

A publication of the Strengthening Our Congregations Committee of the Presbytery of Carlisle



Fair Deal... *By: Graham Fowler, Pastor, Lost Creek Presbyterian Church*

Many communities have a yearly carnival that raises money for volunteer organizations like the Fire and EMS Companies. Often a professional carnival company provides rides, games, and food. We appreciate what they bring to our communities, but how do we show our appreciation to the employees who work so hard to provide it? Four years ago the churches of McAlisterville followed the example of the churches of Millerstown and started providing free, home cooked lunches for the employees and their families. **Lost Creek Presbyterian Church** is next to the carnival and has an air conditioned hall, so it serves as the site where meals are served. Each church picks a day to provide lunch. They either cook the food in their own church kitchen or bring it to Lost Creek, or they use Lost Creek's kitchen. Their church members serve the meal and clean up after. Lost Creek usually has a few volunteers available to help out as needed. Two months before the carnival, **Pastor Graham Fowler** starts communicating with the churches and writes down who is providing lunch each day, and what they are cooking. He then types up a list and gives copies to the carnival employees when they arrive. Each day around noon they make their way to the church. There are usually about 25 adults and children. The employees really enjoy the home cooked meals, the chance to take a break in an air conditioned room, and the fellowship with people from town. It's also a chance for the churches to provide spiritual care to the workers. One church sets up a table of free Bibles, devotionals, and tracts. The pastor of the Brethren church has made some friends in the carnival who ask for him when they come into town. And sometimes the carnival workers share prayer concerns with those serving the meals, giving church members a chance to pray with them. This is a wonderful way for our community to say thank you to the men, women, and children who travel all summer long to bring us enjoyment. It has created a better rapport between the carnival workers and our community. And it gives us a chance to share God's hospitality with our visitors.



Meet the Pastor...

Laura Batten Hart is the new co-pastor at **The Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring** along with her husband, **Andy Hart**. We will feature an introduction to Laura this

month. Laura was raised in the Southern Baptist Church in LaGrange, GA. She credits the YMCA of GA with helping nurture her in the faith along with friends and family. She attended Presbyterian College on music and academic scholarships and graduated with a B.A. in religion, specializing in Christian

Education and minoring in music. With mentoring by strong Christian women and families at the church she attended during college, she discerned God's call to our denomination. She began her ministry as Director of Christian Education at the First Presbyterian Church in Orangeburg, S.C. Following God's lead, she attended Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated in 2003. She served as a Chaplain at an inpatient psychological and addictive recovery facility. At Princeton, she met and married her husband, Andy Hart in 2003.

The Harts moved to South Carolina and Laura served as an Interim Associate, but when she

was expecting their first child, she felt God calling her to devote herself full time to being a Mom. They eventually moved to Huntington, NY and now have 4 children, Oliver, Abigail, Benjamin and Nathaniel. Since that time, Laura has served as a spiritual director, mentor, and facilitator for women's spirituality, done pulpit supply, Interim pastor in Deer Park, NY as well performing in various capacities at the Presbytery level.

Laura and Andy and their active brood are a welcome addition to the Falling Spring family.

What does a Shared Ministry Look Like? **Juniata Valley Shared Ministry** has just celebrated its 5 month anniversary and **GOD IS ON THE MOVE!** The Juniata Valley Shared Ministry is something a bit different for our presbytery - but different is a good thing. In their five months they have had several joint worship and fellowship events including most recently and Father's Day Picnic and Worship Service and a Worship Service at Little Buffalo State Park. All three congregations were well represented and really enjoyed spending time together.

At Westminster a new teen Sunday

When in Our Music God is Glorified... On Sunday, June 26 **Christ, Camp Hill** surprised our director of music, Lou Ann Potter with a celebration of her **40 years** of ministry among us. A member of the choir created five new pieces to be sung by the choir and by Christyan Seay and Amy Yovanovich, and a special reception followed. Featured is a photo from the reception. More photos and a few videos from the live feed can be found on their Facebook page or using this link: http://bit.ly/celebrating_lou_cpc



But wait!... A whole newsletter could be devoted to Camp Krislund. They had a fantastic summer. Did you know they had an increase in resident campers, a big jump in day campers and 22 traveling day camps? The Krislund ministry has touched the lives of about 1,800 kids this summer. That is a jump of over 100 percent from last year! The international staff blended well with their national staff and they have all been extraordinary. But Krislund offers tons of activities for all ages this fall, including Healthy Congregations and A Vital Signs seminars. Also offered are customizable events for the "young at heart" including a nature study/photography/hike, and a western themed adventure. The Annual Fall Festival is Saturday Oct. 15 from 10 -2. Did you know Krislund has an RV Park with water and electric? Check it out! Visit soon and often!

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school class is being planned, Perry Valley and Highland combined in the debut of the **NOT READY FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP PLAYERS**, and presented the "Too-Too Syndrome" during Sunday Worship. The youth in ministry team has been packing boxes of food at the Perry County Food Bank and having monthly coffee houses.

When folks at **JVSM** heard about the need for scholarships at Camp Krislund, they pledged to raise money for at least one scholarship. After only one Sunday of collecting money they collected enough money to sponsor two and are on their way to three scholarships.

What does all this mean? It means **GOD IS ON THE MOVE** through these three small churches. So often, smaller churches are assumed to be dying churches. Maybe we are discovering that as the church we need to begin to see the value in churches of all sizes - and to work together in the service of Jesus Christ. Check out their webpage at <https://jvsm.org/> for pictures of all our events.

Editor's note: Exciting news! Look for more churches entering into shared ministry in our Presbytery soon.