

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
February 10, 2010

Camp Wilmot

Many of you have asked about the future of Camp Wilmot, and there has been some confusion and misunderstanding. The Camp Wilmot newsletter was just sent out, and plans for a full 2010 camp schedule are included. Please help spread the word about the wonderful opportunities available this summer.

Due to some shifts in leadership in the Presbytery of Northern New England, a large debt related to the Londonderry PJC case, and a recent case of embezzlement in a local congregation, a full and complete audit is underway. Although our New England Presbyteries work together to oversee the ministry of the camp and assist in fundraising and have appointed Boston's Synod YAD, Devin Berry, as our official liaison to Camp Wilmot, the Presbytery of Northern New England owns the facilities and rents them to an independent Board of Directors, who have oversight and responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the camp; members of the Board of Directors and officers are listed on page 3 of the recent newsletter.

Auditors seek confirmation of assets and debts, and in seeking information about Camp Wilmot, questions were raised about the relationship and responsibility between the Camp Board of Directors and the Presbytery of Northern New England. At their December Meeting, PNNE voted to explore the future of this relationship, and the Council has begun planning for a conversation about the future. **There is no plan currently to sell or close Camp Wilmot.** There is no meeting scheduled for supporters of Camp Wilmot to make their case for keeping the camp open and operating.

Many presbyteries across the country have conducted studies to discern the best way to provide retreat and summer camping experiences, and, of course, this varies with location and specific circumstances. Nevertheless, most of them have been forced to either sell the camp, or spin it off as a separate non-profit entity. Such discussions about Camp Wilmot will certainly have to take place, but let me repeat, the PNNE Council will develop this process and keep us informed.

If you have further questions, please contact the presbytery office, or any of the Camp Wilmot Board of Directors.

Wayne Parrish, General Presbyter

Self-Development of People announces grant recipients

More than \$260,000 awarded to fund 13 self-help projects in the United States

MIAMI - The National Committee on the [Self-Development of People](#) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has approved grants for 13 self-help projects in the United States, including one local grant in the Presbytery of Boston:

- **Centro Presente**, Somerville, Mass.: \$20,000 to assist a capacity-building and advocacy project in which immigrant workers have come together to learn their rights, support each other, organize to fight for and defend their rights and become vehicles for long-term societal change.

The \$269,930 in grants comes from the PC(USA)'s [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) offering.

SDOP, funded primarily through the OGHS offering, enables members and non-members of the PC(USA) to establish partnerships with economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people in order to help them achieve sufficiency.

Grants were approved at a meeting of SDOP's National Committee Jan. 22-23.

Projects funded cover a wide range: a group of women who have formed a cooperative that produces and markets mango-derived products, a capacity-building project in which immigrant workers learn leadership skills and a T-shirt cooperative that teaches job-procurement skills to a group of people with disabilities.

Groups in the Synod of the Northeast awarded funds at the meeting:

- **Bushwick Housing Independence Project**, Brooklyn, N.Y.: \$30,000 for the preservation of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families in Bushwick and communities in north and central Brooklyn.
- **Olneyville Neighborhood Association**, Providence, R.I.: \$20,000 to assist an immigrant-run education and emergency response project to build and mobilize community power to confront abuses against the immigrant community and mitigate their effects.
- **The Visible Community**, Lewiston, Maine: \$20,000 to enable tenants who have organized to develop knowledge of tenant's rights and responsibilities.

Collegial leadership

Joe Small says clergy and laity are not Presbyterian terminology

by Duane Sweep

Special to Presbyterian News Service



The Rev. Joe Small

BUFFALO, Minn. “Clergy and laity are two words that should never escape the lips of Presbyterians,” the Rev. Joe Small told members of Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry here, insisting that Presbyterian polity and theology emphasizes “collegial ministry.”

Small, director of the office of Theology Worship and Education for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s General Assembly Mission Council, called the “separation” of ministry “one of the big problems we have in the church today.”

Ministry within the church needs to be the responsibility of all the leaders --deacons, elders and pastors, Small said, speaking at Christ the King Retreat Center here during the Synod of Lakes and Prairies’ annual training event Jan. 26-28.

Deacons, Small noted, have too often been relegated to serving coffee on Sunday and sending flowers to shut-ins. “People don’t want to do it anymore,” he said.

Elders, he continued, “have become the board of directors of a small community service organization.”

And, he asked, “What happened to ministers? They became clergy, and clergy have “emerged as the power in the church.”

The divided role of ordained leadership in the church needs to change, Small insisted, and the walls between ordained offices torn down.

For instance, he said, deacons are called to “leading the whole church in the ministry of compassion and justice.”

Elders should “share equally in the administration of the ministry of word and sacrament,” he said.

And, he continued, the “primary role of ministers should be that of ‘teacher of the faith.’”

Small said he favors use of the terms “teaching elders” and “ruling elders.”

But, he cautioned, “ruling does not mean governing.” The correct meaning, he added, “is rule like a measuring stick.” Ruling elders measure the congregation’s “fidelity to the gospel” and the “spiritual health of the congregation.”

Small called ordained leaders in the church to be “genuine colleagues in ministry.”

Without collegial ministry, he said, the position of pastor becomes one of a lonely leader. He described the history of ministers in the United States as one of accumulated roles, where responsibilities always have been added but never withdrawn.

Beginning on the frontier, Small said, pastors were called to be revivalists to “inspire and uplift.”

When small towns grew on the prairie, the ministers were still expected to “know more about the faith,” but in addition to being inspirational preachers, ministers were expected to be community builders.

As small towns grew into cities, ministers, he said, were expected to also be therapists, who helped those in the congregation “cope” with new stress.

As cities grew, ministers became “managers of an increasingly complex social organization called the church,” and today a pastor is expected to be an entrepreneur and innovator.

“It’s just one more layer added on,” he added.

Small said a collegial ministry relationship could help alleviate some of the stress associated with pastoral leadership, and he said Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry need to recognize the growing demands on ministers.

“Think it through,” he told the group of about 40 committee members, “and understand the possibilities for a unified ministry.”

(February 4, 2010)

The Africanus Journal

The AFRICANUS JOURNAL *is an academic, multilingual journal published by the Africanus Guild at the Boston Campus of Gordon-Conwell, the Center for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME). The Journal features faculty, students, and friends of the Guild and of CUME, and strives to promote academic work that is multiethnic, urban-oriented, and committed to an inerrant understanding of the Bible and to interpreting it in conversation with the realities of the world we live in.*

The journal is named in honor of Julius Africanus, a Christian scholar born around A.D. 200. He probably was born in Jerusalem, studied in Alexandria, Egypt, and later became bishop of Emmaus. He was a careful historian who sought to defend the truth of the Bible. The journal will have biannual publications on line.

The inaugural issue (April 2009) contains Julius Africanus' writings and contemporary reflections and applications, as well as a book review: *Life of Julius Africanus*, *Extant Writings of Julius Africanus*, "A Personal Reflection on the Undisputed Extant Works of Africanus" (William David Spencer), "Parallelomania" and God's Unique Revelation" (Aída Besançon Spencer), and a Book Review of *Lucas*, *Conozca su Biblia* by Alvin Padilla (Efrain Agosto).

The second issue (November 2009), following the practical apologetic interest of Africanus, deals with the church confronting the culture in the future of marriage, the need for Christian discipline, the ministry of deliverance, and the relationship of evangelism and social action: "Should the *Imago Dei* Be Extended to Robots? *Love and Sex with Robots*, the Future of Marriage, and the Christian Concept of Personhood" (William David Spencer), "Church Discipline as an Expression of the Love of God" (Joel Jocelyn), "Setting the Captives Free" (Jeffrey J. Niehaus), "Wasted Evangelism" (Mark 4): The Task of Evangelism and Social Action Outcomes" (Chip M. Anderson), *Software Review of Bibleworks 8 and PC Study Bible 5* (Aída Besançon Spencer), *Book Review of How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind* by Thomas C. Oden (Gideon Achi), and *Book Review of 1 y 2 Corintios*, *Conozca su Biblia* by Efraín Agosto (Awilda González-Tejera).

The Journal may be read on line for free at http://www.gordonconwell.edu/boston/africanus_journal. Hard copies are also available for purchase from cumebookstore@gcts.edu or books@gcts.edu or call 617-427-7293. For more information contact: jrunyon@gcts.edu.

Presbytery of Boston Meetings

FEBRUARY

15 – *President's Day, Presbytery office closed*

18 – S&B, 7:00, NPC

CS&D, 7:30, NPC

22 – CEM, 1:30, NPC

25 – Council, 7:00, NPC

MARCH

8 – Reports Deadline

22 – Presbytery Meeting, Clinton

Wurffel/Sills Grants and Loans

The Synod is receiving Wurffel/Sills Scholarships/Interest-Free Student Loan Program applications for 2010. Please share this information with your pastors and sessions. Copies of the applications and brochure (in both Word and PDF formats) are attached and may be shared. Please discard all applications from previous years, as there are modifications to the forms.

Please note that the Synod now offers the scholarship/loan applications on line. Please direct inquiries to www.synodne.org for a downloadable version.

The application and essay are due in the Synod on April 1st and supporting documents to the application are due on April 15th.

The program is for individuals who are or will be pursuing higher education goals and will be attending seminary, undergraduate, graduate or educational programs at accredited institutions on a full-time basis.

All applications will be reviewed by the Individual Grants Task Force. Three applications are chosen for scholarships. Those not chosen for the scholarship program will be reviewed for eligibility to receive an interest-free loan.

Please call me at the Synod office if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Helen

General Administration

SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST

315.446.5990

800.585.5881



Listen up!

Join us for a Haiti Response
Webinar on February 11

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Space is limited.
[Reserve your Webinar now.](#)

How do we listen to our brothers and sisters when disaster strikes? The Listen up! Webinar will take you deeper into matters of listening to and learning from global mission partners in relation to the earthquake in Haiti. Ellen Sherby from the Presbyterian World Mission office for Education and Resources for Mission will moderate a panel conversation with Randy Ackley, Coordinator for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Pix Mahler, PC(USA) Haiti Partnership Facilitator and Ruth Farrell, Presbyterian Hunger Program Coordinator to look at how we can Listen up! in times crisis and beyond.

The Webinar is a companion to the new God's Mission Matters podcast —[listen and subscribe on iTunes](#) or the [Mission Crossroads Web site](#).

Title: Listen up!

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2010

Time: 1:00 p.m. –2:00 p.m. EST

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

Brought to you by Presbyterian World Mission

System Requirements

PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 2000, XP Home, XP Pro, 2003 Server, Vista

Macintosh®-based attendees

Required: Mac OS® X 10.4 (Tiger®) or newer

“Hope is Alive! Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responds to Haiti with help from across the church”



Photo by Graham Huff - www.leagueofhope.org

“Hope is alive” amid the tragedy and overwhelming destruction in Haiti, reports Carlos Cardenas, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) staff and PC(USA) mission co-worker on the ground in Port-au-Prince.

Already more than \$400,000 (including \$100,000 from the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) special offering) has been distributed for food and water distribution sites, tents for homeless survivors, an electrical generator and supplies at Holy Cross Hospital, and staff who are working with ecumenical and local partners in the initial response and assessment. Paul Jeffrey, who works with the ACT Alliance (one of PDA’s partners), created a great video about relief work on the ground in Haiti. Watch it on [YouTube](#).

So many people want to help. However, our ecumenical and international partners in Haiti are urging restraint in sending teams in at this time, since they may strain the few resources available. A time will come when teams will be welcomed and valuable in the long-term recovery. If you are interested in volunteering, please register [online](#).

The best ways to help right now are to:

Give: Presbyterian response to the earthquake in Haiti has been amazing and is much appreciated. To date, more than \$2 million has been received to support the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You can continue to donate money [online](#); by phone at (800) 872-3283; and by mail: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Act: Assemble “[Gift of the Heart](#)” hygiene and baby kits. More than 35,000 hygiene and baby kits have already been sent and the stockpile is depleted. More kits are needed.

Pray: Continue to pray for the people of Haiti and those assisting them.



Photo by Graham Huff
www.leagueofhope.org

Thank you for your compassion and generosity; your actions are making a difference for the people of Haiti. For regular updates on PDA's work in Haiti, see the [PDA Web site](#) or [subscribe](#) to the PDA Rapid Information Network, Presbyterian News Service and the PC(USA) press releases.

While the world's focus is on Haiti, PDA continues its work helping Katrina survivors rebuild their lives. [Read a blog entry](#) entitled, "A Tour of Katrina's Legacy" featuring PDA Gulf Coast hurricane manager Frank Vardeman.

Compassion, Peace and Justice: Caution urged when addressing needs of Haitian "orphans"

Before it was a national news story, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was cautioning about the extreme care needed in addressing needs of those children considered orphans. Frequently, well-meaning people and organizations rush to get children out of harm's way and into new homes following a disaster. However, some of the children considered orphans in Haiti may still have families from whom they have temporarily been separated. A separate issue is that of more nefarious people who may prey on unaccompanied children following a disaster. Read the Jan. 28 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [situation report](#) to learn more about a responsible and effective response to the needs of these children.



**CITY MISSION SOCIETY
OF BOSTON**

14 BEACON STREET #203 BOSTON, MA 02108
(617) 742-6830 WWW.CMSBOSTON.ORG



**Collect & Assemble
Relief Kits for Haiti
Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010**

Relief for Victims of the



Earthquake in Haiti

City Mission Society is working with a coalition of organizations including **Church World Service** and the Pilgrim Association of the Mass. Conference of the United Church of Christ to collect and assemble Hygiene Kits and Baby Care Kits which CWS will send to Haiti. **(A list of kit items is below).**

Join CMS volunteers to donate kit items and assemble the kits on **Thursday, February 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 72 Pierce Street, Stoughton, MA 02072.**

Rev. Bert Marshall, NE Regional Director of Church World Service, will attend the event and give us an update on CWS' relief efforts in Haiti.

Each church is asked to bring a potluck dish to share!

If you are looking for a hands-on way to help the people of Haiti and want to be with others in support, we invite you to join us. All ages are welcome!

Also, kit items can be dropped off in advance at City Mission Society, please call (617) 742-6830, ext. 211 to arrange a drop-off time. Or, deliver them to Jean Lenk at the Feb. 6 Pilgrim Association Mission Fair at the First Congregational Church of Hanover.



To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need: (all items should be new)

- One hand towel (16" x 28")
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six band-aids
- Please do not include toothpaste in the Hygiene Kit, it will be added just prior to shipment.
- Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.



To assemble a Baby Care Kit you will need: (all items should be new)

- Six cloth diapers
- Two diaper pins
- Two t-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets
- Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

You can also make an online donation to help [Church World Service](#) purchase kits and ship them to Haiti.

Church World Service is meeting emergency needs in the aftermath of the earthquake. CWS and its partners are providing basic supplies (brought in over ground from the Dominican Republic). It is working with partners to provide water, food, temporary shelter and health assistance. Having worked in partnership in Haiti since the 1960s, CWS will also help to support communities in the long struggle to rebuild.

Special Musical Events in Our Area

Singing Toward Easter; Burns Stanfield, **March 13**, 1 - 5 pm ANTS Wilson Chapel

“*Now We Are One Body: Global song in Local Worship.*” Workshop led by Patrick Evans, Yale Divinity School, on Saturday **May 1**, 1 - 5 pm. ANTS Wilson Chapel

2010 ANTS Institute for Arts and Worship presents John Bell of the Iona Community
June 20 - 23

Events Calendar

February 10 – “*BU Presidential Lecture on Clean Energy & Sustainability.*” Enabling a Clean Energy Future with Melanie A. Kenderdine, Executive Director, MIT Energy Initiative, 4 to 5:15 p.m. **Photonics Building, Room 206. 8 Saint Mary's Street, Boston, MA.** Register now at www.bu.edu/energy

March 13 – “*Singing Toward Easter,*” Burns Stanfield, 1 – 5 p.m., Wilson Chapel, Andover-Newton T.S.

March 19-20 – 2010 World Mission Initiative Conference. The theme of the conference this year, to take place March 19-20, 2010 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, is: *God Says Go!* (Genesis 12:1-3) Keynote Speakers are Australian missiologist and author Michael Frost and a pastor and missionary from Iran. For more information please visit: www.worldmissioninitiative.org.

March 19-22 – “A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples” Ecumenical Advocacy Days. Washington D.C. website: www.advocacydays.org ; email: info@advocacydays.org

March 21-23 – Ministering to the Missing Generation. Guest speaker The Rev. Carol Howard Merritt is author of *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*. Join us as she shares her insights and thoughts on evangelism of those who are leaving the church as they are leaving their parents’ home. At Stony Point, NY. See: www.stonypoint.org or call 845-786-5674 ext. 107. ***Note* - Scholarship funding is available through the Presbytery of Boston’s Committee on Congregation Support & Development.**

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 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 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, ANTS Wilson Chapel

May 5 – Refugee Immigration Ministry Concert, Old South Church, Boston, 7:00 p.m. RIM contact: Phone: 781-322-1011 Web-site: www.r-i-m.net

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.

June 20 – 23 – John Bell at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. See www.ants.org.