

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
October 29, 2009

Presbytery Day 2009:
“Changing World, Emerging Church”

Don't miss this year's Presbytery Day! Our special guest will be Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Director of Stony Point and Former Moderator of General Assembly. Rick will host two morning plenary sessions: *“How is the Changing World Challenging the Church?”* and *“How Does the Church Need to Change to Move with the Spirit?”* After lunch, Rick will offer a conversation workshop, *“Rappin’ with Rick.”*

Other not-to-be-missed workshops are: *“Campus/Young Adult Ministries,”* (Kelsey Rice-Bogdan); *“Incarnational Worship and Ministry,”* (Rob Mark); and *“Technology Possibilities”* (Cindy Kohlmann). The ever-popular Blue Ribbon Barbeque is providing lunch, and a John Calvin birthday party is also included! Presbytery Day will take place at the Presbyterian Church in Needham on Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$15. We encourage you to sign up soon by sending an email to the presbytery office (presbyteryofboston@verizon.net) or calling us at 978-365-5200. A copy of the flyer is available on the home page of our website, linked to the announcement posted there (www.presbyteryofboston.org). For additional information, please contact the presbytery office.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010

The 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium is planned for Tuesday, July 20 through Saturday, July 24, 2010 on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Youth participants must be entering high school and no older than 19 years old on July 20, 2010. The theme for the 2010 Triennium is “For Such a Time as This,” from Esther 4:14. The theme will be developed throughout the week through daily presentations, worship, prayer, recreation, and small groups. A theme grid, or guide, to the primary scriptures, liturgical elements and theological questions can be found on the website. www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org. Please log on to the web site for more detailed and specific information.

Good news! There are no presbytery quotas this year. **However, the Presbytery of Boston delegation estimate is due November 9, 2009.** Therefore, please contact the Registrar Naomi Northrop either by email: nnorthrop6@yahoo.com or home phone: 508-595-0586 with any questions or concerns. Naomi needs to provide an “educated guess”

for planning purposes to the Triennium staff by the November 9 deadline. The registration deadline is February 26, 2010.

The cost per person is \$409.00 with additional cost for travel expenses. However, there are resources available to defray these costs.

Please contact Naomi by November 9 so she can submit the delegation estimate.

Taking Health Precautions for Congregational Worship

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

We work hard to create a safe environment for all who gather for worship. In this spirit, each congregation will want to consider what steps to take so that everyone will feel safe coming to worship, and all necessary precautions are taken to prevent the spread of any flu virus. Last May we sent you information from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will be resending that to you, along with a new 3-page brochure which you can download from the website or print and distribute, by email on Monday, November 2. As we consider the liturgical acts of breaking bread, intinction, and sharing the peace, as well as greetings before and after worship, we hope these resources will prove helpful.

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/pandemic-flu.htm>

Resources developed for congregations in relationship to the anticipated flu pandemic:

<http://www.pcusa.org/mgbconnect/>

Shalom,

Wayne

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. For example: Hawkins Memorial Presbyterian Church expresses appreciation for dedicated service by Pastor George Whipple and his family, wife Janice, and children: Lauren, John, and Will.

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.

October is almost past, so please take this opportunity to express your appreciation!

Current & Upcoming Art Exhibitions

“GeoMorphics: Changing Art for a Changing Landscape,” Curated by Karl Gustafson. October 23 – November 22 at the Nave Gallery, Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church, Somerville. Gallery Hours: Friday 6-8, Sat. & Sun. 1-5. Curator’s Talk on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 3:00.

Carole Parrish’s work will be part of a group show at the Emmanuel Church Gallery, 15 Newbury Street, Boston. The show will run for three weekends (Friday to Sunday), beginning October 30 and ending November 15. Reception on November 1, 1-5.

“Modern Icons, Ancient Inspiration” is on exhibit at the Russian Icon Museum in Clinton, MA (203 Union Street, within a block of the presbytery office!) through November 21. The museum is open Tuesday to Friday, 11 – 3 (until 7 pm on Thursdays) and Saturday 9 – 3. Admission is \$5.00. For more information call 978-598-5000 or visit www.museumofrussianicons.org.

The Saint John Bible Exhibit and Lecture, Salem Covenant Church, 215 Mountain Street East, Worcester on December 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a public showing of the Wisdom, Prophets, and Psalms volumes of the Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition. Followed by a lecture with Father Eric Hollas, OSB, Senior Associate for Arts and Culture, Saint John's University & Jim Triggs, Executive Director of the Heritage Program. Please contact Nathan at admin@massbible.org or call 617-969-9404 with any questions.

Theology Reading Group

Our next Theology Book Group gathering is Thursday, November 19, 10-11:30 at the Needham church. We'll be reading the first two chapters of *Divine Becoming* by Charlene Burns, a look at the incarnation to take us into Advent and Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Kohlmann at ckohlmann@mac.com

Evangelism and Church Growth

Evangelism & Church Growth is expanding its offering of free webinars. Register for our next congregational transformation webinar on November 3 at 2 p.m. EDT. Visit the Evangelism(www.pcusa.org/evangelism),and Church Growth (www.pcusa.org/churchgrowth) and PresbyGrow (www.presbygrow.net) websites on webinars being offered in evangelism, discipleship, church growth and transformation.

Prayer Concerns

Horatio Valdez II requests your prayers for his mother, Myriam Quinonez de Valdez, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

From Bob and Peg Ferguson: “With rejoicing we announce the birth of our first granddaughter, Vivian Jade Schelling, on Friday, October 16. Both baby and momma are fine. We also thank the Presbytery for all your prayers and care about our Son, Tom. His cancer surgery went well. The follow-up C-scan shows no spread. For that we truly thank our loving God.”

FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS NOTICE

REGARDING THE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF BOSTON

CALLED FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2009

The call to a Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston for November 2, 2009 noted that the request from The Presbyterian Church in Needham for approval of the sale of the church’s real property would be before the presbytery “if the way be clear.” At a congregational meeting held October 25, 2009, moderated by the Rev. Elliott Hipp, the church determined to *not* request that permission.

As there is no constitutional means for “uncalling” a special meeting of a presbytery, the meeting will be called to order at 7:30 p.m. as published, but the requisite motion(s) will not be brought; no other business may legally be transacted at the meeting. Adjournment for lack of that motion or due to a lack of a quorum will follow quickly.

Anyone with questions about this meeting should contact Stated Clerk Catherine MacDonald (bostonpres.sc@verizon.net or 781-273-2213).

Presbytery of Boston Meetings

NOVEMBER

2 – Reports Deadline

3 – Nominating, 11:00 NPC

4 – CPM, 5:00 CHPC

5 – COM

12 – CS&D, 7:30 NPC

13 – CEM, 2:00 NPC

16 – Presbytery Meeting, Fourth Presbyterian Church, S. Boston

DECEMBER

2 – CPM

3 - COM

10 – CS&D, 7:30 NPC

16 – Trustees, 12 noon, Sudbury

18 – CEM, 2:00 NPC (TBD)

“The Spiritual Journey Home from War”

“Kevin Lucey will be one of the speakers at the workshop **Spiritual Journey Home from War: Ministering to Returning Veterans and Their Families at Edwards Church, Framingham on Tuesday, November 10 from 9:30 a.m.--4 p.m.** Lucey describes the unraveling of his son's life and, consequently, his family's life, in the days and months after his son returned from military service, in order to save other families from the tragedy his has faced.

Though the subject has received much media publicity, veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan still face many hurdles as they re-integrate into civilian life. Of the 1.6 million service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, about 1 in 6 is at risk of developing some form of post-traumatic stress. Even those without obvious symptoms of PTSD often have difficulty resuming the life they left behind. In addition, families deal with the pressure and ever-present anxiety of having a loved one deployed.

The spiritual wounds of war are rarely addressed in the array of assistance provided for veterans and their families. For churches, separating the war from the needs of the 'warrior' is the first step in finding ways to care for returning military personnel. Susan Leary, staff at the Veteran's Education Project will speak about the unique journey veterans and their families face as they move toward healing. Leary observes that each veterans' path to healing is different and caregivers must be sensitive to the unique journey of each person. For some, the conviction that their wartime experience has served a higher purpose enables them to forgive themselves and to heal. Others seek to

find some expression of their disillusionment with the war and their involvement in it. For many, traditional religion hasn't been helpful in their spiritual healing and they seek a sense of grace or atonement in new practices of spirituality. For some, the rituals and traditions of their faith have provided the foundation to work through issues of the heart and soul.

In order for churches to provide needed support for veterans, some preliminary discussion is necessary to lay the ground work. 'Often congregations, pastors and veterans must work through their ambivalence about war and about caring for veterans before they are able to effectively minister,' observes Leary. She continues, 'For some veterans, a church or synagogue is still a difficult place to enter. Both clergy and members of congregations carry wounds from the country's divided response to the Vietnam War and its veterans. These workshops offer a place for listening and healing for everyone. At a recent workshop in western MA, a Vietnam vet in attendance, witnessing the rapt listening to a fellow Vietnam vet, broke into tears saying this was the first time in 30 years he had ever felt 'welcomed home.'

In addition to Ms Leary and Mr. Lucey, a panel of knowledgeable and experienced speakers will provide resources. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes lunch. You may register online at <http://www.brookfieldinstitute.org/veterans.html> or call 508-637-1215. This event is sponsored by The Brookfield Institute. Deadline for registration is Monday, November 9th." From *The Brookfield Institute News*

For more information, call 508-637-1215 or email brookfield.institute@gmail.com.

Obama and the Nobel Peace Prize 2009 - A Prayer for True Peace

Congratulations to U.S. President Barak Obama for winning the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. Jesus said that peacemakers are blessed. Today we pray a blessing for President Obama and all the efforts of all government leaders around the world who seek genuine peace.

We also recognize the world is filled with individuals - sometimes in leadership positions - who do not seek peace. For all our efforts, our human efforts, you admit that true and lasting peace is only a gift from God. The Bible urges us to seek and work for peace and justice, but it also warns us that our own efforts apart from the power and leading of God himself will inevitably fail.

We honor the efforts of those who seek to make peace. We also pray and invite the hand of God to bring the miracle of peace above and beyond our efforts. Peace as a Biblical concept means more than a lack of conflict. The Hebrew word "shalom" translated "peace" actually means wholeness and completeness, a state where nothing is missing and nothing is broken. Only God can make and bring "shalom." Individuals may be awarded a peace prize for noble efforts; only God can truly deliver the goods.

"God we thank you for those in leadership positions who seek peace. The Bible tells us to pray for our leaders whether or not we agree politically with their means. We pray today for U.S. President Barak Obama. We pray also for the supernatural imposition of genuine peace, that you would make shalom a reality as you promise us you will when we ask. In Jesus name..." From www.beliefnet.com, October 9, 2009

Ordination Anniversaries

Sen-Yuan Su	11/6/83	26 years
Cindy Kohlmann	11/17/99	10 years
Bart Kelso	11/21/82	27 years
Phillip Lin	12/66	43 years
Allison Moore John	12/5/99	10 years
Nancy Kilgore	12/9/84	25 years
Bob Ferguson	12/21/64	45 years
Sally Newhall	12/26/76	33 years
Pat Kepler	12/27/64	45 years
William Newman	12/30/79	30 years

Congratulations and thank you!

Pre-holiday Shopping Fundraiser for First Worcester

“Get a jump on your holiday shopping and join us for a fun evening of socializing and shopping with some of your favorite at-home vendors. Featuring: Mary Kay Cosmetics, Silpada Jewelry, Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Creative Homes and maybe a few surprises. Bring a friend or two and enjoy fellowship while raising money for the church at the same time. This event will be on Thursday, November 5, 6:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 125 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01605.

Rolling Ridge Retreat Center

“The Program Committee of Rolling Ridge seeks to provide enriching and spirit-filled programming in 4 areas:

- Spiritual Formation
- Health & Wellness
- Peace & Justice
- Environment and Earth-Care

Most months, there are day retreats offered under the general title "A Day Apart for Busy People". A variety of leaders guide participants in times of reflection sharing, silence, and meditation. A delicious Rolling Ridge Lunch is included. Overnight retreats, evening programs, and several monthly series are part of the calendar of offerings at Rolling Ridge. Choose from individual Renewal Days and overnight Private retreats. Note: **STUDENT RATE AVAILABLE FOR MOST PROGRAMS. (20% DISCOUNT)** Call our office to arrange registration: 978-682-8815."

Some Upcoming programs:

A Day of Healing, for Cancer Survivors and Care-Givers, October 31, 2009

Good Grief: A Sacred Sadness and a Holy Healing, November 3, 2009

Self -Discovery: An Enneagram Guide to Personalities, Relationships, & Healing, Nov. 4, 2009

Breathing New Life into Prayer, November 18, 2009

In Darkness, Seeing A Light: an Advent Retreat, December 1, 2009

E-Connection Classifieds

Lovely new condominium available in historic Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for short term visits:

2 furnished bedrooms (2 queen sized beds, ceiling fans), living room, dining room, kitchen with dishware, 3 ½ bathrooms, balcony with view of city and Caribbean sea, marble floors & mahogany cupboards, screens, security guard. In Gazcue, near national libraries & art centers, subway, United States embassy.

Available: September 1-December 31, February 1-April 30, July 1-31 (not January, May-June, August).

Contact Aida Spencer 978-468-4318, 978-646-4084, aspencer@gcts.edu.

Rent: \$100/day (\$100 deposit)

OR 7 days \$600 (1 day free) (\$200 deposit)

OR \$1000/2 weeks (2 days free)

OR \$2000/4 weeks or 1 month (4 days free) and renter pays electricity (\$1000 deposit).

Deposit is returned if apartment is in the same condition in which it was received.