

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
June 4, 2009

Upcoming Events for the Presbytery of Boston

- **Memorial Service** This **Friday, June 5** at 11 am there will be a memorial service for Betty Lee Lovelace, wife of Dr. Richard Lovelace (H.R.) at the church in Northampton. There will be an open mike. After the service there will be a buffet luncheon in the Glass House.

- **Ordination** The Presbytery of Boston & the Presbytery of the Cascades cordially invite you to a service of worship to ordain Elizabeth Smith Leavitt into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. to be held **Saturday, June 6**, 2009 at ten o'clock in the morning at Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church, 155 Powderhouse Boulevard, Somerville, MA 02144. A short reception will follow. Parking is available at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, the parking lot of which can be accessed from Raymond St. Please note that most other parking around the church is neighborhood parking and requires a permit. If you are in need of childcare for this occasion, please email leavitt.liz@gmail.com by June 1.

- **PoB Forum: Congregations in times of Crisis** Several pastors and congregations have requested a time to reflect and share concerns and potential resources as we all seek to find creative ways to face the impact of the current economic crisis. The Trustees and the Committee on Ministry will co-sponsor a Forum **Monday, June 8**, 7:30 p.m. at the Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church in Somerville. The forum is intended for pastors, session members, treasurers, members of personnel committee, and other interested church leaders. We may not be able to provide "answers," but we hope to hear the varied concerns, offer support, and prioritize and strategize to face these unique challenges.

Please RSVP to the Presbytery Office (presbyteryofboston@verizon.net or 617 244-4766). The Alban Institute has several resources that may be of interest, and upcoming "webinars," which address this very topic. See attached document which lists these upcoming webinars. We apologize that the graphics did not translate perfectly to a Word document. The Presbytery of Boston is a member of the Alban Institute, so check with us about member discounts.

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- **Theology Reading Group** The Theology Reading Group will meet on **Thursday, June 11** from 10-11:30 am at the Needham Presbyterian Church. Our new book is "The Triune God: An Essay in Post-liberal Theology," by William C. Placher. We will be discussing the first chapter, pages 1-43. All are welcome!
- **Women Clergy Gathering** All women clergy in Boston Presbytery are invited to a time of fellowship and conversation on **Thursday, June 18** from 11-1. We will gather at the Needham Presbyterian Church. Our intention is to schedule regular quarterly gatherings, so if a different day or time would work better in the future, please let us know. Organizers are Cathy MacDonald (bostonpres.sc@verizon.net) and Cindy Kohlmann (ckohlmann@mac.com).

Living Waters for the World

Dear Friends,

I am writing in behalf of the Synod of Living Water's Living Waters for the World Committee. LWW is a wonderful mission of the synod that is spreading throughout the PC(USA) as more and more individuals and congregations are attracted to the mission of providing safe drinking water to our brothers and sisters around the world.

I am writing to you to ask a special favor. If you have a literature rack or another means where this information might be made available, we would be happy to send you a quantity of the brochures.

Please let me know of your interest, either by mail or via my email at Transylvania Presbytery, and I will make sure that the brochures are shipped to you as soon as possible. Thanks for your help with this important mission.

Sincerely,
 Richard T. Smith, General Presbyter
 Transylvania Presbytery, 2480 Fortune Drive, Suite 140,
 Lexington, KY 40509
rtsmith@transyby.org

What is Living Waters for the World?

“The project was first conceived in the early 90's by Wil Howie, a psychologist-turned-minister who believed that the Synod of Living Waters of which he is a member, could literally bring life-saving, "living" waters to people in need throughout the world.

From this humble beginning, Living Waters for the World clean water systems have now been installed at 277 sites in 20 countries: Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, United States and Venezuela.

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Developing strong partnerships between those providing and those receiving the water, prior to the installation of a system, and the teaching of health, hygiene and spiritual education, is the key reason this mission has been successful.

The need for clean water is overwhelming. According to the World Health Organization and other sources, approximately three million people die each year from water-related illnesses, most of them children. Living Waters for the World is a clear example of the church being involved in people's lives in a real, tangible way. Children are being saved from certain illness and deadly complications that come from dirty water, which has been the only kind of water available to them and their parents. Living Waters for the World and its partners are delivering the water of life and sowing God's word to those who thirst."

The Georges Lombard Prize 2009 for the best theological essay in English on John Calvin: Creation, Christ and the Stewardship of Life

What Would Calvin Say? Responsible Stewardship in the Face of Today's Ecological and Financial Crises

"To mark the Quincentenary of the birth of John Calvin (10 July 1509), the World Alliance of Reformed Churches has decided to dedicate this year's Lombard Prize theme to the reformer. If pantheist Baruch Spinoza was the 'God-intoxicated philosopher,' then John Calvin might well qualify as the 'creation-intoxicated theologian.' He taught that the magnificent works of creation are the original vehicles of the revelation of the divine glory and perfection. Despite the subjective vitiation of their revelatory function resulting from human sin, these works still shine as the theatre of God's glory. What lessons might be drawn from Calvin's high regard for the splendour of God's gifts in creation to guide our response to the ecological crisis facing the earth?

Calvin was the first theologian to defend and promote the lending of money at interest. Papal loyalists assailed him as an exemplar of the maxim that 'usury is the brat of heresy' and later critics, beginning with Max Weber, pointed to him and his followers as progenitors of capitalism. More measured assessments are called for, since Calvin was motivated by the financial crisis of his own day. In particular, he saw the circulation of trade as one of the ways that a redistribution of goods occurs in a world of unequal distribution. He also recognized the need for credit to create new business enterprises - in order both to produce goods and to provide employment for refugees and the poor. What lessons may be learned from Calvin about responsible financial stewardship in our day?

All theology students or pastors 35 years of age or younger are invited to submit essays no later than 1 September 2009."

1st prize US\$ 1,000
2nd prize US\$ 600
3rd prize US\$ 400

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1. The prize for the best essay as judged by an international jury of scholars is US\$1,000; second prize will be US\$600; third prize will be US\$400.
2. The essay will give evidence of a critical understanding of the issues surrounding today's ecological and financial crisis.
3. The essay will offer biblical, theological and spiritual perspectives on the theme as well as a good understanding of its potential as a life-based issue that might create opportunities for interreligious solidarity and dialogue.
4. The essay will illustrate a familiarity with Reformed tradition and Calvin's theology and demonstrate both theological imagination and a willingness to relate theology and the challenges to witness and mission in the church today.
5. The essay will be written in English, French, German or Spanish.
6. The length of the essay will be between 5,000 and 6,000 words.
7. The essay will be submitted electronically in Word format to warc@warc.ch
8. The essay will be accompanied by a statement from the author declaring that he/she is the author of the paper.
9. The essay will be accompanied by notes and a bibliography which clearly indicates sources quoted in the paper.

For further information:

www.warc.ch
warc@warc.ch

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Prayers for Anthony & Desirée Lawson; Leta passed away on May 23rd. Desiree writes: "Leta... fought a long and courageous battle. Her suffering is over. Needless to say, we are deeply saddened by this tremendous loss. Please pass this information along and again thank everyone for their concern and prayers. My husband Anthony and I are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the PoB."

Cards can be sent to:
Anthony & Desiree Lawson
1161 Pleasant Street
Brockton, MA 02301

Prayers for the Lovelace family, as they mourn the passing of Dr. Richard Lovelace's wife, Betty Lee. See page one of this *E-Connection* for information on the memorial service to be held on Friday, June 5.

Prayers for Bob Ferguson, who is scheduled for surgery in July. And continued prayers for Peg Ferguson's recuperation.

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Prayers of celebration: Project Bread sent this year's "Walk for Hunger" results: 44,000 walkers and 2,000 volunteers raised \$3.9 million for 400 emergency food programs in Massachusetts. They are grateful to the Presbytery of Boston for its support.

Presbytery of Boston Meetings

JUNE

- 4** – COM, at NPC
- 8** – ICL, 3:30 at NPC
- 10** - CPM, at Presbytery office
- 11** - CS&D, at NPC
- 17** – Trustees, at Sudbury
 - S&B, at NPC
- 19** – CEM, 2:00 at NPC
- 25** – Council, at NPC

JULY

- 1** – CPM, at Clarendon Hill P.C.
- 13** – **Reports Deadline**
- 27** – **Presbytery Meeting, at The Presbyterian Church in Needham**

Ordination Anniversaries

David Muir	July 1, 1953	56 years
Elizabeth Wieman	July 1, 1985	24 years
Emily Chandler	July 10, 1983	26 years
Jean Southard	July 10, 1988	21 years
Thomas Kepler	July 13, 1958	51 years
Richard Brondyke	July 21, 1974	35 years
William McIvor	July 29, 1973	36 years
Richard Underwood	August 3, 1997	12 years
Charles Carlston	August 15, 1950	59 years
Cary Young	August 17, 2003	6 years
Rebecca Dean	August 24, 2003	6 years
Elliott Hipp	August 25, 1991	18 years
Kok-Thai Lim	August 31, 1995	14 years

Congratulations and thank you!

Synod of the Northeast Newsletter

The June 2009 issue of the Synod's newsletter, *Nor'E-News*, contains the following articles:

- Former Moderator's Service Celebrated with Award
- God in Calamity: Madagascar in Crisis
- From Gutenberg to Google
- The Prophetic Voice of Advocates: Speaking Truth to Power, A Report by Rev. James Poinsett
- Bloomfield Graduates Praise the College
- Auburn Theological Seminary Elects Katherine Rhodes Henderson to Succeed Barbara Wheeler as President

The newsletter can be downloaded from the Synod's website at <http://www.synodne.org/mediagallery/album.php?aid=38&page=1>.

Christian Churches Together Newsletter Link

See: www.ChristianChurchesTogether.org/Newsletter

God Complex: Where Fully Divine Runs Smack Dab into Fully Human

Listen to Carol Howard Merritt and Bruce Reyes Chow every Monday at 12:00 p.m. EDT at www.godcomplexradio.com

Upcoming Events

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

June 21-24 – “*Arts and the Sensual in Renewing Worship*,” led by Don Saliers. Sponsored by The Summer Institute for Arts and Worship at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. For more information, call 617-964-1100 and ask for the Faculty Office.

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.

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.

E-Connection Classifieds

Bethany Presbyterian Church is selling a 2005 Ford 15-passenger van with 12,000 miles on it. The van is in great shape, no accidents, and has a Kelly Blue Book value around \$13k. We'd like to sell it to a Presbytery or other ministry partner in the Boston area for considerably less than what it's worth. Please call or email Norm Choe if you're interested: 617.335.7483 norman@beebe.com

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 or check 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 - or see <http://www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p129034>