

# Presbytery of Boston

## E-Connection

### April 21, 2009

## Earth Day 2009

**Green** is the church's favorite color!!!

Now that I have your attention, let's consider God's creation as Earth Day 2009 approaches. As a Presbytery, let's deepen our commitments to Eco-Stewardship and be witnesses to our communities and churches in practicing resurrection in specific ways that help heal our hurting planet. For as we all know, this is wonderful and important evangelism work for the church!

Here are ways you and your church can get involved in more green ways this season:

- ❑ **Celebrate Earth Day on Wednesday, April 22, 2009.** There are lots of creative things you can do, including a simple evening prayer service at your church, tree planting, lightbulb-changing fest, etc. See <http://www.nccecojustice.org/downloads/Earth%20Day%20Sunday!.pdf> for more ideas.
- ❑ **Ministry for Earth Community, Friday, April 24, 8am-5pm** – a free one-day conference and workshop at Harvard Divinity School sponsored in part by Memorial Church at Harvard and the BTI. Featured speaker: Dr. Willis Jenkins, environmental ethicist from Yale Divinity School. See [www.watershedwaltham.blogspot.com](http://www.watershedwaltham.blogspot.com), April 15 entry for the flyer and more details. This day is targeted directly at the question of how do we successfully do eco-ministry in our own church contexts.
- ❑ **Charles River Clean-Up Day, Saturday, April 25, 2009, 9am-noon.** All communities along the Charles are taking part in this annual massive volunteer effort to clean up trash along our beloved river. As Christians, let's get out there to show the world that we care about the health of our watershed! Come join folks from the Waltham church as they are adopting part of the Charles in Waltham near Auburndale. Meet at FPCW church (34 Alder St.) at 8:30am for some bagels, before we go clean up the river together.
- ❑ **Observe Earth SUNDAY, April 26, 2009.** This is a wonderful day to incorporate caring for God's creation into your regular worship service. For ideas and easy to use bulletin inserts, see <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/worship/earthday09.pdf>
- ❑ **Green your church building!** (be good stewards of energy and your money!) There is a group of 10 churches forming in the greater Boston area (a few more slots open) to get trained this Fall in how to do energy efficiency audits of their buildings through the STEM for this Old House of Worship project. See <http://www.wilsoned.com/Genesis.html>, and contact Rob Mark for more info.

- ❑ **Have you seen *Presbyterians Today* for April 2009?** “How to Green Your Church”? – a great resource for us all. Especially look at page 8 for an article on the Presbyterian Conservation Corps. Only the cover story is online: <http://www.pcusa.org/today/cover.htm>
- ❑ **Green your coffee hour!** The best way is to move to reusable mugs like Sudbury, Waltham, and Newton (to name the few I know about for sure! Who else??). But if you still need to go with disposables, at least consider buying compostable/ biodegradable products from places like [www.ecoproducts.com](http://www.ecoproducts.com)
- ❑ **Presbyterian Conservation Corps** – there are still openings for this summer’s amazing programs in Colorado, Montana, and Chicago for 18-24 year olds. Full scholarships are available. [www.presbyterianconservationcorps.org](http://www.presbyterianconservationcorps.org) - Deadline May 1 – so apply now!
- ❑ **October 24, 2009. PLEASE MARK THIS DATE!** This is an international day to promote [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) - a movement to actively counter global warming. Consider ringing your church bells 350 times on that day.

There are lots more resources available – but this is enough for now. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you’d like more information.

Peace on earth,

Rob Mark, [robfirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:robfirstpres@gmail.com), 617-680-7013, Pastor, First Pres. Waltham

## **Enough for All Creation—Learning and Advocating in Washington, D.C.**

### **Ecumenical Advocacy Days, March 13-16, 2009**

*Report by Rod MacDonald, WoongSoon Lee, and Vickie Boisseau*

Over 700 persons from dozens of different Christian denominations participated in this 7<sup>th</sup> annual conference. This year’s theme was: *Enough for All Creation*, built around the connected concerns of *climate change, migration and poverty*. The weekend was spent in worship, plenary sessions, and preparation for visits with members of Congress. Monday was “lobby day” on Capitol Hill. Plenary sessions dealt with the three broad themes just mentioned.

About 50 separate workshop sessions were spread over Saturday and Sunday. They were loosely organized into “Tracks” which included regions of the world such as Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Domestic, and also topical concerns such as Peace and Global Security, Global Economic Justice and a few special denominational topics.

#### **From Rod:**

For example, I attended several workshops in the Peace and Global Security Track. One was “War’s Silent Casualty: The Eco-footprint of War” which included a powerful video (I purchased and brought home a copy). Another was about the

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and another was about shifting federal budget priorities to invest in “true security and human needs.” Still another was about contemporary Christology for an earth undergoing ecological threat. For the most part, I found the workshop leaders highly skilled and knowledgeable.

We were given preparation for our lobbying visits to congressional offices, which was good and practical. We also met in denominational groups (Presbyterians being one of the best represented, with about 100 folks) and enjoyed a dinner sponsored by the PCUSA Washington Office (which included a presentation by a Delaware church which installed solar panels on its roof).

Worship was often musically exciting, as well as generally creative, and included a liturgy for the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of St. Francis (participants in the event).

On Monday we went to Capitol Hill with a unified message calling for action in the three areas: reducing global warming (specifically with a goal of 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050), supporting vulnerable communities internationally as they are forced to adapt to environmental changes, and assisting growing populations of *climate migrants* who are forced from their homes by climate’s effects.

I was able to meet with aides to Representative Tierney, Senator Kerry and Senator Kennedy. Needless to say, we were met with friendly ears. It is predicted that a climate change bill will make it to the floor by summer—we emphasized the sense of urgency, and the need to counter the arguments that environmental concerns must, or should, take a backseat to economic matters. If we do not act on one, the other will be compounded to extremes. An added concern is that the U.S. participate positively in the international gathering to take place in Copenhagen in December to consider the extension of the Kyoto Climate Treaty (which the U.S. has refused to ratify).

A couple statistics:

One billion of the world’s population account for only 3% of global warming, while the population of the U.S. is responsible for something approaching 25%.

97% of Presbyterians say they never contact government officials, at any level.

### **From WoongSoon:**

#### **"Climate Change Impacts Migration and Displacement"**

At this semi-plenary session led by Rev. Fe’iloakitau Kaho Tevi (General Secretary, Pacific Conference of Churches) and Dr. Susan F. Martin (Director, institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University), the participants learned about the intensification of natural disasters such as drought, rising sea levels and the conflict over resources stemming from the displacement of people as a result. For example, in the U. S., the first wave of climate migrants are the 200,000 victims of Hurricane Katrina who still have not been able to return home. In certain parts of the Pacific Islands, such as Tobago, there is coastal erosion up to 4 ft due to rising sea levels, forcing migration of villagers to other islands. The speakers recommended that the role of the church is to be a prophetic voice; care for and provide compassion for the "climate refugees"; and provide a safe space for continued discussion and dialogue.

#### **"Diaspora in the Era of Globalization: Perspective from the Asia-Pacific Experience"**

Professor Eleazar S. Fernandez (Professor of Constructive Theology, United

Theological seminary of the Twin Cities, Minnesota) discussed the accelerated rate of migration due to global conflicts; the differentiation of migration such as due to labor, refugees, and permanent settlements; the proliferation of migration; the feminization of labor immigration; and the ecological factors. According to Dr. Fernandez, as of 2005, there were 19.1 million environmental refugees and he expects the number to grow to 50 million by 2010. Hence, these factors will influence domestic politics of both sending and receiving nations of climate change migrants, bilateral negotiations and international relations, and the national policy. He emphasized the need for mobilization and advocacy work to be done in increasing humanitarian assistance; immigration policy; rights-based responsibility to global migration; and policies that arrest wider practices that lead to displacement and migration.

(WoongSoon had an early flight out on Monday, but was able to talk by phone from the airport for 40 minutes with someone in Congressman Barney Frank's office.)

### **From Vickie:**

On my trip to DC, I talked with 4 congressmen on the GBLTI issues as stated in the GBLTI breakfast at the Mark Hilton near Washington DC. The presenters at the convention were great at helping us get ready to lobby our congresspersons, and made us feel welcomed. The presentations were well informed, and well presented, and the service on Friday evening was highly praised for including various people such as the Native Americans, Africans, Hispanic, and other cultures.

My main concern was getting insurance for the 153,020 intersex people across the USA. In Massachusetts everyone has to have health insurance the problem is health insurance companies only insure Men & Women that leaves us out. Or if we do get health insurance it is for only HALF of our bodies. So in going to DC I'm trying to save the lives of all these people. It was great meeting my congressmen like James McGovern, and Barney Frank, as well as a great friend of mine and congressional aide Diago. Most of the aides, and congressmen I talked to hadn't heard of intersex people's fight to get health insurance. In the state of New York it doesn't matter what is on your drivers licence or birth certificate because All of your body is covered. If you have the part it is covered. I told it to all the people I've met, ans were looking into how they do that, and mabe adding new legislation to do the same here so everyone's parts will be covered, and people will no longer die just because the insurance company thinks you shouldn't have that part.

*WoongSoon Lee is from Korean Church of Boston; Vickie Boisseau is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Waltham; Rod MacDonald is pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Burlington*

## **Exploring the Presbytery of Boston's Website**

As we continue to develop and improve our presbytery's website, we will be printing a series of articles to help familiarize everyone with its layout and various resources. In order to fully access the website's materials, it is necessary to have a personal account. Over a year ago, when the website was remodeled and upgraded, our

web designer, Bill Dornbush, issued usernames and passwords to everyone with an email address. Since then, however, some members have never logged into the site and some have forgotten their usernames and passwords. If you recognize yourself in this description, *don't worry; it's never too late!* Please contact Wren in the presbytery office ([presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net)) or 617-244-4766 if you have any questions about how to log in, request a new password, acquire an account, or find something in particular on the website. Once you begin to use the website, you will discover how easy and convenient it is to use.

Among the valuable resources we post is a directory of The Presbytery of Boston. Across the top of the home page, you will see a blue bar with different titles, one of which is labeled "About Us." After logging in (at the bottom of the home page) click on "About Us." You will see a column on the upper left side of that page; the third item listed is the "Directory." When you click on the word "Directory," you will see the link to the current version of the presbytery's directory.

Another important resource is *The Parish Paper*, a monthly publication that offers "ideas and insights for active congregations." To find the current and past issues of this newsletter, go to our website ([www.presbyteryofboston.org](http://www.presbyteryofboston.org)). Across the top of the home page, you will see a blue bar with different titles, one of which is labeled "Newsletters." Once you have logged in, you may click on "Newsletters" and be brought to a page that contains a list of the Presbytery of Boston's *E-Connections*. On the left-hand side of the page, under the title "Newsletters," you will see "Parish Paper." Click on the name and you will find electronic versions of *The Parish Paper* dating back a year. Current and recent issues include topics such as "What Do People Want in Their Pastors?" (April 2009), "Permanent Endowment Fund: Blessing and temptation," (May 2009), and "One Congregation: Many Locations" (June 2009).

We hope this article has been helpful and will prompt you to begin exploring and using The Presbytery of Boston's website to its fullest advantage. We look forward to receiving your feedback on how we can better serve the members of this presbytery through our website.

*Wren Collé*

## **Ordination Anniversaries**

F. R. Brown	June 2, 1959	50 years
D. Wick	June 6, 1961	48 years
L. Nascimento	June 7, 1970	39 years
G. Wyrwas	June 9, 1960	49 years
H. Richardson	June 12, 1956	53 years
R. Spalding	June 14, 1981	28 years
A. Kwaa	June 15, 1980	29 years
R. Petersen	June 15, 1980	29 years
J. Gough	June 16, 2002	7 years
G. Rupp	June 17, 1971	38 years
E. Daley	June 20, 1965	44 years

A. Parmelee	June 21, 1970	39 years
K. Grant	June 22, 1975	34 years
R. Mark	June 25, 2006	3 years
W. Holder	June 26, 1988	21 years
J. Wuestneck	June 27, 1971	38 years
P. Williams	June 28, 1950	59 years
R. MacDonald	June 29, 1975	34 years
D. Muir	July 1, 1953	56 years
E. Wieman	July 1, 1985	24 years
E. Chandler	July 10, 1983	26 years
J. Southard	July 10, 1988	21 years
T. Kepler	July 13, 1958	51 years
R. Brondyke	July 21, 1974	35 years
W. McIvor	July 29, 1973	36 years

*Congratulations and thank you!*

## **Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

Leona Imrie, elder, former treasurer and former organist/choir director at the Needham Presbyterian Church died peacefully on Monday April 13 at the age of 96, after several months of declining health. A memorial service for Lee will be held at the Needham Church on Saturday, April 25 at 11 am, with collation to follow. All those who knew Lee through her 50 years of serving the Presbyterian Church in Needham, Presbyterian Women, and Presbytery of Boston, are invited to join us in celebrating her life.

Continued prayers for Desirée Lawson’s step-daughter, Leta.

Continued prayers for Jan Gough and her family as they plan and make arrangements to move to New Mexico.

Continued prayers for the pastoral search processes at: First Presbyterian Church of Waltham (co-pastor), Fort Square (interim), and Natick (pastor).

Prayers for all whose employment is affected by the budget cuts in churches, presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly.

## **Presbyterian Planning Calendars 2009-2010**

Presbyterian Planning Calendars will be available to purchase at the May 18 presbytery meeting. Quantities are limited, so if you would like to reserve one or more calendars, please contact Wren at [presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net) or 617-244-4766. Calendars are \$8.00 each. Orders of more than one calendar must be paid in advance. Please mail a check made out to “The Presbytery of Boston” to: 210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

# Presbytery of Boston Meetings

## APRIL

23- Council

25- NEPPG, Londonderry, NH

## MAY

4- Reports Deadline

5- Nominating Committee

7- COM

11- ICL

13- CPM

15- CEM (2 pm)

18- Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Boston, First Quincy

## Book Group

Friends:

Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 7, when we will finish *The Great Emergence*, by Phillis Tickle. So you can get a jump on things, our next book will be *The Triune God*, by William Placher. We'll start discussing that book in June, with pages to be read to be announced. Please spread the word to other ministers in the presbytery who might be interested!  
Peace, Cindy Kohlmann

## E-Connection Classifieds

**Presbyterian Conservation Corps Summer 2009 Eco-Stewards Trainings for 18-24 year olds.** 1) *Eco-Stewards West*: July 5-12, 2009, Highlands Camp in Colorado and Greenwood Farm in Montana / and 2) *Eco-Stewards Midwest*, August 2-9, 2009: Stronghold Retreat Center, IL and Lake View Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL. To inquire or apply email Rob Mark [robfirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:robfirstpres@gmail.com) or check [www.presbyterianconservationcorps.org](http://www.presbyterianconservationcorps.org)

**This summer: Eco-Retreat / Family Vacation / or Place of Solitude to Write Your Dissertation or First Book - Escape to the Matheson Farm House, Cape Breton Nova Scotia.** Help preserve 100 acres of ocean-front property while taking a wonderful retreat/ vacation. Special discounts for members of The Presbytery of Boston. Contact Rob Mark - [robfirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:robfirstpres@gmail.com) - or see <http://www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p129034>

## Upcoming Events

**April 24** – “*Ministry for Earth Community: Re-rooting Religious Practice in its Natural Context.*” A one-day conference at Harvard Divinity School, 45 Francis Avenue, **Cambridge**. 8a-5p. For more information contact Rob Mark or Wren Collé

**April 25** – **NE PPG** (Contact David Dorer for information.)

**April 29** – “*The Spiritual Journey Home from War: Ministering to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and Their Families.*” A workshop for clergy, caregivers, and families of returning veterans, 9 am to 4:30 pm, United Congregational Church of Worcester, 6 Institute Rd., **Worcester**. Contact the Brookfield Institute at 508-637-1215 or Brookfield.institute@gmail.com.

**April 29** – “*Breaking the Cycle of Violence,*” sponsored by the City Mission Society of Boston, at the UMass Boston campus. See complete information below (on page 10).

**April 30-May 1** – Yale Divinity School will host a conference on “*The Future of the Congregation,*” featuring a number of seasoned veterans—including congregational renewal authority Anthony Robinson.

**May 1-4** – *Women’s Healing Retreat*, sponsored by the Synod of the Northeast, at St. Joseph by the Sea, Mantoloking, NJ, \$375 (all inclusive). Scholarships are available. For further information, or to register, please contact: Kim Nodoro at Kimno@aol.com

**May 2** – *Bicentennial Worship Celebration*, 3:00 p.m., Old South Church, **Boston**. Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Mass. Bible Society. (See paragraph that follows on page 9.)

**May 2** – Asian Rural Institute (American Friends of), a training center for grass-roots leaders from very poor rural communities in Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands (PCUSA-related). A day-long event in **Framingham**. For additional information, contact Pam Hasegawa at pamhasegawa@gmail.com or Wren at the presbytery office.

**May 3** – Annual Walk for Hunger. For more information, see [www.projectbread.org/walk](http://www.projectbread.org/walk) or call: 617-723-5000.

**May 8** – The Gospel of Mark (told from memory) by Rev. Bert Marshall, 7 p.m. Old South Church, **Boston**. Contact the Mass Council of Churches for more information.

**May 17** – **Multicultural Church Sunday**. For more information on this and other related events, see the PCUSA’s Multicultural Ministries at: <http://www.pcusa.org/multicultural/>

**May 16** – *“Engaging Conflict Well: The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation.”* A workshop led by Rev. Tom Porter and Rev. Rodney Petersen. From 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at **Newton Presbyterian Church**. Sponsored by the NEPPG and The Presbytery of Boston. Contact David Dorer at NEPPGwork@gmail.com.

**June 11-13** – The Big Tent. Event to feature conferences by ten PC(USA) ministries and groups. (New Website with promotional video just launched at <https://www.pcusa.org/bigtent/>.)

**July 11-15** – *“God Will Do Wonders Among You.”* Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Louisville, KY. Register by May 15 to save \$50. For more information, visit [www.pcusa.org/pwgathering](http://www.pcusa.org/pwgathering).

**July 14** - The PW Synod of the Northeast luncheon will be held on July 14. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Mail a check made out to PWSNE to Jane MacDonald before the Gathering. Her address is 36 Carriage Lane, Newton, NJ 07860-1927. She will send you a postcard which will be your ticket to the luncheon. You will not be able to purchase tickets in Louisville.

## **Bicentennial Worship Celebration** **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Massachusetts Bible Society**

“In celebration of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in recognition of the ways in which the Body of Christ is again divided, we invite Christian churches of every stripe across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to come to one of our founding churches, Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston, MA, on Saturday, May 2 at 3:00 p.m.” To send your rsvp and for more information on the worship celebration and other bicentennial events, please contact the MBS at: [admin@massbible.org](mailto:admin@massbible.org) or visit [www.massbible.org](http://www.massbible.org).

James (Randy) Ackley  
[randy.ackley@pcusa.org](mailto:randy.ackley@pcusa.org)

## **Summer Classes at Yale Divinity School**

Yale Divinity School’s summer term (6/8-26) offers weekly courses in subject areas from history and biblical scholarship, hymnody and liturgical music, to topics in pastoral care. A highlight this year will be the course, “John Calvin (1509-2009): Reformer of the Church,” taught by Bruce Gordon, Professor of Reformation History.

**Join the City Mission Society of Boston for  
"Breaking the Cycle of Violence"  
April 29**

Join City Mission Society, community leaders, practitioners, and faculty at UMass Boston in an open dialogue about how we can come together to reduce youth violence in communities.

You're invited to  
**"Breaking the Cycle and Stepping Back from Violence:  
A Roundtable to Develop Strategies for Youth Violence Prevention"**

Wednesday, April 29, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The program will take place in UMass Boston's Campus Center Ballroom and include

\* A showing of the CMS produced video, Jahmol's Plan for Youth Peace. This documentary features Jahmol Norfleet, former gang member turned peace advocate.

\* Roundtable discussions and reporting back

\* A networking reception

RSVP to [events@umb.edu](mailto:events@umb.edu) or (617) 287-5312 by April 15, 2009 (space is limited)

A Spring Enrichment and Engagement Days Event  
[www.mbu.edu/events/spring](http://www.mbu.edu/events/spring)

**Keep peace, pray peace, seek peace, think peace, make peace and live peace**