

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
August 18 2011

Taste and see that the Lord is good

NCD conference told to embrace full humanity of Jesus

August 17, 2011

Presbyterian News Service, by Bethany Furkin

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

As anyone who's ever been to a church potluck knows, food that looks good can taste terrible. The same can be said for our lives, said Kim Hammond, speaking Aug. 11 at the New Church Development Conference here.

Hammond, a Christian Reformed Church minister and pastor at Community Christian Church in Chicago, asked conference attendees if they could taste God in their lives.

"I want my life to count," he said. "In the end, when you bite into my life, I want it to ooze goodness."

Although Jesus isn't limited to one model, people often become prisoners of their schedules, Hammond said. Our imagination gets locked within church walls. But we need to break out and learn how to mobilize people.

How does Jesus do this? He broke the religious taboos of the day to push towards those that others forgot.

"Jesus was fully God and fully human," Hammond said. "I think we follow the fully God but not the fully human."

We forget that Jesus embraced, loved, cried and got dirty. If we can refashion our image of Jesus to see that he walked just like we do, he becomes follow-able, Hammond said.

Hammond grew up Catholic and received a picture of Jesus upon his First Communion. In the picture, Jesus looked perfect, and many others carry around such an image in their minds.

"It's our job to refashion that image into one that we can follow," Hammond said.

He told the story of Jesus healing a leper. Although Jewish law forbade religious leaders from getting close to lepers, Jesus was filled with compassion and stretched out his hand to touch and

heal the man. Jesus could certainly have healed the man from a distance, but he instead reached out and provided physical touch, which the man had long been denied because of his disease.

Restoration isn't always filled with roses, Hammond said. Sometimes we walk with people through divorces, sicknesses and pain. But we are called to take that walk.

Hammond's son was diagnosed with leukemia shortly after the family had moved to the United States from Australia. And while he is tired, grieving and exhausted from his son's illness, he also feels carried by others' prayers to Jesus.

"God sometimes causes you to be carried," he said, adding that we must allow others to touch and minister to us.

But how do we get others to reach out? By telling the everyday stories of ministry — the failures, tears and mistakes.

"We have to be the people who become the storytellers of mission," he said.

Presbytery Meetings

AUGUST

25 – Council, 7:00 p.m., NPC

29 – CS&D, 6:00 p.m., Waltham

31 – Trustees, 12:00 p.m., Sudbury

SEPTEMBER

5 – Labor Day observed

6 – Nominating, 11:00, NPC

7 – CPM, 6:00, NPC

14 – Reports Deadline

26 – Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston, Waltham

New Worcester Fellowship Is Seeking Assistance

A newly formed Pentecostal African fellowship in Worcester is looking for Bibles, hymnals, sanctuary furniture, sound equipment, and instruments. If you have anything that you would like to donate to this group, please contact Cindy at ckohlmann@mac.com or 978-766-9330.

Celebrate Theological Education Emphasis Sunday Sept. 18

Where would we be without our seminaries?

Paul asked the Corinthian Church, “If all were a single member, where would the body be?” (1 Cor. 12:19) Where would the body be if we were only an ear or only a mouth or only an eye? Where would the body be if we were congregations without seminaries or seminaries without congregations? The body and its members are interrelated.

Theological Education Emphasis Sunday is an invitation to you and your congregation to pray for and celebrate the gift of our seminaries. The Committee on Theological Education encourages you to embrace this opportunity and to use the liturgical resources compiled by the Office of Theological Education. The resources include responsive prayers, links to worship resources and hymn suggestions. We encourage you to lead portions of the worship service from the baptismal font and table.

If you need more assistance please contact the Office of Theological Education at (800) 728-7228, x5359. For resources you can download: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/seminaries/get-involved/>

SAVE THE DATE

ROXBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

328 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA.

**Preparing to Honor 125 years of
Ministry – Prayer - Dreams**

**“Building on the Dream Together”
125th. ANNIVERSARY
September 28, 2011**

We will begin our year-long celebration of this occasion

With these special events:

September 19 - 23, 2011 Prayer Week

September 25 - 28, 2011 Revival Week

Rev. Horace Shepherd, Revivalist
Senior Pastor of West Oak Lane Church of God
Philadelphia, PA.

***Jesus said, “On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
Matt. 16:18b (ESV)***

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Rev. Gerson Anunciação, PSNE, Institute for Christian Leadership Board writes:

Dear Brothers and Sisters

On Wednesday Sandra's father had a 6 hours surgery. Doctors took the bladder, prostate, and a piece of the rectum that were already taken by cancer. After surgery he went into intensive care. I just received the news that the situation is very critical, he has a lung infection. Sandra does not know yet, because she is working. I will communicate with her as soon I know more details. I ask you to prayer or prayer for her father (Moacir) for her, and her whole family? I'm trying to find a way to send Sandra to Brazil. Thank you.

Carole Parrish's mother is receiving hospice care. Please pray for their family.

Pilgrim Church's boiler has stopped working and they need to replace it with a new boiler by the fall. They have asked for your prayers for the finances to replace it and the right person to install it.

Continued prayers for Emily Chandler, whose granddaughter, Sydney Elizabeth Burgwinkel, died of CMV at age 17.5 years. Special prayers, too, for Sydney's mother and father.

Jean Risley is recuperating from two knee-replacement surgeries, one in May and the other in early July. Recovery is very painful, so Jean would appreciate your continued prayers.

Ken Dewar recently suffered a severe attack of shingles and is still experiencing a lot of pain; please keep him in your prayers.

Please keep Jennifer Dewar in your prayers as she heals from the successful removal of an epiretinal membrane in her eye. Complete healing will take between six and twelve months.

****Note:** If you would like to share your prayer requests with the Presbytery of Boston, please contact us at presbyteryofboston@verizon.net. We continue to pray for the ongoing needs of those whose concerns are not listed.

Ordination Anniversaries

Rebecca Dean	8/24/03	8 years
Elliott Hipp	8/25/91	20 years
Kevin Manuel	9/9/01	10 years
Young Ghil Lee	9/15/94	17 years

Congratulations and Thank You!



Coming Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011

***Preaching and Teaching
Stewardship
Generation to Generation***

A Presbyterian Outlook
Live 90-Minute, Practical Webinar

*Featuring
Karl Travis*

Yes, a live, 90-minute webinar!!!
with an opportunity to ask your questions

Just \$29.95 will help you develop a gripping and impactful stewardship campaign for your church -- whether you're the pastor, a church school teacher, a stewardship committee member or session member.

The webinar will help you

- *talk about money in generationally specific ways*
- *tailor an annual stewardship effort to include everyone*
- *jump over personal hurdles to speaking about money*

Featuring Karl Travis, pastor of 1st Presbyterian Church, Ft. Worth, Texas

- **He has served small, mid, and large membership congregations**
- He is featured frequently as a conference speaker and preacher, particularly in the area of stewardship
- He has chaired the denomination's task force on special offerings
- He is a plainspoken, practical Gen-Xer

Call or email us for discounted group rates

*****If this day and time doesn't fit your schedule, you can view the replay of the conference, which will be archived after the live event. Register for the webinar now, and a few days after the live conference you will receive an email with a link that will take you directly to the archived replay for you to watch whenever it fits your schedule.**

Questions? Contact Jana Blazek at 800-446-6008 x 758 or jblazek@pres-outlook.org

Tuesday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, 11:00 a.m. PDT

And plan ahead: Sept. 27:

***Tom Ehrich: Turnaround Strategies for your Church: Overcoming Invisibility
Part 1 of a series of 8 monthly Webinars on turning around your church***

ALSO: IF YOU MISSED the Outlook Webinar:

***The New Form of Government: What Next? (or nFOG for Dummies)
featuring Dan Williams***

***...You can now purchase it to view on your computer (archived replay) for \$29.95 ...
...or in a deluxe DVD format for \$39.95 plus shipping.***

Events

***Note: If you know of an event that would be of interest to the Presbytery of Boston members, please send your information to: presbyteryofboston@verizon.net.**

September 11 – “Massachusetts Remembers”. The interfaith community in Massachusetts is preparing to mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and we want your participation. Communities from many different religious traditions will join with the general public for the Massachusetts Remembers gathering Sunday September 11, 2011 at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade in **Boston**. Delegations from houses of worship and religious groups are invited to gather at 2:30pm on the Esplanade so that we can sit together at a space reserved for us. You are invited to bring a banner identifying your house of worship. For more information, please contact laura@masscouncilofchurches.org, or call 617-523-2771. To register your church or group, please visit:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHQ3SjhITWlnY11NeVI1eEx0TVEjZUE6MQ>

*September 21 – Refugee Immigration Ministry Third Annual International Concert, at First Church, 11 Garden Street, **Cambridge**. From 6:30 to 9:00. Purchase tickets online at:*
<http://rimconcert2011.eventbrite.com/>

*September 24 - **God Will Hear Your Prayer** Hyde Park Presbyterian Church Gospel Fest on Saturday evening, September 24, at 7:00pm. 1109 River Street, **Hyde Park**, MA. An evening of praise and prayer in song. Multiple choirs, soloists, great congregational singing, food and fellowship. Suggested donation: \$10 (children under 12 free). All proceeds go to support our*

after-school tutoring program. For more information or to order tickets call Rev. Beth Wieman: 617 361 0051. Tickets are also available at the door.

October 11-14 – Joint conference of the Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors (ARMSS), and the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN). The ARMSS/POAMN Joint Conference will be held in San Antonio Texas, October 11-14. For more information, contact: Ginny Nyhuis at gnyhuis@frontier.com

October 25 – *MCC Annual Dinner, 6:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church* 145 Brattle Street **Cambridge**, MA 02138. The Annual Dinner will be an occasion to honor interfaith leaders from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Faith Communities. This interfaith occasion will be one in which the Council will launch an **Annual Colloquium on Interfaith Understanding**. This colloquium is designed to underscore the Council's commitment to enhance interfaith respect and understanding through education, conversation and relationship building in collaboration with people and institutions of other faiths. We are honored to have **Dr. Diana Eck**, Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies and **Frederic Wertham**, Professor of Law and Psychiatry in Society at Harvard University, Executive Director of the Pluralism Project and chair of the Interfaith Relations Commission of the National Council of Churches as our inaugural keynote speaker. This evening will also be an evening to honor the leadership of our Executive Director, the **Reverend Jack Johnson**, who will be retiring at the end of October. Tickets are available at the Council website: www.masscouncilofchurches.org
November 17-20 – Moderator's Conference, Louisville, KY. Contact Angela Lucear: angela.lucear@pcusa.org

November 4-6 - *Annual Conference of the Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers*, Stony Point NY. For more information see: www.stonypointcenter.org.

November 18-19 – *Church for All Generations: 35th Racial-Ethnic Convocation*, Stony Point Conference Center, The Convocation is a time for gathering with one another for inspiration, support for each others' mission and ministry, worship, sharing, and to learn from each other. This year's theme is Church for All Generations and is hosted by the Hispanic/Latin American Caucus. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Karen Hernández-Granzen. Rev. Hernández-Granzen is the pastor of the [Westminster Presbyterian Church](http://www.westminsterpresbyterianchurch.org) in Trenton, NJ. The registration fee is \$10.00 for youth, \$35 for adults, \$60 per couple and includes dinner on November 18th, breakfast and lunch on November 19th and overnight accommodations. See: <http://www.synodne.org/>
For more information on the Convocation, contact Nancy Lomberk at the Synod Office by phone at 315-446-5990/800-585-5881.