

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
October 14, 2010

“Revive Us Again”
Spiritual Renewal in the
Presbytery of Boston

Friday, October 22
Newton Presbyterian Church

5:30 Blue Ribbon Bar-b-que Dinner
(suggested donation \$10)

Mission Fair and Fellowship

7:15 Worship
Praise, Prayer, Mission Celebration,
Revival Music & Preaching

This event will be essentially a prayer service. We are asking every church to send at least one representative to share a prayer request for their ministry.

****Note: In order to be good stewards of food resources, it would be helpful to know how many people plan to come for dinner, so please sign up in advance!**

- Bring group registration form to the September 27 Presbytery Meeting in Burlington
- Contact the Presbytery Office by email or phone:
presbyteryofboston@verizon.net or 978-365-5200
- Register at the meeting

NOTE: We are looking for groups to offer special music. Contact Burns Stanfield if you are interested in performing a song: 617-285-0039 or bstanfield@hds.harvard.edu

We regret to announce that
THEOLOGICAL CONVERSATION 2010
has been canceled due to low enrollment

Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston November 1, 7:00 pm, Needham P.C.

In order to provide adequately for presbytery handling of the proposed amendments, Council voted (a) to request that in keeping with G-11.0201 the Moderator call a special meeting for November 1, 2010, for the purpose of considering and acting on Amendments 10-A through 10-O; (b) to docket consideration and action on the proposed Form of Government at the January 24, 2011, stated meeting; and (c) to docket consideration and action on the Belhar Confession at the March 28, 2011, stated meeting.

October Is Pastor Appreciation Month!

So many pastors serve the church with so much energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, it stands to reason that churches would want to say "thanks" to them and to their families in tangible ways. October is Pastor Appreciation Month. We'd like to encourage you to show your appreciation.

HERE'S THE DEAL! Send us a note or email to the office. In your personal expression of appreciation for your pastor, be sure to include their name, the church, and your name. Keep these brief and focused.

Pastors will be recognized at the November Presbytery meeting. One of the pastors receiving notes of appreciation will be selected via a random drawing to receive a special gift. Send in as many expressions of appreciation as you want, though it will not affect the odds of the drawing.

Send your notes of pastor appreciation by email to: presbyteryofboston@verizon.net (with "pastor appreciation" in the subject line), or by USPS to:

The Presbytery of Boston
169A Chestnut Street
Clinton, MA 01510

Please write "pastor appreciation" on the lower-left corner of the envelope.

Need to get in Touch with Wayne?

Wayne's *one and only* email address is: wayneparrish@comcast.net. The "presbyteryofboston.gp@verizon.net" address is no longer valid, having been eliminated when the presbytery office moved from Newton to Clinton. Please check and update your

email address books to reflect this change. Wayne's cell phone number remains the same: 617-939-6006.

Continue responding to Pakistan flooding

With some areas in Pakistan still inundated, response continues. Presbyterians have responded generously to needs in Pakistan over the past few weeks — thank you. Your funds are already at work helping to meet the needs of people struggling to recover from the floods. In cooperation with our ecumenical partners, at least 91,200 people displaced by flooding have received food, more than 100,000 people are receiving emergency and preventative care, and shelter kits (tents, blankets, plastic sheets, cooking utensils, jerry cans, oil lamps and oil) are being provided to some of the thousands of displaced families. However, there remains much to be done.

To learn more, go to:

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

As Presbyteries begin study of Belhar, survey shows Presbyterians have much to learn

[Note: the Presbytery of Boston will vote on this at the March 2011 Stated Meeting]**

Contact: Ida Smith-Williams, (502) 569-5159 PC(USA) Research Services

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — In August 2009, 11 months before the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was to consider the Belhar Confession for possible inclusion in the denomination's Book of Confessions, most Presbyterians were either unfamiliar with the confession or were unsure about including it in The Book of Confessions.

More Presbyterians who were familiar with the Belhar Confession supported than opposed including it in The Book of Confessions, however, and this past July the denomination's General Assembly voted to include it.

These are findings from the August 2009 Presbyterian Panel survey on the confessions and other topics.

The Belhar Confession is a 1986 theological statement about church unity that the Reformed church in South Africa developed during that country's conflict over racial hierarchy and segregation. The Book of Confessions, which includes 11 other creeds, confessions, and catechisms, is Part I of the PC(USA) Constitution.

The move to include the Belhar Confession in The Book of Confessions now goes to the presbyteries and will go forward only if two-thirds of the 173 presbyteries and the 2012

General Assembly approve including it. The PC(USA) General Assembly Mission Council's Theology and Worship staff has produced a study guide about the confession.

In August 2009, almost all elders (96 percent) and other members (97 percent) and seven in ten pastors (71 percent) and non-parish ministers (72 percent) were either "not at all familiar" with the Belhar Confession or were at least "slightly familiar" with the confession but were "not sure" about including it in The Book of Confessions.

One-quarter of non-parish ministers and one in five pastors — but only 2 percent of members and 2 percent of elders — were at least "slightly familiar" with the confession and "definitely" or "probably" supported including it in The Book of Confessions. One in ten pastors — but only 1 percent of members, 1 percent of elders, and 4 percent of non-parish ministers — were familiar with the confession and opposed including it.

"A year ago very few Presbyterians had heard of the Belhar Confession" said Perry Chang, Presbyterian Panel administrator. "But most of those who had heard of it supported incorporating it into The Book of Confessions."

Survey results also show that almost all pastors (99 percent) and non-parish ministers (94 percent), seven in ten elders (72 percent), and two in five members (42 percent) currently have a copy of The Book of Confessions. Two in five pastors (41 percent), three in ten non-parish ministers (28 percent), and about one in ten members (7 percent) and elders (11 percent) had accessed The Book of Confessions on the web during the year before the survey online.

The confessions that are most widely used outside of worship by individual Presbyterians and by congregations are the Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and A Brief Statement of Faith — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The creeds, confessions, and catechisms as a whole are "very important" to about one in six elders (11 percent), pastors (14 percent), and non-parish ministers (12%) as Christians and to just 6 percent of members. Very important to more panelists were: God, scripture, the work of the Holy Spirit, a current friend or family member and his or her advice or example, and a current pastor or spiritual advisor and his or her teaching or example. Among the listed elements of faith, for elders, pastors, and non-parish ministers, only the PC(USA) Book of Order is rated as "very important" to fewer panelists. The Book of Order and Book of Confessions are very important to an equally small number of members (6 percent each).

"Ministers and many members and elders read some of the creeds and confessions at church or at home, but most Presbyterians do not rate them as an important element of their faith development," Chang said. "At the very least, discussions about the Belhar Confession may elevate the profile of the existing confessions, which isn't very high right now."

Every three years the PC(USA) Research Services staff assembles representative samples of Presbyterian church members, elders, and ministers who respond to questions on different topics quarterly. Known as the Presbyterian Panel, these randomly chosen

respondents provide a vital means for church leaders to learn the opinions of rank-and-file Presbyterians.

For more information about Panel surveys and other Research Services studies and services, visit the Research Services website or contact Research Services toll-free at (888) 728-7228, ext. 2040, or by email.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) comprises more than 2 million members in more than 10,000 congregations, answering Christ's call to mission and ministry throughout the United States and the world. See more information at the PC(USA) website.

Presbyterians are older, even more involved in their communities

Contact: Ida Smith-Williams, (502) 569-5159 PC(USA) Research Services

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Almost half of worshipers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are at or near retirement age, new survey results reveal. The median age of PC(USA) worshipers is 61 — up from 58 in 2001, the last time the survey took place. Along with this trend comes a decrease in the share of worshipers who have children living at home (down from 38 percent in 2001 to 34 percent now).

Conducted by the PC(USA) Research Services office, the U.S. Congregational Life Survey tallied responses from 40,000 worshipers in a national study of Presbyterian congregations. In the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009 a random sample of 521 PC(USA) congregations participated in the U.S. Congregational Life Survey. The survey was given in worship and included the responses of all worshipers age 15 and older. In 2001, a random sample of 523 PC(USA) congregations participated.

Other, more hopeful news also emerged from the recent survey: Presbyterians were a well-educated group in 2001, and that's even more true today. Six in ten have a college degree, up from half in 2001. Among all Americans only one in four are college graduates.

Survey results also show an increase in Presbyterians' involvement in community service work either through their congregations or on their own. More than a third of worshipers (35 percent) participate in the community service activities, social justice ministries, or advocacy work of their congregation. Fewer worshipers reported doing so in 2001 (30 percent). Presbyterians' commitment to community service work beyond their congregations has also increased. Today almost half (46 percent) work through other organizations to make the community a better place to live. Fewer did so in 2001 (43 percent).

"Presbyterian congregations have abundant strengths, including well-educated worshipers and high levels of community involvement," commented Deborah Bruce, who manages the U.S. Congregational Life Survey. "This good news often gets lost in the stories of denominational decline."

Despite these changes, the survey results show that many other areas of congregational life have remained stable since 2001:

- * Six in ten PC(USA) worshipers are women.
- * Almost seven in ten are married.
- * Half are employed either full- or part-time.
- * Four in five are members of their congregation (most of the rest attend regularly, but haven't joined; a few are visitors).
- * Large majorities say they "always or usually" experience God's presence, joy, and inspiration during their congregation's worship services.
- * Most report their pastor is a good match for the congregation (86 percent).

A Field Guide to Presbyterian Congregations: Who's Going Where and Why (available through Presbyterian Distribution Services, order item 02056-10100, or on the Research Services website) presents more findings from the recent survey. The new resource is a companion piece to A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations, previously released by Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (available through The Thoughtful Christian, Cokesbury, or other bookstores).

The overview of PC(USA) worshipers and congregations provided in A Field Guide to Presbyterian Congregations shows the "strengths and challenges that Presbyterian congregations — as a group — demonstrate," Bruce said. Individual congregations may have different strengths. Bruce noted that any congregation seeking to identify their strengths can take the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, which will help them do so (details available online). Survey results can be used to answer important questions: How can we become stronger? Where is God calling us?

Prayer Concerns

Prayers and Christian sympathy for the Rots family, following their loss of Betty's father on October 7.

Continued prayers for Barbara Smith, who lost her husband, David, to a heart attack on September 19.

Cathy MacDougall requests your prayers as she continues with chemotherapy and looks forward to surgery in the not-too-distant future.

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

Our prayers go with Bart and Priscilla Kelso as they depart on October 16 for six months' service in the Philippines.

Rod and Cathy MacDonald are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter Anne to Ben Boyden. The wedding took place at Mount Wachusett in Princeton, MA on October 3, with Anne's parents officiating.

Prayers for the Synod of the Northeast meeting taking place Thursday to Saturday.

A Pledge to Pray

City Mission Society has been focusing on the issues of violence in our city through the Youth Peace Empowerment Program for several years now. But this past week has been particularly disturbing. Last weekend we learned about the violence on the campuses of Boston College in Chestnut Hill and Regis College in Weston. And then within a few days we were rocked by the murders of the four people, including a little boy killed in his mother's arms in Mattapan. On Wednesday we went to Mattapan to comfort the children, youth and adults who are struggling with a range of emotions-anger, frustration, shock, pain and fear.

We are calling on congregations throughout the Commonwealth to unite spiritually by participating in A Pledge to Pray. Each week we will send a prayer to be lifted up during your time of worship. You will find these weekly prayers our web site www.cmsboston.org. Please email us [through this website or via information@cmsboston.org], and your congregation will be added to the list of those that are taking part in A Pledge to Pray. We will publish the list on the CMS web site as a way of showing the increasing commitment of church people to peace in our city. We need to pray in solidarity with the people who are grieving and suffering and call on ourselves to examine what our response we will be to the senseless violence that permeates our communities.

Presbytery of Boston Meetings

OCTOBER

18 – CEM, 1:30 pm, NPC

20 – Trustees, 12:00 n, Sudbury

21 – S&B, 7:00 pm, NPC

CS&D, 7:00 pm, NPC

NOVEMBER

1 – **Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston, 7:00 pm, Needham**

Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston November 1, 7:00 pm, Needham P.C.

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Form of Government at the January 24, 2011, stated meeting; and (c) to docket consideration and action on the Belhar Confession at the March 28, 2011, stated meeting.

A Gathering on Immigration Ministry and Reform
November 6, 2010, 9:30 am – 4 pm
First Presbyterian Church, Worcester, MA

A gathering of Presbyterians for the purpose of learning about ministry to immigrants and mobilization for immigration reform.

Food for the spirit, food for thought, food for prayer, and lunch!
Keynote speaker: Immigration Attorney Philip Berns
Afternoon workshops on various topics including immigration ministry and advocating for reform legislation.

\$10 donation, payable at the door
RSVP – let us know if you plan to attend
Contact Joan Ramos: joanramos@verizon.net

Sponsored by: The New England Presbytery Partnership Group, Synod of the Northeast

You are joyously invited to
Clinton Presbyterian Church's Choral Fest
for Cameroon

October 24, 2010

5 pm Gathering with Refreshments
7 pm Worship with Local Choirs

Donations will go towards the Church's mission trip to Cameroon
December 26-January 5

All Choirs are invited to participate in Worship

Clinton Presbyterian Church
169 Chestnut Street, Clinton, MA
(978) 365-6864
office@presbyterianclinton.org

Choirs Please RSVP by October 1
Guests Please RSVP by October 15

Boston Crop Hunger Walk, Saturday, Oct. 16

The Boston CROP Hunger Walk

Begins at: Union Methodist Church,
485 Columbus Avenue in Boston's South End
Registration: 9:00 a.m. | **Walk begins:** 9:30 a.m.

This unique walk through Boston's neighborhoods raises funds and awareness for global **and** local hunger and poverty initiatives. Walk with City Mission Society for 6 miles through Boston's South End thru Roxbury to Jamaica Plain, building community along the way.



CROP Helps Global Communities

75% of the funds raised support hunger programs of Church World Service, including its work in Haiti, Chile, Pakistan and other disaster affected areas.

CROP helps people in Boston

25% of the funds raised go to support local non-profits working to end hunger and build sustainable, healthy communities such as Community Servings and The Food Project.

You can participate!

People of all faiths and walks of life come together to participate in the Boston CROP Hunger Walk. You can donate, organize a team, walk as an individual, or volunteer to help with the walk.

For more information, email BostonCROP@gmail.com.

Suicide Prevention Training for Clergy

The MA Department of Public Health Suicide Prevention Program is sponsoring a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) full day Certification Training for Clergy on November 17 at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. The training is a \$400 training that we will provide free of charge in return for those attending committing to doing an hour to two hour training for 25 people sometime in the next year. Below is the link to the information and registration. Please click on the tabs at the top of the first page for all information.

I do not have access to good contact information for clergy and would very much appreciate it if you could forward this to any colleagues that you think may have an interest.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Janice

Link to QPR Certification Training: <http://guest.cvent.com/d/rdqfkz>

Janice Ventre, Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator

MA Department of Public Health, 250 Washington St. 4th floor, Boston, MA 02108

email: janice.ventre@state.ma.us

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/suicideprevention> Blog: <http://publichealth.blog.state.ma.us>

Ordination Anniversaries

Stan Johnson	10/5/86	24 years
John Chung	10/8/00	10 years
Horatio Valdez-Romero	10/9/59	51 years
Martha Spear	10/11/87	23 years
Aida Spencer	10/14/73	37 years
William Spencer	10/14/73	37 years
Allen Fairfax	10/24/04	6 years
John Buchanan	10/31/56	54 years
Sen-Yuan Su	11/6/83	27 years
Bart Kelso	11/21/82	28 years
Cindy Kohlmann	11/17/99	11 years

Thank you and Congratulations!

Mission Yearbook 2011

It's not too late to order your *Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study* or the *Children's Mission Yearbook*. They will be available for pick up at the November 15th presbytery meeting. We appreciate payment in advance (the books are \$10 each.) Please send your order and check (made out to the Presbytery of Boston) to:

The Presbytery of Boston, 169A Chestnut Street, Clinton, MA 01510.

Be sure to include your name, contact phone, & email address, the name of your church, and the title (adult or children's) and the number of copies desired.

Looking for a Piano – Can You Help?

First, Waltham is seeking a mid-size baby grand or grand piano in good repair to replace ours which is approaching the end of its life. We are hoping to find something that will better help lead God's people in worship. If your church or anyone you know has a piano they are looking to part with for a reasonable price, please let us know at churchlife@fpcwaltham.org.

Events

October 19 – An Evening South African Tea with Rev. Rob & Becky Evans. At 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church of Waltham, 34 Alder Street, **Waltham**. Please join us for tea and light dessert, photos, and a presentation of lessons learned from our summer travels to South Africa, as part of the 2010 Amatola pastor exchange, involving the Presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England. If possible, rsvp to: reporter.evans@gmail.com

October 22 – Revive Us Again: Spiritual Renewal in the Presbytery of Boston. Newton Presbyterian Church, **Newton**. Blue Ribbon Bar-be-que at 5:30 (suggested donation \$10); Worship, praise, prayer, mission celebration, revival music & preaching, beginning at 7:15 pm. RSVP to: presbyteryofboston@verizon.net or 978-365-5200.

October 23 – Presbyterian Partnership Group (PPG) Presbyterian Women’s meeting at First Presbyterian Church in **Worcester**. The program will include Fair Trade Shopping – Displays – Mission Trip Reports – Greetings from PW Synod guests – Music – Lunch – Worship with Communion – and will close with a special passing of the peace. Registration is \$12.00. For further information, contact Beth Denier at 781-231-9247 or a.denier@verizon.net.

October 24 – *Choral Fest for Cameroon* at **Clinton** Presbyterian Church. 5 pm Gathering with Refreshments 7 pm Worship with Local Choirs. Donations will go towards the Church’s mission trip to Cameroon. Choirs Please RSVP by October 1. Guests Please RSVP by October 15: (978) 365-6864 or office@presbyterianclinton.org

October 31 – Installation of Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, The Presbyterian Church in **Clinton**, 4:00 pm.

November 4-7 - "*The Changing Contours of World Mission and Christianity*," hosted by the Boston Theological Institute and its member schools. For more information about this **Boston** event, go to: www.2010boston.org

November 6 – *Massachusetts Council of Churches Ecumenical Dinner 2010*, Keynote Speaker *Brian McLaren*, "*Everything Must Change*." **Boston College**. Tickets are available through the Council office at \$35 per person. For more information contact the Massachusetts Council of Churches at 617-523-2771
council@masscouncilofchurches.org

November 6 – *A Gathering on Immigration Ministry & Reform*, Presbyterian Church in **Worcester**, 9:30 – 4:00. Keynote speaker Philip Berns, Immigration Attorney. Worship, lunch, and workshops. \$10 donation, payable at the door. Sponsored by the New England Presbytery Partnership Group, Synod of the Northeast. RSVP: joanramos@verizon.net

November 14 – Installation of Rev. Eric Markman, Hartford Street Presbyterian Church, **Natick**, 3:00 pm



Join A New Conversation, November 9-11 –Are you attempting to faithfully figure out what the future holds for your congregation or middle governing body? Are you eager to be part of a meaningful conversation about the practice of pastoral leadership for today and tomorrow? If so, then join with a diverse gathering of clergy and church leaders from November 9-11, 2010, in Philadelphia, who are hungry for a leadership conversation that invites a process of discovery and mines the treasure of colleagues’ wisdom and faithfulness. What

makes any gathering memorable is the company in attendance. Will you come?
Learn more and register online <http://www.broadstreetministry.org/programs/>

NOTE: We are trying to get a group from the Presbytery of Boston to attend this conference; please let us know if you have interest; scholarships are available.