 5:5

David P. Young
Ricci Shyrock, IRIN

Thank You to the many congregations, individuals and volunteers who chose to be part of disaster recovery ministry in 2014. Your support of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables us to witness the healing love of Christ to families affected by disasters. Through your gifts, action and prayers, you stand in the GAP for disaster survivors and help the Church with responses around the world.

Your financial gifts of love enabled us to program approximately \$1.5 million to meet immediate and long-term recovery needs of disaster survivors and to provide a witness of caring around the world.

Internationally, your gifts enabled response to major disasters and civil conflicts in 15 countries and, through support of the global rapid response fund, enabled a low-level response in an additional 25 countries. Your gifts helped support:

- assistance for Christians and other religious minorities seeking refuge from persecution in Iraq.
- the West Africa Initiative in Liberia and Sierra Leone, where the Ebola crisis caused a severe medical emergency and had a widespread impact on agricultural livelihoods.
- immediate or ongoing disaster responses in South Sudan, the Philippines, Syria, Haiti, and other nations around the globe.

Nationally, your gifts supported the response of 39 mid councils in 24 states to storms, floods, and other disasters within their bounds as well as long term recovery efforts. Your gifts supported:

- a compassionate response to the unaccompanied children and border crisis.
- fire responses in California, Georgia, New York and Texas.
- response to the shooting in Ferguson, Missouri, and to public violence in multiple states.
- new and ongoing responses to flooding and tornadoes around the nation.
- a ministry of hospitality for volunteers to be engaged in helping communities recover.

PDA National Response Team (NRT) members served following 23 disasters in 20 states, helping mid councils respond to disasters in their communities. NRT members also conducted disaster preparedness, compassion fatigue, emotional and spiritual care, care for caregivers, long-term recovery, and other trainings to help mid councils build their capacity to respond.

Your gifts of time and talent in walking with disaster survivors provided hope and encouragement on the journey to recovery.

- More than 7,100 volunteers served through 38 PDA-related volunteer hosting sites in 11 states, donating more than 313,000 hours of labor for disaster recovery. The monetary equivalence of this labor is valued at over \$7 million; however, as the church we know the value of our service is not limited to financial support—by bearing the witness of Christ's love, our gifts of service are multiplied.
- Many assembled and packed Gift of the Heart Kits to offer hygiene, baby care, school, or cleanup supplies. More than 114,000 kits were distributed to partner agencies in the U.S. and around the world.
- Presbyterians helped refugees and asylum seekers resettle in the United States through our collaborative work with Church World Service. More than 7,500 refugees experienced the ministry of pastoral accompaniment and the welcoming of strangers seeking a new life.

We are thankful for the many ways Presbyterians continue to bear the hope of Christ to those recovering from disasters, and we celebrate the involvement of so many servants in the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance ministry.



DATES/TIMES OFFERED:

Thursday, September 10,
2015
9:30-11:00 AM EST

Tuesday, September 15,
2015
6:30-8:00 PM EST



WEBINAR:

**Protecting PA's Children: What
Adults Working or Volunteering With
Children Need to Know**

**Update: On July 1st Governor Tom Wolf signed
House Bill 1276 into law (known as Act 15 of 2015)**

Over the last year, Pennsylvania enacted significant child protection reforms related to how child abuse is defined, reported and investigated. Act 15 of 2015 clarifies and changes some of these earlier legal requirements impacting adult volunteers, particularly if the volunteer has a legal duty to report suspected child abuse and obtain comprehensive criminal and child abuse background checks. Join us for an interactive webinar to sort through what has changed in PA law and what it means for volunteers.

[Click here for more information and registration](#)

Contact: Network of Victim Assistance - 215-343-6543
mandy@novabucks.org



CROP HUNGER WALK

DATE: Sunday, October 11, 2015
LOCATIONS: Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Lehigh, and Palmerton
CONTACT: Area congregations or 1-888-CWS-CROP or www.cropwalk.org for starting places and times for these and other CROP Walks

TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF FUNDS RAISED WILL BENEFIT LOCAL HUNGER RELIEF EFFORTS, including several food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the Lehigh Valley. The remaining funds are used in the U.S. and worldwide for disaster relief (e.g., for communities devastated by floods and earthquakes) and development assistance (e.g., assisting poor families with seeds, tools, and irrigation).



SEMINARIES AND CHURCHES TOGETHER for generations to come



Ways to Give

NEW INFORMATION

ONLINE:

www.presbyterianfoundation.org/tef

BY MAIL:

Theological Education Fund
Presbyterian Foundation
200 East 12th Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Our Presbyterian Seminaries

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary * Columbia Theological Seminary
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary * Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary McCormick
Theological Seminary * Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Princeton Theological Seminary * San Francisco Theological Seminary
Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary * Union Presbyterian Seminary
and in covenant with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A):
Auburn Theological Seminary * Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico
Take a Virtual Seminary Tour

Presbyterian Foundation adds new service for churches and ministries

Jeffersonville, Ind., March 27, 2015 - The Presbyterian Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of the *Planned Giving Navigator* as a service to churches and other ministries involved in beginning or enhancing a stewardship and generosity program. Developed under the leadership of Karl Mattison, the Planned Giving Navigator is a subscription service that provides a brochure design center, a library of best practices, a calendar of activities and planned giving web pages that integrate into existing congregation websites as well as reports on current giving trends and research.

Mattison, former executive director of Presbyterian Endowment Education and Resource (PEER) Network, recently joined the Presbyterian Foundation team to complement the work of the Presbyterian Foundation and its subsidiary New Covenant Trust Company (NCTC) who help congregations develop planned giving programs.

Foundation President and CEO Tom Taylor said, "Often the largest gift a congregation receives will come from a planned gift, such as a bequest, and that is the most significant inspiration for developing a planned giving program. Karl has identified a need within our churches and other ministries to help them develop generous communities using options, such as planned giving, which goes well beyond the normal tithe. He is instrumental in leading the development of the Planned Giving Navigator and will continue to listen to constituents to provide a service that helps them receive funding for their ministry."

"Even though planned giving programs are a powerful resource for future ministry, they may be daunting for a church to undertake," said Mattison. "The Navigator provides an online place to plan, hold and grow a planned giving program and is enhanced by the skills and experience of the Foundation and NCTC. I am thrilled to serve the Presbyterian Foundation team as they introduce new ways to enhance churches' planned giving programs."

Prior to joining PEER in 2009, Mattison was the Presbyterian Foundation's representative for the Mid-Atlantic region, working to assist churches in developing endowment programs and in helping donors to make planned gifts. He is a graduate of Davidson College and resides in Silver Spring, Md., with his wife, Ashley and daughters, Lauren and Charlotte.

The Presbyterian Foundation provides an opportunity for congregations, institutions and individuals to affect positive change in the world with their accumulated assets in accordance with their Christian principles and values. For over two hundred years, the Presbyterian Foundation has served the Church in this capacity by exploring innovative ways to fund Christ's mission.

Karl Mattison can be reached at karl.mattison@presbyterianfoundation.org or 240-429-5789.

PLEASE NOTE: The Presbytery office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 7, 2015 for the Labor Day Holiday.

Join us for this one day retreat at Kirkridge...

The Way of Peace in the Iona Community



Thursday, October 15, 2015 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The Iona Community is a place of peace, justice and prayer. We are committed to helping the poor and the homeless, for making peace within our own souls and within the world, and finding ways of walking with the Spirit in our own communities.

Family Groups are seen by many Iona Community members as the core of the Community. Every member has to belong to a Family Group on a geographical basis. Many Associate members also belong to FGs. Each group meets regularly to worship, to share news, concerns and joys, and to discuss Community matters on which groups have been consulted.

This day at Kirkridge is a day with Spirit: a time to walk in the woods, a time of prayer, to look at the way of Iona, and hear a way of peace we at Iona work with. Come spend a day with the Iona community, and our way of peace and prayer. Join us for a day of exploring the Spirit in our individual and community lives. All are welcome! We look forward to journeying with you!

Cost: \$65 includes lunch

Kirkridge Retreat Center, 2495 Fox Gap Road, Bangor, PA 18013 -- 610-588-1793

WWW.KIRKRIDGE.ORG

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.** – Moderator's Forum at Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA.
- **Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** – Committee on Preparation for Ministry in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA
- **Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.** – Presbytery Lead Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA.
- **Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.** – Committee on Shared Gifts in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA.
- **Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** – Helping Hands Care Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA.
- **Sunday, September 13, 2015 at 4 p.m.** – Installation of the Rev. Kari Anne Olson at the Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church, 44 West White Street, Summit Hill, PA 18250.
- **Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.** – Worldwide Ministries Care Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA.
- **Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** – Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery at the First Presbyterian Church, 2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA.