

# Presbytery of Boston

## E-Connection

### September 8, 2011

## Massachusetts Remembers 9/11

You are invited to join the Massachusetts Council of Churches on Sunday September 11, 2011 at 3pm for Massachusetts Remembers: September 11, a memorial program and concert at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade in Boston. The Boston Pops Brass and the Boston Children's Chorus will perform. Governor Deval Patrick will speak. All are welcome to attend. Please share this invitation widely. More information can be found at <http://massremembers9-11.org/>

We especially ask you to consider attending this event to stand in solidarity with our Muslim partners who are feeling vulnerable on this day. MCC staff along with our ecumenical colleagues in the Archdiocese of Boston and our interfaith colleagues in the Muslim and Jewish communities joined to form the ad hoc "Massachusetts Interfaith Leadership Coalition." We have worked together since April to help craft a memorial program that marks both the tragic loss incurred on 9/11 as well as the continued suffering. We came together with concern over growing Islamophobia. We are deeply grateful to Old South Church in Boston for hosting the weekly planning meetings and the many organizations and individuals who gave their time and skill to plan the religious community's participation in the larger event.

We ask that you join us on Sunday September 11 at the Hatch Shell as a sign of our Christian commitment to peaceful interfaith relations in Massachusetts. Gates open at 12pm and the program begins at 3pm.

Rev. Liz Walker, local reporter and African Methodist Episcopal minister, will serve as the MC for the program. Religious leaders from a wide range of traditions will lead the Massachusetts Remembers program in an opening and closing prayer. Representing the Christian community will be: Fr. David Michael of the Archdiocese of Boston, Major Gayle Senak of the Salvation Army, Bishop M. Thomas Shaw of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Rev. Dr. Nancy Taylor of Old South Church (United Church of Christ), **Rev. Hurmon Hamilton of the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston and Roxbury Presbyterian Church**, Rev. Nick Carter of Andover Newton Theological School, and Metropolitan Methodios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston. The interfaith prayer is available for your local use at [www.masscouncilofchurches.org](http://www.masscouncilofchurches.org).

Again, we ask that you join us on Sunday September 11 at the Hatch Shell. Please forward this invitation widely. If you are unable to join us in Boston, Massachusetts Remembers will be broadcast live on local NPR station WBUR 90.9 and WCVB TV the Boston Channel 5.

In the spirit of the "Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act" of 2009 designating 9/11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance, a Service and Learning Pavilion will allow people to sign up with 9/11 family charities, local non-profits and interfaith initiatives. We are give thanks for the staff of the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries and Clara Barton & Mass Bay Districts of UU Congregations who helped coordinate the service pavilion.

The Massachusetts Council of Churches has been creating a list of local interfaith 9/11 memorial programs around Massachusetts to share with media. If you, or your local clergy association, are planning an event please contact Rev. Laura Everett at [laura@masscouncilofchurches.org](mailto:laura@masscouncilofchurches.org) so that we can help publicize your gathering.

Details about Massachusetts Remembers are available at <http://massremembers9-11.org> . For text of the inter-religious prayer and resource guides for pastors and Christian educators, please visit [www.masscouncilofchurches.org](http://www.masscouncilofchurches.org). Our Facebook page is a great way to check for recent news and updates - [www.facebook.com/masscouncilofchurches](http://www.facebook.com/masscouncilofchurches) or for more information, call 617-523-2771

## **...Always Being Reformed**

*Office of the General Assembly  
by Cynthia Bolbach  
Moderator of the 219th General Assembly (2010)*

**LOUISVILLE** – Last month I attended the Fellowship of Presbyterians gathering in Minneapolis. I think it's fair to say that the organizers of the event are driven by concerns over the effect of the new ordination standard in the Book of Order – G-2.0101b – as well as by how the church in general can proclaim the gospel both effectively and with integrity in the 21st century. With nearly 2,000 in attendance, obviously the issues and concerns raised by the organizers struck a chord in many.

I was thankful that the tone of the gathering was not angry; rather, it was, “Where do we go next?” There was much energy, much conversation, and much discussion – all of which, it seems to me, is good for the church.

What's even better for the church is that these conversations about how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can retool itself to be an effective and persuasive agent for ministry and mission are not just happening within the Fellowship, They're taking place across the broad spectrum of our denomination – at the “Next” Conference in Indianapolis earlier this year, for example.

Those conversations are also happening within General Assembly groups that are tasked with figuring out what it means to do ministry in our present context: the Middle Governing Body Commission, the Committee on the Nature of the Church in the 21st Century, the Task Fore on Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Church Growth, and more.

As a denomination, we face a daunting task that I like to describe this way: We have to rebuild the 1950s era black-and-white television set that tends to be the PC(USA) organization today

into a new, flat-screen, HD TV – all the while ensuring that programs will continue to be shown while the rebuilding takes place.

The Fellowship organizers talk about creating a “new reformed body.” I appreciate the energy and commitment they are bringing to that task. But, in a sense, all of us across the entire PC(USA) are caught up in creating a “new reformed body” – that new flat-screen, HD PC(USA) that most effectively brings to a 21st-century world the good news of Jesus Christ.

## **We Plow the Fields and Scatter: Celebrate Theological Education Sunday on September 18**

*We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,*

*But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.*

These words from the beloved hymn “We Plow the Fields and Scatter”, open my heart to the coming season of harvest. They also call to mind our partnership as congregations with the seminaries that form the next generation of church leaders. John Leedy, a student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, describes the relationship this way. "Seminaries not only support and educate pastors but they transform them into people that work for the kingdom of God."

**Be a part of this work. Plan to celebrate Theological Education Sunday on September 18, 2011.**

Use the worship planning resources at:

[http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/seminaries/pdf/theological\\_education\\_sunday\\_2011.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/seminaries/pdf/theological_education_sunday_2011.pdf)

Order bulletin inserts and booklets at:

<http://store.pcusa.org/2116009002>

[http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/seminaries/pdf/theologicaleducationsunday\\_ad2.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/seminaries/pdf/theologicaleducationsunday_ad2.pdf)

If you need more assistance please contact the Office of Theological Education at (800) 728-7228, x5359. For resources you can download: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/seminaries/get-involved/>

## Discipleship in the Global Community

The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations has launched a monthly e-newsletter. You may subscribe at <http://gamc.pcusa.org/subscriptions/lists/discipleship-global-community/> or by sending your name, city, and state to [mark.koenig@pcusa.org](mailto:mark.koenig@pcusa.org). The following is an excerpt from the current issue:

### Take part in the Commission on the Status of Women

Apply now to take part in the Presbyterian delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to be held in New York on February 24 to March 9, 2012. During this annual event, UN member states evaluate progress and formulate policies to promote gender equality. The 2012 CSW will focus on the roles of women in rural areas in addressing poverty and hunger. Participation in the CSW provides an opportunity to practice global discipleship by advocating for justice for women and networking with sisters and brothers in Christ. Find more information and download an application for this significant event by going to:

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/invitation-and-application-56th-session-commission/>

## SAVE THE DATE

### ROXBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

328 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA.

**Preparing to Honor 125 years of  
Ministry – Prayer - Dreams**

**“Building on the Dream Together”**

**125th. ANNIVERSARY**

**September 28, 2011**

***We will begin our year-long celebration of this occasion***

*With these special events:*

**September 19 - 23, 2011 Prayer Week**

**September 25 - 28, 2011 Revival Week**

Rev. Horace Shepherd, Revivalist  
Senior Pastor of West Oak Lane Church of God  
Philadelphia, PA.

***Jesus said, “On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18b (ESV)***

## **Presbytery Meetings**

### **SEPTEMBER**

14 – Reports Deadline for September Meeting Packet

15 – CCS&D, 7:30, Waltham

26 – Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston, 7:00 p.m., Waltham

## **Pre-Presbytery Meeting: Boston Faith & Justice Network**

Come early [at 6:00 p.m.] to the September Boston Presbytery meeting & learn more about how Christians in Boston are leading the way in following Jesus with their money.

Through commerce, transportation and media, people around the world are more connected than ever before. There are countless ways to express God's love in a world in which distance no longer determines who is your neighbor.

At the same time, over-consumption and unjust consumption are emptying bank accounts, exhausting the world's dearest resources, and fueling the exploitation of the most vulnerable. Deep shifts in lifestyle, community design, and public policy are needed to meet these challenges.

Join the Boston Faith & Justice Network's Ryan Scott McDonnell in a conversation about how Christians are leading an ecumenical movement in the greater Boston area to follow Jesus with our money.

The Boston Faith & Justice Network is a community of Christians seeking justice through personal, community, and policy change. Learn more about what we do at [www.bostonfaithjustice.org](http://www.bostonfaithjustice.org)

## **Prayer Celebrations & Concerns**

Congratulations to Kevin and Jessica Hershey whose daughter, Paige Lee Hershey, was born on August 25.

Christian sympathy and prayers for Linda Benson, the church secretary at Burlington, whose mother, Mary Hetman, died on September 7.

Rod's father, Roderick C. MacDonald, died in West Yarmouth on Cape Cod on August 24, following a lengthy illness. Please keep the MacDonald family in your prayers.

Our prayers go out to all who have suffered damage and/or loss from Hurricane Irene and face the challenges of costly and time-consuming recovery and rebuilding. Please consider making a donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Go to:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pda/> to learn how you can help.

Carole Parrish's mother is receiving hospice care. Please pray for their family.

Continued prayers for Pilgrim Church as they seek the finances to replace their boiler and the right person to install it.

Ken Dewar is feeling better but still suffers pain from shingles; please keep him in your prayers.

**\*\*Note:** If you would like to share your prayer requests with the Presbytery of Boston, please contact us at [presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net). We continue to pray for the ongoing needs of those whose concerns are not listed.

## Events

**\*Note: If you know of an event that would be of interest to the Presbytery of Boston members, please send your information to: [presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net).**

*September 11 – “Massachusetts Remembers”.* The interfaith community in Massachusetts is preparing to mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and we want your participation. Communities from many different religious traditions will join with the general public for the Massachusetts Remembers gathering Sunday September 11, 2011 at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade in **Boston**. Delegations from houses of worship and religious groups are invited to gather at 2:30pm on the Esplanade so that we can sit together at a space reserved for us. You are invited to bring a banner identifying your house of worship. For more information, please contact [laura@masscouncilofchurches.org](mailto:laura@masscouncilofchurches.org), or call 617-523-2771. To register your church or group, please visit: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHQ3SjhITWlnY11NeVIIeEx0TVFjZUE6MQ>

*September 13 – “Preaching and Teaching Stewardship Generation to Generation”*  
A *Presbyterian Outlook* 90-minute practical webinar, featuring Karl Travis. Beginning at 2:00 pm. Questions? Contact Jana Blazek at 800-446-6008 x 758 or [jblazek@pres-outlook.org](mailto:jblazek@pres-outlook.org)

*September 14 – Colloquy: “Living Core Religious Values in Public Life”*, 5-6 p.m. in the Braun Room of Andover Hall, Harvard Divinity School, **Cambridge**.

*September 21 – Refugee Immigration Ministry Third Annual International Concert*, at First Church, 11 Garden Street, **Cambridge**. From 6:30 to 9:00. Purchase tickets online at: <http://rimconcert2011.eventbrite.com/>

*September 24 - **God Will Hear Your Prayer*** Hyde Park Presbyterian Church Gospel Fest on Saturday evening, September 24, at 7:00pm. 1109 River Street, **Hyde Park, MA**. An evening of praise and prayer in song. Multiple choirs, soloists, great congregational singing, food and fellowship. Suggested donation: \$10 (children under 12 free). All proceeds go to support our after-school tutoring program. For more information or to order tickets call Rev. Beth Wieman: 617 361 0051. Tickets are also available at the door.

*September 24 - Lake Sunapee Cruise to Celebrate Camp Wilmot's Birthday* – 2:00 p.m.  
\$18 per person. Meet cruise-goers at Lake Sunapee Harbor at 1:00 PM. Cruise boards at 1:30 PM  
\*\*Following the cruise, the group will go out to dinner at one of the area's great restaurants.  
There is also an option to stay at the best retreat center in the Lake Sunapee region...Camp  
Wilmot! \$20 for adults, \$15 for children twelve years old and under. For more information,  
contact Rob Heinze at [ubuggs@comcast.net](mailto:ubuggs@comcast.net) We hope to see you there!

*October 11-14* – Joint conference of the Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or  
Survivors (ARMSS), and the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN). The  
ARMSS/POAMN Joint Conference will be held in San Antonio Texas, October 11-14. For more  
information, contact: Ginny Nyhuis at [gnyhuis@frontier.com](mailto:gnyhuis@frontier.com)

*October 25* – *MCC Annual Dinner, 6:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, 145  
Brattle Street Cambridge, MA 02138.* The Annual Dinner will be an occasion to honor interfaith  
leaders from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Faith Communities. This interfaith occasion will  
be one in which the Council will launch an **Annual Colloquium on Interfaith Understanding**.  
This colloquium is designed to underscore the Council's commitment to enhance interfaith  
respect and understanding through education, conversation and relationship building in  
collaboration with people and institutions of other faiths. We are honored to have **Dr. Diana  
Eck**, Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies and **Frederic Wertham**, Professor  
of Law and Psychiatry in Society at Harvard University, Executive Director of the Pluralism  
Project and chair of the Interfaith Relations Commission of the National Council of Churches as  
our inaugural keynote speaker. This evening will also be an evening to honor the leadership of  
our Executive Director, the **Reverend Jack Johnson**, who will be retiring at the end of October.  
Tickets are available at the Council website: [www.masscouncilofchurches.org](http://www.masscouncilofchurches.org)

*October 29* – “*A Beacon of Light*”. Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast  
Leadership Enhancement Workshop. 9:30 to 3:30 at Stony Point Conference Center. All women  
are invited. The registration form and information is found in the August issue of “The  
Lighthouse,” which will be included in the September Presbytery Meeting packet and is also  
posted on our website: [www.presbyteryofboston.org](http://www.presbyteryofboston.org) under “Newsletters”.

*November 4-6* - *Annual Conference of the Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers*, Stony Point  
NY. For more information see: [www.stonypointcenter.org](http://www.stonypointcenter.org).

*November 17-20* – Moderator's Conference, Louisville, KY. Contact Angela Lucear:  
[angela.lucear@pcusa.org](mailto:angela.lucear@pcusa.org)

*November 18-19* – *Church for All Generations: 35<sup>th</sup> Racial-Ethnic Convocation*, Stony Point  
Conference Center, Stony Point, NY. For more information, contact Nancy Lomberk at the  
Synod Office: 315-446-5990/800-585-5881.