

Presbytery of Boston

E-Connection

January 27, 2011

Travel to the Holy Land

The Presbyterian Church in Sudbury is organizing a travel group to the Holy Land as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration this year. We will be traveling October 25-November 3, 2011. PCIS is affiliating with Educational Opportunities Tours (“EO”), a Christian travel organization with a long “track record”. EO will handle registration and all arrangements. A pre-travel Bible study guide will be available, and the program includes seminars on Bible geography. The tour itinerary, with a registration form, is available at www.eo.travelwithus.com. To reference PCIS’s group, use these codes: Tour HL11, Date A(10/25/11), Host: Presbyterian Church in Sudbury, Host ID #53268.

The basic cost per person (from Boston) is \$3,145. Invoice add-on for taxes is \$98. Add on: travel insurance (optional) \$219, estimated meal purchase \$70, and the optional trip to Masada est. \$70. The total is then estimated at \$3,602. Discounts are available for early registration and payment by check, which could be up to \$100. A higher number of registrants yields another discount for each.

For more information, please contact the office at 978-443-9151 or email pcsudbury@pcsudbury.org.

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

Elliott Hipp, Immediate Past Moderator and Pastor, Presbyterian Church in Needham
781-444-3728 or deh46@columbia.edu

Bob Ferguson, Co-Stated Supply, First Presbyterian Church, Worcester
508-852-2111 or pastorbguata@yahoo.com

Prayers for Peace

Please email the following information to 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. You may also contact: Amy Cook, Registrar, Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council: acook@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 645

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pda/>

General Assembly Mission Council continues popular “Deep and Wide” video series

NEWEST VIDEO CAPTURES THE INSPIRING STORY OF TWO CONGREGATIONS WHO HAVE PARTNERED TOGETHER FOR MUTUAL GROWTH

*General Assembly Mission Council
by Emily Enders Odom, Associate, Mission Communications
Office of Vocation*

LOUISVILLE – “Raising Up Leaders,” the seventh and latest entry in a popular video series showing how congregations are responding to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s call to “Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide” is now available for download through the General Assembly Mission Council’s website: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/deepandwide/>

The call to “Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide” in evangelism, discipleship, servanthood and diversity was adopted by the 2008 General Assembly and renewed by the 2010 General Assembly.

The newest video in the series tells the story of the Bedford Central Presbyterian Church and the Duryea Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., which discovered an exciting new way to grow Christ’s church deep and wide by sharing resources for ministry. Key among those resources are the church’s leaders, especially Ted Hickman, a financial management executive and an elder at the larger Bedford Central Church, who heard God’s call to go deeper into ministry by supplying Duryea’s pulpit. Hickman, a Commissioned Lay Pastor who graduated from the lay pastor program in the Presbytery of New York City, has been instrumental in helping to turn the small, fragile Duryea church around. Not only has the partnership energized and renewed both congregations, it has strengthened Christ’s witness in the community.

“What captivated me about Ted Hickman is that he is a great example of the ‘dangerous elders’ that Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, talks about,” said the Rev. Marcia Clark Myers, director of the PC(USA)’s Office of Vocation, “gifted, hard working, with a very inspiring presence.

Because Ted understands that he is called to be a partner in ministry with his pastor, the Rev. Clive Neil, not only in his church of membership, but beyond that to a neighboring small church in need of leadership, the two churches with minister and elder leading them are making a powerful witness in their neighborhood in Brooklyn. They are missional leaders, whose story is sure to inspire connect and equip presbyteries and congregations across the PC(USA), showing them in this model a new way to Grow Christ’s Church Deep & Wide in servanthood and evangelism.”

Celebrate Gifts of Women Sunday

On Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, February 27, 2011, we celebrate the beautiful women in the household of God who regularly do beautiful things in love and faithfulness to Jesus

Christ. There are women in scripture and women in our congregations who regularly do beautiful things and are remarkable saints in the faith.

The *Celebrate the Gifts of Women* resource, written by Rhashell Hunter, includes a worship service with a call to worship, prayer of confession, assurance of pardon, suggested hymns, suggested scripture readings and a litany celebrating the gifts of women. Worship elements, sermon starters, and study suggestions are available from the GAMC's Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries.

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/celebrate-gifts-women-2011-beautiful-women-who-do-/>

Dig deeper into your faith

Dig deeper into your faith in 2011 through fresh, new daily devotionals 365 days a year! (<http://www.d365.org/todaysdevotion/>). D365.org — sponsored in part by Ministries with Youth (<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/youthministry/>) and funded by the Pentecost Offering — (<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings/pentecost-offering>) is a free online resource with devotionals written by people who work with and care about youth. Use these devotions in conversation with God about honest struggles and questions in the context of real faith, and then share your life with other

2010 Tax Tips Webinar Replay

If you missed the Tax Tips Webinar for Ministers and Churches when it was conducted live on January 5, or if you simply wish to review what you learned the first time around, you can now visit the Tax Resource Center on www.Pensions.org for access to the recorded Webinar. The replay is available in two formats: an audiovisual presentation and an audio-only MP3 file.

In this Webinar, clergy and church tax expert Richard R. Hammar, J.D., LL.M., CPA and Board of Pensions education specialist Steven Fleming provide tax-related insights specific to ministers and churches. Their informative discussions include topics such as:

- recent tax law changes that affect ministers and churches
- the expenses that are deductible and those that are not
- common clergy housing allowance issues

When you visit the online Tax Resource Center, refer to the Tax Tips Webinar section on the right-hand side for access to the replay. And check back in mid-February for the *Tax Guide for Ministers & Churches* for the 2010 tax year, which will include end-of-2010 tax code changes.

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

From Chaplain (Rev.) Cary Young, Tampa, FL (Minister Member of the Presbytery of Boston):

"My husband, Terry, has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and a permanent brain injury since our arrival in Tampa, as well as his seizure disorder of many years now, so more is on me than I might have expected. Still, God is good, wonderful really, and continues to help us find our way. My blond, blue-eyed daughter tans and loves the beach, so Florida has not been too much of a stretch for her. She is thriving! I continue to enjoy my work as a Chaplain and I am working part-time now so that I can continue to help care for Terry. Please keep us, as we keep each of you, in prayer. Our love and blessings to everyone there! - Rev. Cary Champlin Young and family"

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 140th anniversary on January 30th!

Presbytery of Boston Meetings

Committee Meetings

CEM (normally 2nd Mon @ 1:30; NPC)	Feb 14	March 21st
CoM (normally 1st Thursday@7, NPC)	Feb 3	March 3
CPM (1st Wed @ 5, Clarendon Hill)	Feb 2	March 2
C S & D (re-organizing; no meeting scheduled yet)		
Nominating (1st Tuesday @ 11, NPC)	Feb1	March 1
Personnel meets over lunch as needed; usually 4-5 times per year		
S & B meets as needed; usually Thursday nights @ 7, NPC	Feb 10	
Trustees 3rd Wed Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct as needed		
	Feb 16, noon, PC in Sudbury	

Council Meetings

Feb. 24; April 28; June 23; Aug 25; Oct 27; Jan 5 2012 @ 7 pm

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. 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 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 or 781-646-3760. Lunch-type snacks will be
provided.

February 27 - On Sunday afternoon, February 27th, 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 and 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. You
may also contact: Amy Cook, Registrar, Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council:
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

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