

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



## **Soups on** ...contributed by Cindy Sproat

Soup is considered to be as old as the history of cooking. When food is scarce or

people are hungry, what better way to feed a large number of people than to combine various ingredients into a large pot to create a nutritious, filling meal? Soup kitchens started in America around the time of the Great Depression in order to feed the roughly 25% of the population that was unemployed. Downtown Daily Bread continues this tradition of providing sustenance to Harrisburg's hungry and homeless. **Downtown Daily Bread (DDB)** is a soup kitchen located in the Boyd Building of **The Pine Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Harrisburg**. It provides hot, nutritious meals for the needy and the homeless of the city. The meals are served daily between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. The soup kitchen was opened in

March of 1983 out of concern for local hunger needs. There is no cost to the recipient and no questions are asked.

Downtown Daily Bread will be holding a "Soup Showdown" at The Country Club of Harrisburg on Sunday October 23, 2016. Its goal is to help support feeding the hungry and get together for an evening of food, drink and entertainment while enjoying the creations of some of Central Pennsylvania's best chefs. All chefs will be given a list of ingredients by DDB's own Chef Kobie White, and they will add their own personal touches to compete for the title of Best Soup Chef 2016. Sponsorship opportunities are available. See their website for more info: <http://downtowndailybread.org/>



## **Knit Wits**...*Presbyterian Outlook*

A Presbyterian Nursing facility and two churches joined together to develop a special camp experience. During Camp, children and seniors spent time together during "gift hours," where residents imparted special knowledge of hobbies, interests or activities with participating children. A group of residents at the senior living community who cleverly dub themselves the "Knit Wits," feel that knitting and crocheting is a lost art

for today's younger generations, as they are growing up in a time of busy schedules with other forms of entertainment. As a result, members of the Knit Wits group used some of the camp's gift hours to teach children how to do French knitting with handheld spools. The seniors learned how to knit and crochet at around the same ages as the children in the camp. The Knits Wits spent four days working with the children, helping them to make flowers, headbands and other creative items. After hosting this series of activities, they are contemplating hosting other tutorials down the road during school breaks and on weekends. They experienced much joy in passing down their family knowledge of knitting and crocheting. Among all 12 members, it is estimated the group has a combined 500 years of experience, as many were taught at a young age and have been doing it all their lives.



*“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47”*

## Supper Club...*contributed by Anne Larew*

People need to eat. People like the idea of easy planning. People like to have something to look forward to. Eating together incubates community. When community occurs, a space for ministry is created.

Central Presbyterian is organizing Supper Club nights for groups of 6-8 in homes or at restaurants (neutral ground). The purpose of the Supper Clubs is simply to help intergenerational groups get to know each better over a casual meal in more intimate settings.



## Room at the table...*mission spotlight*

Does your church have a community Thanksgiving meal? Several churches in our Presbytery do this to raise money for mission and other ministry needs. However, it is a whole different matter to have community dinners every week year around. Some churches join with others in an ecumenical ministry to accomplish this on a rotating basis. **The Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring** serves a community dinner every Sunday where they share Christ's love with and serve free meals to their guests, the less fortunate in our community. The dinner began in the fall of 2003, when several members and staff felt called to feed people in our area who were underprivileged and hungry. It

began as a monthly dinner, but soon changed to weekly, as needs increased.

Volunteers at Falling Spring serve approximately 3,700 guests throughout the year at the Community Dinner. The guests come to them hungry and therefore they offer multiple helpings of food to nourish their bodies. Their hunger is not only physical, but spiritual also. An informal worship service is held after the meal to share God's Word and love with our guests.

Along the same lines of service opportunities, **Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle** has Big Serve Sundays, where participants can sign up to participate in service projects at different locations in the area like the prison, rehab facilities, parks, truck stop ministry, local schools, pet therapy, etc.



**Meet and Greet** Andrew (Andy) Hart, co-pastor at Falling Spring with wife, Laura, grew up in Wayne, PA. He completed his undergraduate work in political science at Wake Forest, his Masters in the same field at the University of South Carolina. After graduation he worked 5 years as an Account Manager in Eastern Canada. He felt the call from God and attended Princeton Seminary. It was at Princeton he met his future bride, and they married in 2003. The couple moved to Lancaster, South Carolina where Andy served as solo Pastor. He served on boards of various nonprofits and joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary serving as a Flotilla Staff Officer. The young family included children, Oliver and Abigail, when they moved to Huntington, NY. There Andy joined the Civil Air Patrol and the family grew with the additions of Ben and Nathaniel. After another move to West Islip, NY to serve as interim pastor, Andy finished his DMIN with a focus on PTSD and Spirituality. He has published several articles, a book, *The Same God, Different Pulpits*, and is working on a book of clergy best practices. In 2014, the General Assembly of the PC(USA) elected him to serve on the Presbyterians Caring for Chaplains and Military Personnel.