

WEST KISH NEWSLETTER

Rev. Ela J. Robertson, Pastor

Summer 2022



Summer is a time to appreciate the bounty and boundlessness of God's good creation. Luke 10 reminds us "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Yet we need to be reminded that God's love is even broader. God loves us and wants us take time to enjoy the marvels and restorative power of being in Nature be it beach, lake, trout stream, woods or mountains.

Did you know some of the star light we see has been traveling for millions of years before we are able to see their point of light? This really helps me appreciate what eternity is!! August provides some wonderful meteor showers and star gazing opportunities. A used telescope we recently acquired brings our galaxy (and God) even closer. We will be on the look-out for clear nights and early mornings in late August and invite anyone who would like to do some galactic travel via the telescope to join us!

Pastor Ela and Bill

Reformed and Always Reforming

One of the key Presbyterian tenets is that we are a Church reformed and always re-forming. The Church always will be in transition. As Brent put it so well: 'our task to continue to bring the changeless gospel to a changing world.' During my time away I will be attending a Transitional Ministry Conference exploring ways we can envision transition in our local churches and the Church ecumenical. I look forward to hearing from and sharing ideas with church leaders from around the country as we forge new directions in Christ's ministry of justice, peace and healing.

Pastor Ela

Visiting Pastors July 17 - Aug 7

Finding pastors to 'fill the pulpit' has become a major challenge to both the Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches. I am delighted that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, I have been able to arrange for three excellent speakers to visit St. John's and West Kish while I am away this summer. They will provide new perspectives, share experiences in mission and have inspiring stories to tell about their discipleship and work with the church around the world. These include a hospice chaplain and worker with the visually impaired; a Lutheran missionary working in Liberia; and a Ugandan pastor/musician introduced to us by Kate Silman, interim presbyter for Huntingdon Presbytery. Be sure to attend, welcome our guests and connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ in other denominations and worshipping environments around the world.

Rev. Randy Traxler will be our guest pastor on July 17 and 31st. Lewistown has been home to Randy, his wife, Amy and their boys most of their life. He has served as a Methodist minister for ten years and as a hospice chaplain. During the week his ministry also includes serving as a case worker for the visually impaired at NuVisions.

Pastor Richard Nyakaana of Uganda, and ELCA missionary Brian Palmer are introduced in the following commentaries from their visits to other churches. Brian will be at our churches on July 24 and Richard will be speaking and sharing worship music from Uganda on August 7. I am sure our visitors will be a blessing and inspiration to everyone. Thank you to lay readers and leaders who will welcome our guests and assist in leading worship and liturgy. God's grace and Christ's joy with you all.

Brian Palmer, ELCA Missionary to Liberia Reverend Brian Palmer, ELCA pastor and missionary for the Lutheran Church in Liberia, has lived and served in Totota, Liberia since 2010. Liberia is not on the list of must-see destinations even for missionaries, nevertheless, Brian has not only served his initial four year call, but also signed up for two additional two year terms. He has no plans to leave Liberia; in his words, "I love the people in Liberia." Continued on next page Members of the World Outreach Committee hosted Brian for a Perkins (birthday) lunch in June 2018. Brian was in the States for his two year family and Synod visit. He spent most of his time preaching and meeting churches in the Upper Susquehanna Synod from whom he receives most of his support. We enjoyed his compelling stories of life in Liberia. He shared his warmth and passion as a teacher and preacher of theology to lay evangelists, deacons, and seminary students at the Louis T. Bowers Lay Leaders and Ministers in Training Center in Totota and the Gbargna School of Theology. His experience as a nuclear engineer and his natural curiosity to solve problems have led him to become "Mr. Fix It" in the region. Until the recent arrival of a Danish missionary couple, Brian also served as the community medic. He is relieved to pass this role to a trained nurse, the fellow missionary and spouse of the couple. Meet Brian and learn more about his call and commitment in Liberia: Read his monthly newsletters to learn about day-to-day life with the people he has come to love:





The Presbyterian Church of Jersey Shore

235 S. Main St., Jersey Shore, PA 17740, Phone: 570-398-1909, Cell: 570-337-0211
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(Re-)introducing international evangelist & Gospel singer Pastor Richard Nyakaana of Uganda



Richard & Claire Nyakaana

Post-pandemic, my friend **Pastor Richard Nyakaana** is again visiting from **Uganda**. Pastor Richard provides pastoral oversight for 11 churches in Uganda, 5 of which he founded, and is an international evangelist, trained at Billy Graham's Amsterdam '86 & 2000. He has done evangelistic rallies at high schools and colleges in Uganda and surrounding countries, and more recently at churches in the United States, for over 23 years. His ministry (New Song Churches, ISCEM) provides schooling support and resources for 65 orphans in Uganda, and built/staffed a school. They are also working to provide 5000 Bibles to his local tribe in their native tongue.



Richard is also a Gospel singer, music instructor and song-writer, with several popular albums playing on local Christian radio in Kampala, Uganda's capital. He typically sings, plays his guitar, leads familiar praise songs (in English, the national language of Uganda), and often teaches Ugandan African songs with great enthusiasm before his preaching. He has started a school in Uganda to teach worship-leading and music for other church leaders and musicians, which provides all his personal income and some of the funding for his ministry.

Richard received Christ as his Savior during the terror-filled genocidal reign of Idi Amin in Uganda. He is no stranger to tragedy, having lost all of his 8 brothers and sisters, some to the AIDS epidemic in Africa, his first wife to a stroke, and his first son to an accident at age two. However his deep faith in Jesus enabled him to persevere in life and ministry, leading hundreds of people to Christ and becoming a church-planter. Today he is remarried, and his wife Claire and three children are a great support to his ministry. Richard radiates the joy of the Lord!

Grateful for the American missionaries who brought Christianity to Africa, Richard is fulfilling a calling to mission work in America, and does evangelistic rallies and mission conferences at churches in the United States for several months each year. After a revival message on repentance at Calvary Baptist Church in Eau Claire, WI, even some elders of the church came forward to repent with tears in their eyes at the time of commitment. Richard wants to help call America back to her spiritual roots and the American church to its first love of Jesus!

Richard is available to minister to any groups or churches that may be interested. He has sung and preached in our church in Jersey Shore with a great response, and we have helped support his missionary work. In July 2017 he preached a 5-day multi-church evangelistic crusade attended by about 500 each night. Donations to his mission or scholarships to support more orphans are always welcome. While he is in the U.S. (through August), Richard can be reached at 814-335-1396, or anytime email rwamuhokyarichard@gmail.com. Or contact me.

In Christ's love,

Charlie Winkelman

Charlie Winkelman,
Pastor Emeritus of Jersey Shore Presbyterian Church,
and past president of Jersey Shore Area Ministerium
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Email: cwinkelman@aol.com



Pastor Richard, his wife Claire & their children leaving for an evangelistic service



St. John's Christian Daycare's annual yard sale is being held on Tuesday, August 9 and Wednesday, August 10. We are still looking for donations of anything you have in clean usable condition, including furniture. Please feel free to place your items on/in front of the stage or outside the Fellowship Hall doors. **REMEMBER ~ NO CLOTHING OR TELEVISIONS PLEASE!**



Shirley Morris passed from this world into the arms of God on June 23rd one day after her 94th birthday. A memorial service will be held for her on July 13 at Valley View followed by a graveside service at Machpelah Cemetery. A luncheon followed.

Sincere sympathy to Jeff Smith on the recent passing of his mother.



Dear Friends, Thank you so much for the sandtarts which Judy and John delivered on my birthday. They are my favorite ones! They are a blessing to our church and others. Where would we be without them? Love you and God bless, Ruth Ann Baggus



- July 1 - Ann Peachey
- July 2 - Tammy Carothers
- July 3 - Dana Ashton Jeschke
- July 6 - Jason Weaver
- July 9 - Judy Waddell
Barbara Frankhouser
- July 11 - Tammy Harshbarger
Ethan Riley Eichhorn
- July 12 - Abigail Esh
- July 15 - Donald Baggus, II
Pastor Ela Robertson
- July 21 - Shawn Metzgar
- July 23 - Scott Wilson
Jennifer Metzgar
Sid Yoder
- July 26 - Todd Thomas
- July 27 - J. D. Stroup III
- July 28 - Wm. S. Taylor, IV
Erin Kauffman
Conner McCurdy
- July 30 - Amy Kline Brewer
Bill Cullingford
- August 3 - Lee M. Spicher
- August 7 - Bev Eichhorn
Frank Zook
- August 10 - Ronald Bailey
Alexander Smith
- August 12 - Marc Frankhouser
- August 14 - Beth Esh Smith
- August 17 - Ava McCurdy
- August 19 - Darrell Baggus
- August 21 - Wade Eichhorn
- August 22 - Kiera Brinn Jeschke
- August 24 - Suzy L. Stuck
- August 28 - Jansen Thomas Yoder
Brent Stoner



- July 16th - Lee & Shari Spicher
- July 18th - Matthew & Ashley Spicher
- August 1st - Larry & Jean Eckland
- August 2nd - Mike & Lisa Maclay
- August 14th - Brent & Brittany Stoner
- August 20th - Paul & Sandy Kauffman



Big Valley Thrift & Gift is currently receiving applications for the Store Manager position. This position requires experience in an active retail business environment, computer and public relations skills and managing a large group of volunteers. Must be able to lift, bend and be on your feet much of the day. Should be able to work independently and/or as part of a team and be available on occasional evenings or weekends. An application and full job description may be picked up at the store located at 4287 E. Main Street, Belleville, PA 17004, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday. The application deadline is 7/30/2022.



We have two children planning to attend Camp Krislund. Jansen Yoder & Braylee Breon, children of Randy & Allison Breon and grandchildren of Brad & Tammy Harshbarger. Please pray for them that they have a wonderful experience!



We have received information from Debbie Sluder on an address change for her mother, Jane Kitting. Her new address is:

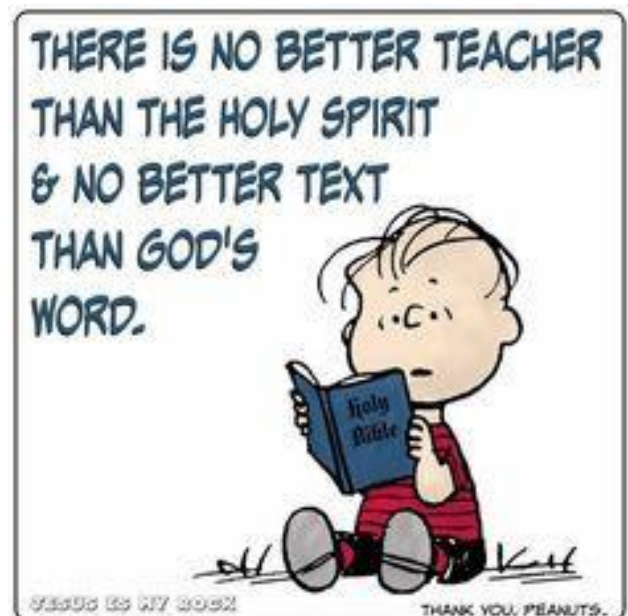
Plantation Bay Center
461 Old Canoe Creek Road
Saint Cloud, FL 34769



Seulki Susie Yoo has been our church organist/pianist for a while now. She is very talented and you can look her up on You Tube and watch her talent on the piano.



There will be a Senior Expo at Four Season Senior Center, 47 CJEMS Lane, Mifflintown on Saturday, August 6th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend. There will be free refreshments. Drug Take-Back will be available. Resources for seniors, caregivers, children of older adults, and individuals entering retirement. This program is coordinated in affiliation with Mifflin-Juniata Area Agency on Aging and MJRSC – The Care Network. For more information you may call 717-242-0315, or go to the website www.mymjrsc.com.





Pastor Ela arranged to meet with Kate Sillman on July 1, and at that time neither knew that would be Kate's first day of her three-year term as our General Presbyter! Kate who has been serving as Interim General Presbyter since Joy Kaufmann retired was sworn in as General Presbyter at our June 28 Presbytery meeting which Ela and Seulki attended.

On July 1st Past Ela met with Kate Sillman. Dr. Kate Sillman's former students at Penn State University for the previous 20-plus years probably wouldn't have guessed that she spent her Sundays not only being active in her church in Winburne, PA, but also sharing her gifts in the pulpits of other Presbyterian congregations around the region. That's because Kate is an unassuming, low-key person, which are also the qualities that leadership in the Presbytery of Huntingdon were looking for when they went searching for an interim general presbyter. "There's a steep learning curve but I'm doing my best and I feel that I am serving a need at this point," Kate continued.

A former vice moderator of the Synod of the Trinity, Kate has completed the Certified Lay Preacher program at Huntingdon and later tackled the Commissioned Ruling Elder class at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, getting that certificate in 2015. She has been helping to fill pulpits in Huntingdon for several years but is regularly found on Sunday mornings at Winburne Presbyterian Church (her home church in Clearfield County) preparing the music, leading the choir and being the organist.

"It's been really neat meeting with the different people," she said. "I enjoy being around the different folks in the presbytery. One thing I'm seeing is that one person doesn't have to do everything. My leadership style is joint leadership, a collaboration. I like to encourage people to use their gifts and their strengths. I enjoy seeing other people succeed."

Kate has quickly learned about the differing views of those in Huntingdon during her short time as the interim general presbyter. Trying to keep people focused on the missions and ministries of the presbytery is one thing that will challenge her during her stay.

"I want to encourage people who have different viewpoints to work together and be able to share those

without causing any ill feelings, be able to have respectful dialog without getting upset about it," she said. "That's a challenge to create that safe space for people to share without being afraid to. "I pray for each pastor in our presbytery every day," she said. "There's no way I would try to do this without constant prayer. I feel God's love, care and grace in everything I'm doing."



The Rev. Forrest Claassen, co-executive and stated clerk of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos, has been elected the new executive of our Synod of the Trinity, effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Claassen succeeds the Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland, whose contract is expiring after 13 years with the Synod, including the last seven-plus years as transitional executive. The Synod of the Trinity, created in 1717 and the oldest synod in the PC(USA), comprises 16 presbyteries in Pennsylvania, most of West Virginia and part of Ohio. Those presbyteries include 1,046 churches and 132,348 members, making this Synod one of the largest in the denomination.

"When I think about what Trinity has called me to do, I see a convergence," Claassen said. "All sorts of ministry experiences over the last 25-plus years have led to this." Claassen is a graduate of Stanford University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, and Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity.

Prior to his service in Los Ranchos, Claassen served as stated clerk of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest from 2009 to 2013, pastor at Clarkston (WA) Presbyterian Church from 2005 to 2013, co-pastor to a tri-cultural congregation in Southeast Alaska, stated supply minister for a Haida village church in the Presbytery of Alaska for five years, moderator and then chair of General Council of the Presbytery of Alaska, and commissioner to the 212th General Assembly in Long Beach, CA.

"We are grateful for the leadership of Rev. Susan Wonderland, who has been pivotal in helping our presbyteries address current issues facing modern churches," Synod Co-Moderators Martha Jordan and Charles Best said in a joint statement. "We are looking forward to working with Rev. Forrest Claassen as we continue to explore how to be innovative as the Body of Christ."



News from the Backyard: July 2022

The Backyards in June: June is always a big month for neighborhood ministry. All Backyard Clubs function in the month of June welcoming children to engage in playing games, sharing snacks, learning about Jesus, learning the fruits of the Spirit, and praying together. Currently, churches are ministering directly in 22 neighborhoods without Backyard support. This means more than 2000 families now have a permanent church presence in their neighborhood. Our new ministries at Glen Hazel in Pittsburgh and in the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Altoona continue to grow. We meet new families and deepen our relationship with others every week. There were also special events going on in several neighborhoods this June including Backyard Club kickoff festivals and cookouts. So blessed to see the creativity of our partnering churches as they minister to neighborhood families. Finally, we had the opportunity to help several families dealing with special needs.

Neighborhood Prayer Needs: Please pray for these friends in need: a young man undergoing cancer treatment, a woman raising her grandkids, a family desperate to get out of their unsafe neighborhood, the conflict going on between residents and others at Hartman Village, a family who has to rent a car to get to work because they don't have the resources to get their car fixed, parents with adult children in rehab, a man who is working hard to remain calm and patient and to trust God with things he can't control, those who have recently moved, a couple who are taking preaching classes, the many with serious health issues, a woman diagnosed with cancer whose doctor told her there was no treatment for the cancer she has, a woman whose mom passed away and who had to make a bunch of difficult decisions in the process, those with difficulties interacting in a healthy way with others around them, those who have found homes outside the neighborhoods, a woman whose brother passed away, the constant gun violence in our neighborhoods, a woman getting married this fall, and that the kids of the

neighborhoods would come to know who Jesus is and to find hope in His love and grace.

Upcoming Special Needs: Backyard Ministries has the following immediate needs:

- (1) BYM needs church partners to deliver food and Bible study papers monthly in the following neighborhoods: Pleasant Village (Altoona), Homewood North (Pittsburgh), and Glen Hazel (Pittsburgh).
- (2) BYM has a constant need for the following: fruit bars, individual size bags of cookies, individual size apple sauce, individual size crackers, individual size chocolate and vanilla pudding, individual size packages of muffins, Macaroni and Cheese, and Ramon noodles.

Adopting Neighborhoods: Starting Backyard Clubs and/or Food Deliveries

Do you have a neighborhood you would like to reach for Jesus? Would you like to meet most of the kids in the neighborhood and tell them about Jesus this summer? BYM can help you start a summer Backyard Club: weekly one-hour clubs featuring simple games, a snack, and a story about Jesus. Churches can also become a monthly delivery partner. Here's a video that explains how it works: <https://youtu.be/oCxPyh8NqmU>.

BYM Support: Regular monthly support is critical to the functioning of BYM. Churches and individuals provide funding to BYM by sending support monthly to the address below. Checks should be made payable to Backyard Ministries. BYM currently has more than 50 partnering churches. Please contact us if your church would like to partner with BYM or if you would like us to present the ministry in your church.

**To get involved or for more info like us on Facebook or contact us at Backyard Ministries, 418 26th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601 or kdellape@gmail.com or (814) 502-8008.*



West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 98
3820 West Main Street
Belleville, PA 17004



Summer Blessings

Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

PSALM 97:11-12

