

**Presbytery of Boston**  
**E-Connection**  
**January 18, 2011**

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
**January 18 - 25**

“One in the Apostles' Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread and Prayer.” (cf. Acts 2:42)

Lord Jesus, you continue to pray that your disciples may be one in a unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We, your people, long to be one in you. May your prayer for unity open the hearts and minds of all Christians. Guide us, Lord, in your way, that we may be one in the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer, to the glory of your name, one Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

[This] week we observe on our Christian calendar a week of prayer for Christian unity. This week will mark the 103rd anniversary of the Church Unity Octave. Father Paul Watson, an Anglican priest and co-founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement Graymoor, introduced a prayer octave for Christian unity that was first celebrated the 18th to the 25th of January 1908.

While this one week is observed, the Massachusetts Council of Churches publishes annually an Ecumenical Prayer Calendar which invites Christian individuals and congregations within and beyond the Commonwealth to pray regularly for each other, for Christian unity, and for human community. The Prayer Calendar may be downloaded at [www.masscouncilofchurches.org](http://www.masscouncilofchurches.org)

***Services and Events: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity***

**Friday, January 21 at 7:30 PM, St. Joseph Church, 1382 Highland Avenue, Needham** - This service, which is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Council of Churches and the Archdiocese of Boston's Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and will host Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox believers for an ecumenical prayer service in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The evening's preacher will be our Executive Director, the Reverend Jack Johnson. All are cordially invited to attend.

**Friday, January 21, 2011 at 7:00 PM -Ecumenical Prayer Service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** Christians from Worcester and beyond come together to give thanks to God, to ask for forgiveness, and to pray for unity. Assumption College, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609. A Reception will immediately follow in the Atrium of the Richard and Janet Science Center. Please respond to Sharon Mahoney by January 19, 2011 if you plan to attend [shmahone@assumption.edu](mailto:shmahone@assumption.edu) or call 508 767 7322.

**Ecumenism 101: What it is and why we do it." Wednesday, January 19, at 7:30 PM, you are invited to a special presentation at St. Joseph Church, 1382 Highland Avenue, Needham, in honor of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: "Ecumenism 101: What it is and why we do it" by The Rev. Dr. Diane Kessler. Rev. Kessler is the Executive Director, Emeritus, of the Massachusetts Council of Churches and a member of the World Council of Churches' Joint Working Group, responsible for fostering the relationship between the World Council of Churches and the Catholic Church through the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Rev. Kessler is a one of the country's most respected and passionate workers for ecumenism. You won't be disappointed in coming to hear her!**

**Wednesday February 2, 6:00pm -7:00pm - Goddard Chapel Forum on Religion in America.** His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, "The Book of Psalms: The Ecumenical and Universal Prayer' For more information: [www.tufts.edu/chaplaincy](http://www.tufts.edu/chaplaincy)

## Prayers for Peace: A Presbytery-wide Invitation

It might sound strange - asking you and your church to pray!  
But this is a specific invitation to *covenant* to pray along with other congregations of Boston Presbytery in response to the violence that has become so pervasive in American life - that God's peace might come to rule in our hearts, churches, communities, and beyond.

- Praying for God's mercies in light of the recent shootings in Arizona
- Praying for healing in Boston, where last year's murders touched those known to us in the Roxbury congregation and beyond
  - Praying for wisdom in the overcoming of language that inflames hatred
- And yes, praying for the growth of understanding and caring communication in our own churches and presbytery

*In fact, a benefit of this initiative might be the mysterious ability of prayer to bring people together - in this case, joining presbytery's churches in mutual concern, rather than distance.*

### ***What would it mean to participate?***

Your Session can *covenant* for your church to share in weekly prayers seeking God's *shalom* - at regular worship and other gatherings. And individuals may also join this effort. A pledge form is attached, or you may contact us (below).

Our commitment is to provide regular suggested prayers and concerns for prayer. You may use these (helping us to share in a communal expression) and, of course, add your own.

You and your congregation might wish to create the prayer for a week and/or suggest specific related concerns by contacting us.

It is possible that two or more churches might want to link up as “prayer partners,” adding to the weekly prayers particular prayers for one another’s ministries.

We envision beginning this project (with the first provided prayers) for the first week in February. We may continue for an initial period of 3 months, and then evaluate how participation is going.

***Beyond our prayers...***

Anti-violence activities are being explored under the oversight of the CEM, and it is expected that more information will be coming soon. This might include:

- Specific support for our urban congregations - such as tutoring possibilities (keeping children in school is a proven way of reducing gang activity), getting behind policies that assist schools and youth (like providing for summer jobs).
  - Looking at gun violence prevention measures in Massachusetts and beyond
    - Churches clustering together to receive training in conflict resolution
      - What are your ideas?

**We hope you and your congregation will choose to be part of this Initiative with us!**

Rod MacDonald, Pastor, Presbyterian Church in Burlington  
781-272-9190 or [rodmac50@aol.com](mailto:rodmac50@aol.com)

Elliott Hipp, Immediate Past Moderator and Pastor, Presbyterian Church in Needham  
781-444-3728 or [deh46@columbia.edu](mailto:deh46@columbia.edu)

Bob Ferguson, Co-Stated Supply, First Presbyterian Church, Worcester  
508-852-2111 or [pastorbguata@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorbguata@yahoo.com)

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## Prayers for Peace

Please email the following information to [presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net):

I/we covenant to take part weekly in this prayer initiative \_\_\_\_\_

Name of church: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, name of individual \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (to which prayers may be sent): \_\_\_\_\_

# **Money Follows Mission: Stewardship Practices for the Body of Christ ~ March 18-19, 2011**

By NLomberk

“Money Follows Mission: Stewardship Practices for the Body of Christ” will be held on March 18-19, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro, MA. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Michael Slaughter, Chief Dreamer of Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, OH.

This is a two-day conference on stewardship for clergy and laity and will feature networking opportunities, resources and 10 workshops to inspire and provide practical tools to support your stewardship ministry. Registration for the event will begin in October. The cost of the conference is \$95.00 for both days, \$40.00 if attending Friday only, or \$65 if attending Saturday only through February 1, 2011. The cost will then increase. There is a \$10.00 discount for each additional team member from your congregation.

The conference is sponsored by the Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council, whose members include these New England Demoninations: American Baptists, Evangelical Lutherans, United Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and the United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Michael Slaughter is the Chief Dreamer of Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, OH. His dynamic teaching, heart for the lost, and innovative approach to ministry have led Ginghamburg Church to outgrow all paradigms for a church in a cornfield. Mike will challenge attendees to wrestle with God and their God-destinies. He has written numerous books including *Money Matters: Financial Freedom for All God's Children* and his most recent book, *Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus*.

For more information, see: [www.ecumenicalstewardship.org](http://www.ecumenicalstewardship.org). You may also contact: Amy Cook, Registrar, Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council: [acook@diomass.org](mailto:acook@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 645

## **Praying with Haitians One Year Later**

January 12, 2011 marks one year since a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook Haiti. Most of the infrastructure in the capital city of Port-au-Prince was destroyed; more than 200,000 people lost their lives; and approximately 2 million people were displaced. Additional tragic blows to the country were an outbreak of cholera and flooding from Hurricane Tomas.

Despite enormous challenges, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), working with our Haitian mission partners and as members of the ACT Alliance, continues to provide relief for families still displaced. Recovery work focused on providing shelter and clean water, rebuilding Haiti's health care, restoring food security and livelihoods, and offering school and recreational activities for children and youth enables earthquake-affected families to see some hope out of the chaos of this disaster.

Many congregations are setting aside a time of remembrance for the people of Haiti. Christian Aid, a co-member of ACT Alliance, has produced a reflective slideshow to commemorate the Haitian earthquake. PDA encourages you to use this video to remember the ongoing hardships in Haiti and to pray for healing and hope for our neighbors in need. (See PDA website for link.)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
A One Great Hour of Sharing  
Ministry  
(800) 728-7228, x5839  
<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pda/>

## **2010 Tax Tips Webinar Replay**

If you missed [the] 2010 Tax Tips Webinar, or experienced any audio-related issues during the live event, don't worry! The replay will be available late [this] week on Pensions.org, featuring:

- \* a full-length MP3 audio download for portable media players
- \* an integrated audio/visual recording of today's presentation, accompanied by a side-by-side transcript for full handicap compliance

Check [www.Pensions.org](http://www.Pensions.org) for the Replay.

## **Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

Virginia Coakley's mother, Margaret Coakley, is under care of hospice. Please pray for Margaret, Virginia, and their family.

From Cathy MacDougall's family (of the Fort Square Presbyterian Church): "Cathy's doctors are pleased with her progress. In two months they will do a pet scan and meet with her again. We are grateful for God's intervention." Please continue to pray for Cathy and her family.

Continued prayers for Emadel Ramsay.

Continued prayers for Arthur (Swee Leong) Koh and his wife, Vivian. Arthur is being treated for kidney cancer in his home land of Singapore.

Fourth Church celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 30<sup>th</sup> !

# Presbytery of Boston Meetings

January 19 – Supplemental Meeting Packet Reports Deadline

January 24 - **Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston, 7 pm, Church of the Covenant, Boston**

## Ordination Anniversaries

Kevin Ford	1/6/91	20 years
Judson Dolphin	1/14/73	38 years
Ara Heghinian	1/16/94	17 years
David Currie	2/3/85	26 years
Sidney Maxwell	2/5/56	55 years
Abigail Henrich	2/10/02	9 years
Wayne Parrish	2/16/86	25 years
Justus Fennel	2/25/57	54 years
Dennis Friedrich	2/25/79	32 years
Leslie McKinney	2/25/01	10 years

*Congratulations and thank you!*

## Events

January 29 – “A Time to Sow: Crafting Environmental Ministries of Spirituality and Justice.”

Hosted by Theology and the Alumni/ae Office of the Boston University School of Theology Saturday, January 29, 2011, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Boston University School of Theology, Room 324, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, **Boston**, MA. For more information contact: Ian Mevorach [mevorach@bu.edu](mailto:mevorach@bu.edu). Earns 1/2 Continuing Education Credit for Clergy

Registration: \$25 (free to students); includes light breakfast and a lunch; please make checks out to BU School of Theology Student Association. Email [zawn@bu.edu](mailto:zawn@bu.edu) to register; please indicate any dietary restrictions.

February 6 – “Cambridge Quaker Earthcare Witness (CQEW) Eearth Discussion.” On Sunday, February 6 at 12:15pm, CQEW invites you to a discussion at Friends Meeting at Cambridge (5 Longfellow Park, **Cambridge** MA 02138) of Bill McKibben's new book *Eearth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. The earth we evolved on, and that has supported the rise of civilization, has begun drastic changes and is already beyond the possibility of return to what it was. What are we to do? We will be focusing on chapters 3 and 4. If you do not have access to a copy of *Eearth* contact Mary Gilbert at [mary@gilbertwhite.com](mailto:mary@gilbertwhite.com) or 781-646-3760. Lunch-type snacks will be provided.

*February 27* - On Sunday afternoon, February 27<sup>th</sup>, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is planning a peaceful public action in **Boston**. The details are still being worked out, but the point will be to call on Ahold, which is based in Quincy and owns Stop 'n Shop, Martin's, Giant and Peapod supermarket chains, to work with the CIW to Pay farm workers at least a net penny per pound wage increase, a 60% wage increase & Ensure farm worker participation in creating and monitoring of Codes of Conduct with a zero-tolerance policy for modern-day slavery. For more information, see: [www.pcusa.org/fairfood](http://www.pcusa.org/fairfood) and [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org), the website of mission partners, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW).

*February 28 - March 2* - "Life in Abundance: Growing Disciples," Stewardship Kaleidoscope for Elders, Pastors, Presbytery Staff and Volunteers, Phoenix. For registration and more information, go to: <http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org/>

*March 11* – "Immigration, the Church, and the Bible" - The **Massachusetts Council of Churches** in collaboration with the state church councils of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island will present a one-day educational forum "Immigration, the Church, and the Bible" with Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R., author and Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Denver Seminary.

*March 18-19* – "Money Follows Mission: Stewardship Practices for the Body of Christ" at the Holiday Inn, **Marlboro**, MA. Sponsored by the Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council. See page 4 of this newsletter for more information. Or, go to: [www.ecumenicalstewardship.org](http://www.ecumenicalstewardship.org). You may also contact: Amy Cook, Registrar, Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council: [acook@diomass.org](mailto:acook@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 645.

*March 25-28 - Ecumenical Advocacy Days: "Development, Security and Economic Justice: What's Gender Got to do with It?"* As women and men of faith, we can be a formidable force for change in the treatment of women around the world and, as Proverbs teaches, the recognition of their vital contributions to social, religious, and family life. Come to Ecumenical Advocacy Days, March 25-28, 2011, in Washington, DC. During these days filled with worship and dialogue, we will be inspired and equipped to speak boldly on behalf of people-centered sustainable development and economic justice, physical safety, security and peacemaking, with a particular focus on those most impacted – women, girls and families."

*March 25th - Training Day. Compassion Peace and Justice: Church Models that Work* - Location: New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. Come join the Office of Public witness and all the ministries of Compassion, Peace & Justice in a training day in Washington, DC. Participants will have a full day of practical church-based training and investigate the role Christians must play in today's changing society. Topics of plenary events and workshops will include faith-based community organizing, theologian as advocate, justice as discipleship making, social responsibility through investing, and many more! See: [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org)

*April 9* – Massachusetts Council of Churches Annual Meeting. Elms College, **Chicopee**, Massachusetts. Preacher: Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield.