

# Presbytery of Boston

## E-Connection

### April 15, 2010

## A Resurrection Story

*A monthly column for the PC(USA) by the General Assembly stated clerk by the Rev. Gradye Parsons, General Assembly stated clerk*

LOUISVILLE — Yes, Virginia, there is a vital Presbyterian Church in Cuba.

I was invited to travel to the island last month with the presbytery and synod staffs of the Synod of the Sun. We spent time at the Matanzas Evangelical Theological Seminary talking about the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba. We also toured churches in each of the three presbyteries.

We heard remarkable testimonies of faithfulness and hope in these Cuban congregations. Church members told us about the long time in their history immediately following the revolution when only one or two people would attend Sunday worship. Today, the sanctuaries of those same congregations are full for worship. We also met a group of young adults who were preparing for a mission trip to Canada.

Particularly striking to me was the story told by Dora Arce Valentin, a pastor in Havana. Dora is the daughter of a minister who led his church during the difficult time right after the revolution.

Dora's grandmother lived with them, and it was her job to get Dora to Sunday school each week. Not only was Dora frequently the only child in the class, which her grandmother taught, but she was often the only young girl in the congregation. So, like preacher's kids everywhere, Dora protested this solitary assignment. Dora remembers what her grandmother told her every Sunday. "Dora, you have to go to Sunday school. It is important that people see you there. God will bring the other people."

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 13 that now we see in a mirror dimly. Now we wonder where the church is going and what will it look like when we get there. Now we question how our little faith and hope will keep our congregations vital and alive.

Cuba holds a lesson for us: God is ever more faithful than we can imagine. So, Presbyterians, go to church. It is important that people see you there. God will bring the other people.

*From the Presbyterian News Service* <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10321.htm>

# Planning for Earth Day 2010

## *Free DVDs from PC(USA) Environmental Ministries*

Environmental Ministries is offering two free DVDs about Earth Care. “Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice” offers an overview of the environmental crisis and the environmental policy passed by the General Assembly in 1990. “Cherishing God’s Earth” looks at five components of environmental issues: earth, air, water, habitat, and people. Study guides are available for both DVDs.

## *Plan to Celebrate Earth Day*

Celebrate Earth Day the Sunday before or after April 22 with resources from the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program: Sacred Spaces and an Abundant Life.

Our worship spaces belong to God, and in them we have the opportunity to honor God by taking seriously our roles as stewards of the earth. There are many ways to be good stewards of the earth through our worship spaces, and Sacred Spaces and an Abundant Life offers many ideas for congregations to improve facilities through energy efficiency and conservation, reducing toxic materials and products, water conservation, and land and habitat conservation.

Download the PC(USA) version of this Earth Day resource on the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program web site: <http://nccecojustice.org>. Download this resource and begin implementing ideas for "greening" your facility, so your congregation can celebrate your successes on the Sunday before or after Earth Day, which is on April 22. Or, use this resource to make plans for earth care for the next year, and use Earth Day Sunday to commission an earth care team to work on these plans with your congregation.

If your church plans to celebrate Earth Day Sunday, please let Katie Holmes know ([katie.holmes@pcusa.org](mailto:katie.holmes@pcusa.org)). Environmental Ministries would love to hear what earth care issues your congregation is working on!

## *Now is the time to lift up your voice for climate justice*

Next week, the Senate is planning to release its first draft of a comprehensive climate bill that will reduce emissions, protect God's Creation and seek justice for God's most vulnerable people.

It's essential that the first version of this bill truly protect those here in the United States from the impacts of climate change and ensure that any increase in energy costs not push families further into poverty.

It is vital that we seek answers that protect God's great Creation for our children and our children's children. But in these challenging economic times we must also protect those who are most vulnerable to the increased cost of food, fuel, and electricity that may result from climate legislation.



Go to <http://ncececojustice.org> and click on “Take Action” in the left-hand column for legislative action opportunities. Send an email to your senators asking them to help and protect those families who are already living in poverty from any economic impacts that may result from climate legislation.

As people of faith, we must seek justice for all of God's children. Economic protection for those who are already struggling to make ends meet is a vital component of a just response to the global climate crisis.

Thank you for your continued work and ministry,

The Eco-Justice Team

## **Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

Priscilla Kelso's mother, Consorcia Lasmarias, passed away on Sunday, April 11. She was almost 95 and had served God and her family faithfully through the years. Priscilla leaves for the Philippines on Friday and plans to return after Memorial Day. Please keep the Kelsos and their family in your prayers.

Please continue to pray for Susan Gleason's daughter, Rachel, and her family.

Prayers for our legislators' wisdom in their decision-making on upcoming bills.

## **Presbytery of Boston Meetings**

### **APRIL**

- 15 – CS&D, 7 pm, NPC
- 19 – CEM, 1:30, NPC
- 21 – Trustees, 12:00, Sudbury
- 22 – Council Meeting, 7 pm, NPC
- 26 – CEM, 1:30, NPC

### **MAY**

- 4 – Nominating Committee, 11:00, NPC
- 5 – CPM, 5 pm, CHPC
- 6 – COM, 7 pm, NPC
- 10 – Reports Deadline**
- 17 – CEM, 1:30, NPC
- 20 – CS&D, 7 pm, NPC
- 24 – Presbytery Meeting, Sudbury**
- 31 – Memorial Day observed, presbytery office closed

## Ordination Anniversaries

Mario DaSilva	April 19, 1987	23 years
Burns Stanfield	April 21, 1991	19 years
Robert Perkins	May 1992	18 years
Richard Lovelace	May 1, 1966	44 years
Karl Gustafson	May 20, 1979	31 years
Catherine MacDonald	May 22, 1977	33 years
Alvaro Peña	May 25, 1979	31 years
Frank Cross	May 26, 1946	64 years

*Congratulations and thank you!*

## Presbytery of Boston Classifieds

Cynthia O'Reilly, the Newton church's bookkeeper, is available to serve as a bookkeeper and/or do an audit for any church in need. Although Cynthia does not have her CPA, she is an excellent and trustworthy bookkeeper. She uses Quickbooks, and knows the online and stand-alone versions. Interested churches can contact her directly at: [coreilly@newtonpres.org](mailto:coreilly@newtonpres.org).

The Church of the Covenant is looking for a part-time Youth Director. For more information, contact Brad Day, of the Personnel Committee, at: 617-522-1999 / 617-943-4229 or <mailto:bradleyday@comcast.net>. Details are also posted on the Presbytery of Boston website under "About Us/Employment Opportunities."

**Camp Wilmot, our PCUSA camp in New Hampshire, has a great summer of faith and fun planned. Check out the schedule at [www.campwilmot.org](http://www.campwilmot.org)**

## **"Signs of Hope in a War-Torn Country: A Presentation on Presbyterian Schools in the Congo."**

Friends,

On May 2 Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Boston will host an event featuring Anne Crane with a presentation called "Signs of Hope in a War-Torn Country: A Presentation on Presbyterian Schools in the Congo." (cont. on pg. 5)

Anne Crane is the Presbytery Mission Coordinator and grew up in the Congo, where her parents as well as her grandparents were Presbyterian missionaries. Last fall she went to the Congo on behalf of PCUSA and visited schools there.

The program will be hosted at the Korean Church in Brookline., from 3:00 to 5:00. For more information, contact Beth Denier, Presbytery Moderator for Presbyterian Women: 781-231-9247/ [a.denier@verizon.net](mailto:a.denier@verizon.net). We hope to see many of you there!

On behalf of the Coordinating Team, Betty Rots

## Events

*April 21-23 – Purposeful Missional Presbyterians Conference.* The goal of this conference is to help leaders develop congregations that excel both in attracting seekers into the community of faith and sending disciples to live as missionaries in their communities. For more information go to: [www.purposefulmissionalpresbyterians.net](http://www.purposefulmissionalpresbyterians.net)  
**\*Note\* - CS&D scholarships are available.**

*April 23-25 - Leaving FOOTPRINTS in the Sand* – The PW Spring Spiritual Retreat will be held at Christ the King Retreat House in Syracuse, NY. The retreat leader is Barbara Johnson from Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery. The cost for two nights lodging (single room), all meals, and the program is \$195.00 prior to April 9, 2010 and \$215.00 after that. The registration deadline is April 15. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Gail Banks at 105 Whedon Rd., Apt. 20, Syracuse, NY 13219.

*April 24-27 – The Leading Edge -- A Multicultural/Multiracial Future.* Guests: Diana Butler Bass, Robert P. Jones, Eric Law, Jacqui Lewis, Traci West, Paul Tough, Michael Livingston. NYC, NY. For more information: [www.middleproject.org](http://www.middleproject.org) or (212) 477-0666.

*April 30-May 3 - Celebrating a Decade of Sisterhood* – The 2010 Women’s Healing Retreat will be held at St. Joseph by the Sea in South Mantoloking, NJ. For more information, contact Kim Nodoro at 5 Coolidge Ct., Califon, NJ 07830 or <mailto:kimno@aol.com>.

*May 1 – Now We Are One Body: Global Song in Local Worship.* Workshop led by Patrick Evans, Yale Divinity School. Saturday May 1, 1 - 5 pm, Andover Newton Theological School, **Newton**, MA.

*May 2 – Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering*, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, at the Korean Church of Boston, 32 Harvard Street, **Brookline**. Presbytery Mission Coordinator, Anne Crane, will share her mission experiences. We are also hoping Synod PW Moderator, Sandy Grillo, will be able to be with us. Everyone is welcome.

May 5 – “Celebrating the Gift of Diversity” Refugee Immigration Ministry Annual International Concert, Old South Church, **Boston**, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tickets: \$15/students \$10. RIM contact: Phone: 781-322-1011 Web-site: [www.r-i-m.net](http://www.r-i-m.net)

May 8 – *Community Consignment Sale*, 9 am to 2 pm, Presbyterian Church in **Clinton**. Fifty per cent of the proceeds go to the Clinton Presbyterian Church.

May 14-16 - *Horizons Bible Study Workshop* – “Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today,” by Barbara Rossing. The workshop will be held at the Stony Point Conference Center in Stony Point, NY.

May 16 - The Presbyterian Church in **Needham** is hosting an *Ecumenical Festival of Songs of Faith* on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 4 p.m. The gathered congregation will sing several old and new loved "Songs of Faith," accompanied by organ, piano, flute, and other instruments. Refreshments will be served after the program. Proceeds will be donated to a worthy cause. For additional information, please call the church office, 781-444-3728, or email the Music Director at [patshopland@yahoo.com](mailto:patshopland@yahoo.com).

May 16-17 - *Energy Stewardship for Congregations: A Practical Guide to Taking the Next Steps*. A seminar at Stony Point for faith communities and non-profits who already know they want to do more to conserve energy, lower costs, and care for creation. It will be facilitated by Nikki Coddington, Executive Director of New York Interfaith Power and Light, and Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Director of Stony Point Center. There will be an opportunity to create small groups around topics that interest the participants, as well as workshops on Monday Morning that cover specific, practical guidelines for how to take the next steps with your buildings. For more information: 845-786-5672.

May 27-30 – “*Becoming a Multicultural Church*.” Chicago, IL. The Eleventh National Multicultural Church Conference is a place of differences where people with varying languages, cultures, ethnicities, theologies, genders, generations and economic backgrounds come together to recognize the amazing potential of differences and, through affirming and celebrating those differences, create something new. This year’s conference explores the theme, “H20: Deepening our Faith, Widening our Culture” focusing on the biblical vision of Ezekiel 47:1-12, and features Eric Law, Renita Weems, Tom Taylor, Gradye Parsons, Bruce Reyes-Chow, the Second City Communications and many more! See: <http://www.pcusa.org/multicultural/conference.htm>

June 18 – 28 – *Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace*. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Please contact Wayne Parrish ([wayneparrish@comcast.net](mailto:wayneparrish@comcast.net)) if you are interested in attending. **\*Note\* - CS&D scholarships are available.**

June 20 – 23 – *John Bell* at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, **Newton**. See [www.ants.org](http://www.ants.org). The theme is “God Surprising.” There will be an evening gathering of singing and music open to the public on Sunday, June 20.