

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
October 5, 2010

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.

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.

Stated Clerk Launches “Tilling the Soil”

Parsons’ first weekly video message focuses on ‘elder picking’

LOUISVILLE—;The Reverend Grady Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), announced this week the beginning of a weekly video clip for church leaders.

Parsons hopes the approximately 5-minute clips, under the banner “Tilling the Soil,” will provide information and inspiration for the wider PC(USA), especially elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

“It is a time of great change in the church,” said Parsons. “How we navigate that change depends a lot on how we discern together the direction of God’s Spirit and identify and nurture church leaders. I hope the thoughts I offer each week will contribute to and help prod a collective discussion about all of that.”;

Topics will cover a broad spectrum, such as the role and work of elders and visioning for the future. Parsons will also invite an occasional discussion on a current book of interest to the life of the church.

In his first message, Parsons notes that it’s “elder picking” time in most congregations. He encourages both those who would serve as elders and those who nominate them to refer to G-6.0304 in the Book of Order: “It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge.”;

Parsons says that shifting elders’ attention from such things as leaky roofs to that of helping nurture the faith of congregations will make a notable difference in the life of congregations and the PC(USA) as a whole.

“Tilling the Soil” clips will be available at www.youtube.com/gradyeparsons. Parsons hopes viewers will take advantage of the opportunity to offer comments and share their own stories.

THEOLOGICAL CONVERSATION 2010

Featuring The Reverend Dr. David Jones, Director of The Doctor of Ministry Program,
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary – Austin, Texas

**FAMILY SYSTEMS IN THE CONGREGATION:
Exploring the Benefits and Challenges of Employing Family Systems Theory as it
Relates to Both Pastoral and Congregational Leadership**

**October 17th-18th, 2010 (4:00 pm Sun. - 2:00 pm. Mon.)
Place: Glastonbury Abbey – 16 Hull Street – Hingham, MA 02043
Cost: \$75.00; subsidized by COM and the East Boston Fund.**

Parsons letter to Congress supports DREAM Act

Legislation would allow immigrant high school graduates to go to college, work or join U.S. military

by Jerry L. Van Marter
Presbyterian News Service

STATESVILLE, N.C. — The Rev. Gradye Parsons, stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly, has written a letter to members of the U.S. Congress urging them to pass the DREAM Act (S.729/H.R.1751).

The legislation would allow the children of illegal immigrants to continue their education, work or join the U.S. military if they graduate from high school.

"The denomination is extremely concerned over the fate of millions of young people who have lived in the United States for most of their childhood, yet have no right to legal work authorization or higher education," Parsons wrote in his Sept. 27 letter.

"We are troubled that 65,000 high school graduates a year, who, through no fault of their own, find themselves caught in a system where no opportunity exists to legalize their immigration status," the letter continued. "This system is inherently unjust for these youth and we stand with them in asking you to pass the DREAM Act, which would allow them to continue their education, work, or join the military."

The PC(USA) supports the legislation, Parsons said in part, "...because these policies will benefit our nation as a whole."

Similar legislation has been introduced — and failed — repeatedly over the last 10 years.

The full text of Parsons letter:

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) urges you to support the passage of the DREAM Act (S.729/H.R. 1751)

In the early 1950s, the Presbyterian Church, out of deep concern for the millions of people displaced in the aftermath of World War II, began calling for a review of our nation's immigration policies. At the core of our concern then, as now, is the biblical and theological standard that leads us toward fair treatment of one's neighbor.

Today, the denomination is extremely concerned over the fate of millions of young people who have lived in the United States for most of their childhood, yet have no right to legal work authorization or higher education. We are troubled that 65,000 high school graduates a year, who, through no fault of their own, find themselves caught in a system where no opportunity exists to legalize their immigration status. This system is inherently

unjust for these youth and we stand with them in asking you to pass the DREAM Act, which would allow them to continue their education, work, or join the military.

We ask not only out of our concern and compassion for our youth, but because these policies will benefit our nation as a whole. One of the incentives in passing the DREAM Act is to retain a well-educated base of young people who will be good citizens and contribute to society. Denying education and work opportunities to thousands and thousands of young people who have successfully graduated from our nation's schools is short-sighted in the extreme.

The loss of potential productivity and hope for these youth is a missed opportunity for this country. The DREAM Act is a bipartisan bill that would remedy this flaw by providing undocumented young adults an opportunity to earn their legal status. Under the DREAM Act, most students with good moral character who came to the U.S. at age 15 or younger, and who have lived in this country for at least five years before the date of the bill's enactment, would qualify for conditional permanent resident status upon acceptance to college, graduation from a U.S. high school, or being awarded a GED in the U.S. The conditional status will be lifted if the student completes at least two years of college or serves in the military.

While we join with other religious groups in the biblical tradition of "welcoming the stranger" (Lev. 19:33-34), we know that these youth are not strangers to us or to the United States. They are the future of our church and our nation. When they suffer, we suffer; and they are suffering greatly. The DREAM Act has been introduced in Congress since 2001. When will Congress do the right thing and pass this act that is vital to our future? We urge you to take a stand for these youth and for our collective future.

Prayer Concerns

Prayers for Barbara Smith, member of Newton Presbyterian Church, who lost her husband, David, to a heart attack on September 19. Barbara and David had been married for 44 years.

Prayers for Clarabelle Hong, aunt of Alex Wei, whose leg was amputated last week.

Prayers for Katie Dulleakellegrew, a 20-year-old college student from Clinton, who had her fourth surgery for blood clots in her arm last week.

Prayers for John Chung's father-in-law, hospitalized for complications from a liver transplant of several years ago.

Continued prayers are requested for Sandra Annunciacao, the wife of Institute for Christian Leadership (ICL) President Gercon Annunciacao. Sandra was diagnosed with Meniere's disease two years ago. She had lost hearing in one ear, and now is rapidly losing hearing in her other ear. Please pray for them both as they face this loss and all it entails. Cards of support may be sent to: 1928 North Main St., #2, Fall River, MA 02720.

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

Continued prayers for the family, friends and colleagues of Clint McCoy.

Continued prayers for Emadel Ramsay, who is recuperating from a heart attack and surgical procedure.

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 on 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 will be to the senseless violence that permeates our communities.

Presbytery of Boston Meetings

OCTOBER

6 – CPM, 5:00, CHPC, Somerville

7 – COM, 7:00 pm, NPC

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

Bridge The Gap! Improving Communications Between Here and There

**Join us for a free Presbyterian World Mission Webinar on October 15
Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now.**

For every mission experience, challenges and questions are a constant companion. Successfully translating your mission experience requires the right attitude, the right tools and the training to create the right opportunities. In October's webinar, join us as we discuss how to navigate those cross-cultural waters to reach the far shore, how to communicate effectively within your mission service and how to bring that experience home using simple communication tools. We'll discuss social media, photography, video and connecting with home congregations as well as how to create relationships that keep communication alive.

Title: Bridge The Gap!

Date: Friday, October 15, 2010

Time: 1-2 p.m. EST

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

System Requirements

PC-based attendees:

Required: Windows® 2000, XP Home, XP Pro, 2003 Server, Vista

Macintosh®-based attendees:

Required: Mac OS® X 10.4 (Tiger®) or newer

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.



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/> or [email](mailto:Susan.Tindall@broadstreetministry.org) Susan Tindall, gathering coordinator, today!

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.

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>

**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**

**“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.

It will 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

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.

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.

Events

October 17-18 – Theological Conversation with David Jones from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, at Glastonbury Abbey, **Hingham**, MA. See page 2 of this newsletter for additional information.

October 18-22 – 2010 “Transformation Conference,” sponsored by Grace Presbytery and the PC(USA) Office of Church Growth, at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, TX. Online registration is available at:
<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/church-growth/church-transformation/>

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.