

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
March 31, 2010

One Great Hour of Sharing

Jesus said, "Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep." (John 21:16-27)

One Great Hour of Sharing: sharing resources, changing lives

“Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Where does the money go?

The [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the [Self-Development of People](#) and [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) each receive 32 percent. *[As a result of people’s generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, PDA was able to respond quickly to the earthquake crises in Haiti and Chile.]*

When is the offering received?

Most congregations receive the offering on Easter Sunday, Palm Sunday or both, while many receive it throughout Lent.”

Give online to One Great Hour of Sharing (OG999999); go to www.pcusa.org/oghs, or if you prefer to send a check, mail it to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

A Letter from Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

March 2010

To every congregation and presbytery in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and its predecessor denominations, has long recognized that followers of Jesus Christ make different choices in regard to military service. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) teaches that one way Christians can be faithful is through service in the armed forces. The General Assembly's first statement in support of conscientious objection as an option for people of faith was made in 1930. In 1969, the General Assembly made a statement in support of selective conscientious objection, which means that objection to a particular war judged by the individual conscience to be wrong is a moral obligation that may stem from Christian just-war teaching.

The 218th General Assembly (2008) took actions that relate to Presbyterians and military service in several ways. These actions include implementation steps for General Assembly programs, presbyteries, and sessions. The assembly's action *On Supporting Those Who Feel Called to Seek Status as Conscientious Objectors*:

- "Reaffirms the church's position on the freedom of conscience, especially as it relates to a person's status as a conscientious objector against participating in the armed services.
- "Encourages the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program to produce and identify study guides and discernment materials for individuals, congregations, and presbyteries to help church members and their friends be able to articulate God's calling on their lives in regard to participating in the armed forces, and war.
- "Encourages presbyteries to provide education opportunities for ministers, military chaplains, and sessions on how to fulfill their responsibility of educating young people about issues of faith, conscience, and war, including civic alternatives to serving the country through the armed forces.
- "Encourages presbyteries and sessions to create a structure to document and support those who feel called to seek status as conscientious objectors to participation in the armed forces, or war.
- "Encourages presbyteries and sessions to create a structure to document and support those who feel called to seek status as conscientious objectors to participation in the armed forces, or war. Active members of the church can now register with the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly for conscientious objector status, and certificates are sent to the church for their records and for the church member (*Book of Order* G-5.0202; *GA Minutes*, 2003, Part I, p. 651, Recommendations 2, 3; "Presbyterians and Military Service" – PDS #7027005035)."

In the action, *On Building Peace in Iraq*, the 218th General Assembly (2008) voted to "call upon the United States government to support our military personnel by granting speedy discharges to conscientious objectors; fully funding veterans' benefits; ensuring that injured service personnel and veterans have the best medical, mental health,

and rehabilitation care available; and providing generous benefits to surviving family members.”

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program has created a Web page with resources to help individuals discern God’s call in relation to participation in the armed forces. It is available at www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/actnow/conscientious-objection.htm.

The Office of the Stated Clerk is prepared to register active members, baptized members, and active nonmembers of congregations as conscientious objectors. Contact Joyce Evans at (888) 728-7228, ext. 5424, or read “Presbyterians and Military Service” (PDS# 70-270-05-035 in English; PDS# 24-358-07-012 in Spanish) for the process. This information will be included in future publications related to this issue. The Presbyterian Washington Office has communicated the concerns of the 218th General Assembly for our military personnel to our elected officials in Washington.

Choices related to military service may be challenging. We will hold you in prayer as you provide assistance to individuals as they make and live out their decisions.

In Christ,
The Reverend Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Nor’E-News – Synod of the Northeast Newsletter

This month’s newsletter doesn’t contain individual articles, but stories of generosity expressed in the faith and works for the people of Haiti. *[The Presbytery of Boston is among the presbyteries whose donations and organized activity for Haiti is mentioned. The March 22 E-Connection has more information about our presbytery’s work in this area.]*

The Nor’E-News is a one page (front and back) communication instrument we hope you’ll use to share information about the Synod’s life and mission throughout your presbytery. Please send it along to churches, ministers, CLPs and elders with the suggestion that they consider using it in one or more of the following ways:

1. Print and include with next church newsletter.
2. Attach front and back side by side to one or more bulletin boards.
3. Send as electronic attachment to the church mailing list.
4. Make copies and leave them in prominent places for people to pick up such as in a magazine rack, in the narthex, or at the rear of the sanctuary.
5. Use as bulletin insert on Sunday morning.
6. Print multiple copies for use as placemats during congregational dinners.

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

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Please continue to pray for Susan Gleason's daughter, Rachel. She has been cleared for brain surgery, but the date has not yet been arranged.

Prayers for Beth Wieman, who injured her back recently.

Prayers for Grace May who will be returning to Africa very soon. She will be at a different venue teaching in Kenya, and exploring the possibility of starting up a women's resource center.

Prayers of thanksgiving and celebration for Mary Brondyke, who was ordained at Needham Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 24. And prayers for God's care and protection as the Brondykes prepare to move to Nevada, where Mary has been called to a part-time pastoral position. A goodbye event is set for April 7, 6-7:30, at First Quincy.

Prayers of thanksgiving and celebration for Rob Perkins, whose D.Min dissertation has been approved by Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Presbytery of Boston Meetings

APRIL

5 – Easter Monday, Presbytery office closed

6 – Nominating Committee, 11:00, NPC

7 – CPM, 5:00, CHPC

8 – COM, 7:00, NPC

15 – CS&D, 7:00, NPC

19 – CEM, 1:30, NPC

21 – Trustees, 12:00, Sudbury

Presbytery of Boston Classifieds

Cynthia O'Reilly, the Newton church's bookkeeper, is available to serve as a bookkeeper and/or do an audit for any church in need. Although Cynthia does not have her CPA, she is an excellent and trustworthy bookkeeper. She uses Quickbooks, and knows the online and stand-alone versions. Interested churches can contact her directly at: coreilly@newtonpres.org.

The Church of the Covenant is looking for a part-time Youth Director. For more information, contact Brad Day, of the Personnel Committee, at: 617-522-1999 / 617-943-4229 or bradleyday@comcast.net. Details are also posted on the Presbytery of Boston website under "About Us/Employment Opportunities."

“UNBINDING THE GOSPEL” - A Teleconference for All Pastors, *Tuesday, April 13, 2:00 p.m.*

The Committee for Congregational Support and Development is excited to announce an upcoming opportunity that you won't want to miss.

We have been in discussion with Martha Grace Reese, author of Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism, about the possibility of a group of churches in our Presbytery working together to implement the Unbinding the Gospel program in their congregations. We hope this will be an opportunity for a diverse range of churches in our Presbytery to engage in a serious conversation about evangelism. We envision that these initial conversations will include both churches who see themselves as being gifted at evangelism and those for whom evangelism is a challenge.

Ms. Reese has agreed to participate in a teleconference for those potentially interested in this experience. This conversation will be for clergy, and will be an opportunity to ask questions of Ms. Reese and learn more about Unbinding the Gospel. The teleconference is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, April 13, at 2:00**. Further information about how to access the conference call will be disseminated closer to the event. No commitment is necessary in order to participate; simply an intention to learn more about the program and how it might work for your church. Books are available from GP Wayne Parrish, and we would invite you to review at least the table of contents to familiarize yourself with the prayerful, faith sharing process. We have distributed 15 copies already, and for those who have reviewed the book and would like more details on implementing this in your church, we can email you that info when you confirm your participation in the conference call.

We hope you will prayerfully consider it. Please r.s.v.p. to wayneparrish@comcast.net to confirm your interest in participating in the conference call. If you have further questions, you can contact Wayne or our committee chairperson, Martha Spear (email@spear1968.com).

Sincerely,
The Committee for Congregational Support and Development

Presbyterian Women News

Spring Gathering: Our Presbytery Spring Gathering is scheduled for May 2, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, at the Korean Church of Boston, 32 Harvard Street, Brookline. Presbytery Mission Coordinator, Anne Crane, will share her mission experiences. We are also hoping Synod PW Moderator, Sandy Grillo, will be able to be with us.

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New England PPG PW Gathering: “Shall We Gather by the River: A Multi-Cultural Celebration,” will be held in First Presbyterian Church of Worcester on October 23 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. As the host presbytery, we hope many women and men will attend this event. More information will come later. Save the date.

The Lighthouse: The February issue of The Lighthouse, the semi-annual Synod PW publication, was emailed to all Presbytery of Boston churches. Check with the church office if you have not seen a copy. Copies are also available on the synod PW website, PWSNE.org and the presbytery website, www.presbyteryofboston.org/lighthouse.

Mother’s Day Project: For a number of years, PW has sponsored the Mother’s Day Project in support of the Networkers Malaria Prevention Program. Beginning this year, the project will be called the Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother’s Day Project. The project will support a variety of programs which address the critical health needs of women and children in Africa, including:

For Women:

Obstetrical Care

Fistula Surgery

Cervical Cancer Screening

Health Education

Malaria prevention

For Children:

Nutritional Support

Primary health Care

Immunizations

Health Screening

Malaria Treatment

To support the program, Mother’s Day cards are available for sale. The suggested contribution is \$10.00, but any donation is welcome. The cards can be obtained by contacting Gail Bingham in International Health & Development Ministries: gail.bingham@pcusa.org or (toll-free) (888) 728-7228, ext. 5573. There is no cost for the cards. Visit www.pcusa.org/health/international to learn more.

Global Exchange Trip to India: Every three years, a group of Presbyterian Women travels to another part of the world to hear the joys and pains our sisters there experience, and to share faith stories and ministries with one another. The following year, a group of women from that part of the world is invited to visit synods and participate in the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. Although this trip will not take place until October 2011, the deadline for applications is June 1, 2010. Beth Denier can provide more information and registration forms.

Beth Denier, PWP Moderator a.denier@verizon.net 781-231-9247

Planning for Earth Day 2010

Eco-Notes from the PC(USA) Environmental Ministries Newsletter

Free DVDs from Environmental Ministries

Environmental Ministries is offering two free DVDs about Earth Care. “Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice” offers an overview of the environmental crisis and the environmental policy passed by the General Assembly in 1990. “Cherishing God’s Earth” looks at five components of environmental issues: earth, air, water, habitat, and people. Study guides are available for both DVDs.

Plan to Celebrate Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day the Sunday before or after April 22 with resources from the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program: Sacred Spaces and an Abundant Life.

Our worship spaces belong to God, and in them we have the opportunity to honor God by taking seriously our roles as stewards of the earth. There are many ways to be good stewards of the earth through our worship spaces, and Sacred Spaces and an Abundant Life offers many ideas for congregations to improve facilities through energy efficiency and conservation, reducing toxic materials and products, water conservation, and land and habitat conservation.

Download the PC(USA) version of this Earth Day resource on the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program Web site. Download this resource and begin implementing ideas for "greening" your facility, so your congregation can celebrate your successes on the Sunday before or after Earth Day, which is on April 22. Or, use this resource to make plans for earth care for the next year, and use Earth Day Sunday to commission an earth care team to work on these plans with your congregation.

If your church plans to celebrate Earth Day Sunday, please let Katie Holmes know (katie.holmes@pcusa.org). Environmental Ministries would love to hear what earth care issues your congregation is working on!

Stewardship of the Land: A Christian Community Gathering

Please join us for a weekend retreat on May 21-23 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat near Hinton, WV to encourage individuals and organizations to grow in faith and their commitment to earth care through fellowship and learning. The weekend will include workshops, discussions, outdoor activities, and worship that will inspire us to act as stewards of the land. At the event we will also commission young adults in the Eco-Stewards Program, who will have just completed a week-long training on ecological stewardship principles and practices in West Virginia. The keynote speaker for the event will be Joel Salatin, of Polyface Farms, a sustainable farmer who was featured in *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* by Michael Pollan and the documentary “Food Inc.” For more information on Environmental Ministries, go to: www.pcusa.org/environment/



Seeking Peace

An E-newsletter of the
Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

Celebrate 30 years of Peacemaking

[Register now for Re-membering Peace: Still the Believers' Calling.](#) Sponsored by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, the 2010 Peacemaking Seminar will take place on August 25-28 (depart on August 29) at Ghost Ranch Conference Center in Abiquiu, NM.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling, participants will gather to re-member—to bring together those concerned for the things that make for peace. Together we will:

- recall the places where the triune God has led us in the past as we
 - revisit and reaffirm core commitments to historic and ongoing peacemaking efforts
- acknowledge where God is leading us in our present realities as we
 - replenish spirits, hearts, and minds through imaginative work and creative worship
 - reconsider some of the pivotal social, cultural, political, and ecclesiastical transformations of the past 30 years, and
 - reassess the state of peacemaking in the church and world
- ponder where the God of hope will lead us into the future as we
 - renew our commitment to follow Jesus and the church's resolve to seek God's realm of peace and justice on earth, and
 - live out the believers' calling for this day and generations to come!

The seminar

The Seminar is designed for young adult and adult participants and will include a variety of plenary and small group gatherings for learning, praxis, and process. Due to the nature of the event, the seminar will not include childcare nor will programs for children or youth be provided. The seminar will begin with dinner on Wednesday, August 25 at 5:30 p.m. Participants should arrange their departures from the ranch no later than 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 29. Early registration discount if you register by June 23.

For more information see: www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/

“A Good-bye Gathering”

for

Dick and Mary Brondyke

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

6:00 to 7:30 pm

at

First Presbyterian Church, Quincy

270 Franklin St.

617-773-5575

Join us at First Presbyterian's for this informal send off, as the Brondykes head West the next day, to begin Mary's new pastoral call in Nevada. All are welcome.

If you are willing to bring a plate of cookies or squares or other dessert, please notify

Stan Johnson at number above or Bart Kelso at Fort Square Presbyterian Church 617-471-6806.

Camp Wilmot, our PCUSA camp in New Hampshire, has a great summer of faith and fun planned.

Check out the schedule at www.campwilmot.org

Events

April 7 – Good-bye Gathering for Dick & Mary Brondyke, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church Quincy.

April 7 - Bluegrass Barbeque Fundraiser at Fourth Presbyterian Church. 6-9PM April 7, 2010 at The Stadium, 232 Old Colony Ave., S. Boston, MA Blue Grass Music by Spring Hill Rounders and Down Home Singers Silent and Live Auction Items

We will have a menu of BBQ food, silent and live auctions and a renewed commitment to serving the families of South Boston and Dorchester. Tickets \$50.00 each or \$90.00 for two. For information or tickets contact Marcia: mcsobo@aol.com

April 8 – The Stewardship & Budget Committee will host an evening of discussion and discernment at **Newton** Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm light dinner, discussion 7:00-8:45.

April 10 – “*Three Voices for Children.*” This evening is focused on CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for children who are in the legal system simply because their families have fallen apart. They don't have a voice, but we do, and on this night, our voices will be raised in support of their lives and their futures. Town House (Old Town Hall) in **Andover Center**. 7:00 hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, 8:00 performance. Tickets \$65. All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit CASA. Buy tickets and make donations online at <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/ballardvale/casa.htm>

April 13 – “*Unbinding the Gospel: A Teleconference for All Pastors.*” **2:00 pm**. See more information from CS&D on page 5 of this newsletter.

April 13 - “*Reframing Hope,*” a webinar featuring Carol Howard Merritt, sponsored by *Presbyterian Outlook*. At 2:00 pm EDT. The webinar is \$29.95. You'll need access to the internet and a phone. To register call Gillian at 800/446-6008. The new generation is spurring radical cultural transformations in the way that we communicate, relate, and organize. Why are these movements occurring? How should our congregations respond? Carol will explore these shifts and suggest ways to find hope for our churches in the midst of it. Carol Howard Merritt is associate pastor of Western Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., author of the book *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*, and is co-host with Bruce Reyes-Chow of the internet radio show, “The God Complex.”

April 15-17: *Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Convocation*. Peacemakers of all faiths and backgrounds are invited to this conversation about nonviolence, the best ways to respond to violence in our time and the future of the Church. At Stony Point: www.stonypointcenter.org ***Note* - Peacemaking scholarships are available.**

April 21-23 – *Purposeful Missional Presbyterians Conference*. The goal of this conference is to help leaders develop congregations that excel both in attracting seekers into the community of faith and sending disciples to live as missionaries in their communities. For more information go to: www.purposefulmissionalpresbyterians.net ***Note* - CS&D scholarships are available.**

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, NY, 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 <mailto: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, Andover Newton Theological School, **Newton, MA.**

May 2 – Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering, 3:00 to 5:00 at the Korean Church of Boston, **Brookline, MA.**

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.

May 16 - The Presbyterian Church in Needham is hosting an *Ecumenical Festival of Songs of Faith* on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 4 p.m. The gathered congregation will sing several old and new loved "Songs of Faith," accompanied by organ, piano, flute, and other instruments. Refreshments will be served after the program. Proceeds will be donated to a worthy cause. For additional information, please call the church office, 781-444-3728, or email the Music Director at patshopland@yahoo.com.

May 27-30 – “Becoming a Multicultural Church.” Chicago, IL. The Eleventh National Multicultural Church Conference is a place of differences where people with varying languages, cultures, ethnicities, theologies, genders, generations and economic backgrounds come together to recognize the amazing potential of differences and, through affirming and celebrating those differences, create something new. This year’s conference explores the theme, “H20: Deepening our Faith, Widening our Culture” focusing on the biblical vision of Ezekiel 47:1-12, and features Eric Law, Renita Weems, Tom Taylor, Gradye Parsons, Bruce Reyes-Chow, the Second City Communications and many more! See: <http://www.pcusa.org/multicultural/conference.htm>

June 18 – 28 – Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Please contact Wayne Parrish (wayneparrish@comcast.net) if you are interested in attending. ***Note* - CS&D scholarships are available.**

June 20 – 23 – John Bell at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, **Newton.** See www.ants.org. The theme is “God Surprising.” There will be an evening gathering of singing and music open to the public on Sunday, June 20.