

A newsletter for the churches of the Presbytery of Carlisle

“DIRTY” CHURCH WORDS

There are church words we approach with caution, whisper in committees, and dread hearing from the pulpit. One of these “unmentionables” is stewardship. We hear lots of sermons about talents and being good stewards, but we fail to appreciate that we are stewards of what God has given us in the first place. Join us for a good discussion about developing a “**Culture of Generosity**” with guest speaker Rev. Tom Moore. Two additional segments will be offered, a Healthy Congregations segment on “Developing Generous People” and a forum for church treasurers. Where: **Christ Church, Camp Hill**. When: **May 14, 2016, 8:30-12:30**, lunch provided. Registration information is at the Presbytery’s website or call the presbytery office at 717-737-6821 to register.

SWEET MISSION



The Presbytery of Carlisle is a mission partner of the Presbyterian Church of Honduras. A partner in mission means working side by side and

building relationships in the name of Jesus Christ. In April, eight members of the Presbytery of Carlisle went to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to renew friendships, embrace, worship, praise, explore, learn, get really dirty, and build a house. There were 4 men and 4 women, individuals with different roles in the church, different gifts to share, and different levels of experience in building. A concrete block house was started (and should be completed by now) for 80 something “Pacita” and her extended family. What a joyful time!



The team also traveled to the southern region of Choluteca to visit a Heifer project for bee-keepers. The area has been devastated by three years of drought, a

climate reversal leaving no leaves, no rivers, no flowers and no grass. It reminded us of Ezekiel’s “dry bones.” Some of the



team members were invited to visit the hives and see the bees at work. Interestingly, since there are no flowers for the bees to feed on, they have to feed them sugar. It is an extremely challenging time for these Hondurans but they spoke mostly of hope for the future in Christ. The Presbytery will continue to keep you updated on our mission partners and the barriers they overcome with faith and perseverance.

*Note: **Falling Spring Presbyterian Church’s** medical mission team served for a week providing dental/medical services in Honduras in April. Their accounts tell a similar story of sharing the joy of the Lord.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR NEWS

Our Presbytery has a number of **Certified Christian Educators** in larger churches, individuals who have attained advanced education and training in the field of Christian Education. We celebrate that many of our presbytery's Christian Educators have been chosen by APCE. APCE is an association made up of those who are serving or have served in educational



**Debby Madden,
APCE Educator
of the Year**

ministries, as ministers, professional or volunteer educators, or students, in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Moravian Church in America, and the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Recently, **Debby Madden**, who serves **First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle**, was recognized by the Eastern Region of APCE as Educator of the Year. Congrats!

MISSION SUNDAY

Contributed by JJ Patterson

On Sunday, April 17, **First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle** held its annual mission Sunday program. The program began with a mission themed worship service, followed by a fellowship lunch (the proceeds of which benefitted the Youth Triennium trip this summer). After lunch, approximately 45 members of the congregation volunteered their time and talents on a variety of local mission projects: supporting the Books for Babies program, local retirement homes, and members of the congregation, who needed assistance with yard work and minor home repairs,

to name a few. FPC took on a new project this year, about which they are very excited as well: Personal Energy Transportation (PET). This program produces ruggedized, hand powered carts for distribution worldwide to disabled, mobility challenged people. The carts are produced by volunteers working in workshops in 25 states, including the one FPC members supported in Mount Holly Springs, PA. The day offered a wonderful opportunity to put our faith in action to benefit our neighbors in need of assistance - both at home and abroad.

TAKE A HIKE



Small groups add vitality to church life. Of course, there are lots of small groups that contribute to the organization and ministry of the church.

Committees and boards are an example of working small groups. Many churches have book groups

that meet to discuss books of all types. There are groups for special interests like young mothers, men's breakfast groups, and crafters. Central Presbyterian in Chambersburg is taking advantage of the amazing topography of the region and has formed a "hiking" group. They recently took a Sunday afternoon to traverse the trails of Caledonia State Park. By all accounts, it was wonderful!

Do you have news to share? Great ideas for ministry? Send them to the address below. They will be included as space allows.

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