



Presbytery of West Jersey NEWS & NOTES

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WEST

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**A Press Release
from Rev. Emily Odom,
Associate for
Communications, *Joining
Hearts & Hands*
WEST JERSEY PRESBYTERY
PARTNERS WITH
JOINING HEARTS & HANDS
ON \$1.5 MILLION
CAMPAIGN**

West Jersey is the most recent presbytery to unite with the PC(USA) National Mission Initiative. West Jersey Presbytery, in seeking to extend the Good News of God's love to God's people both locally and globally, has voted to launch a \$1.5 million campaign in partnership with the Mission Initiative: *Joining Hearts & Hands*. Go to this Web site: http://wjpresbytery.org/publications/other/press_release.php for the press release. For more information go to PC(USA) Web site: www.pcusa.org/joiningheartsandhands

ON MY MIND

C. Raymond Trout

Transitional Executive Presbyter

Pastor Appreciation Month!!

My mail box, like yours, yields more trivia than truth, more distraction than attraction. But occasionally something pops through the mail slot that catches my attention. Such was the latest issue of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, from which

I learned something -- **October** is *Pastor Appreciation Month*. It was news to me, though it may not be news others. At least in the circles I travel... mostly Presbyterian... I had not come in contact with Pastor Appreciation Month. Of course, keep in mind that I am by nature an *intuitive* (I am more attuned to what goes on inside me than outside me.). That means that I can easily miss stuff, important and unimportant, going on around me. And, there are a myriad of things going around me that aren't, from my perspective, very important at all. They simply do not matter to the essential meanings of our personal or societal lives. They don't move the human community along much toward God's love, justice, and peace. At best they are distraction; at worst they are obstacle.

Pastors are important because churches are important. Churches matter to the wellbeing of our lives and communities, and those women and men whom God chooses through us to care for and lead us as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament have been considered since New Testament times essential to the strength and vitality of Christian communities. Besides, ministers don't just show up; they come with lots of education, experience, and skills, not to mention the deeply felt sense that God is calling them through the church to do something in Christ's name and service that not everybody is equipped or suited to do.

But, pastors are not often appreciated. Their work is sometimes taken for granted like a cup of coffee in the morning. No wonder some ministers become demoralized and disgruntled. No wonder some ministers even leave their calling for something else because the very community of faith that called them in

the first place does not stand with them sufficiently to sustain them for the challenges of ministry in the long haul.

So, stop and think about what would be missing in your congregational life if your pastor(s) was not there. Moreover, ponder the gifts that your pastor(s) brings to their ministry among you, and find ways as a congregation to celebrate their pastoral presence and gifts. Appreciation, of course, is not limited to October; you can do it any time. But, do it in some way sometime; and don't let too much time go by before you do it again. It's hard to say "Thank you." too much. Everybody needs to be appreciated!

**300th ANNIVERSARY
SERVICE RELOCATED
Sunday, October 1st 4:00 p.m.
Old Pine Street PC
412 Pine Street, Phila., PA
215-925-8051**

Co-hosted by six area presbyteries, three leaders of the PC(USA) will take part in the service: Clifton Kirkpatrick, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly; Joan Gray, Moderator of the General Assembly, and Robert Wilson, Vice-Moderator. Senator Thomas Carper, former Governor of Delaware and a member of the Wilmington Presbyterian Church will also take part in the celebration.

The Presbyterian Historical Society, 424 Lombard Street, Phila., is hosting an open house before the service. On-street parking and nearby parking lots are available.

WEST JERSEY PRESBYTERY

Generation Why?

From generation to generation the question is the same – **Why?**

Why does God matter?

Why does God matter to church leaders?

Why does God matter to educators and teachers?

Why does God matter to youth?

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a **Church Leadership Event and Youth Gathering**

to address that question and others of the generations of Christians in the pews of our churches.

Mark the Date!

February 11, 2007

Plan to come and bring a friend.

Details to follow.



The 2007 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

"Hope Is In Our Midst," will be held July 17-22, 2007 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Plans are now being formed in the presbytery to recruit youth to attend this amazing event. Information will be available this fall. In the meantime interested churches, parents and youth may check out details:

<http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>

KATRINA RELIEF WORK GROUP

“Merry Muckers” from First, Haddon Heights

A dedicated work team from First Presbyterian Church in Haddon Heights spent a week in April rebuilding after Katrina through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Sent to Houma, Louisiana the 13 “Merry Muckers” joined other volunteers from Texas, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania to finish rebuilding Miss Ellen Westbrook’s home in Bayou DeLarge. The fourth group to work on the 76-year old woman’s home, they hung paneling, painted, cut woodwork, completed a kitchen and bathroom, and did yard work. On Sunday, they worshipped on her front lawn as she was finally able to leave her FEMA trailer and move home. The group felt God’s hand moved through the PDA to put them where they would be the most helpful.

Relief Team From Moorestown



Mission teams from First Presbyterian Church, Moorestown have been on the road since the initial aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The first team, organized by several Camden policemen, traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi to distribute personal health kits and begin the immense task of “de-mucking” flooded and wind damaged homes.

Long Beach, Mississippi to help repair the damage to the Long Beach Presbyterian Church. An additional team just returned from there in August where they worked on installing sheetrock to the interior of a home. A neighbor remarked to them “...before Katrina, I thought Christianity was dying. Then people started to come and help—people from all over the world...they are making a difference and the people in the gulf have hope for rebuilding.”

Moorestown has adopted for its teams a theme from the story of Nehemiah who organized and equipped his people to rebuild the walls of ancient Jerusalem: “You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings” (Isaiah 58:12).

CUBA PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE

A long history of our involvement with the Presbytery of Matanzas points the way to a future of exciting possibilities ahead of us. Many of your congregations have been a part of the partnership and others have an opportunity to join in planning for the future. Contact Cricket Cohen, Chair, 609-476-3950.

CUBA TRIP NEWS

The Rev. Debby Brincivalli and Elder Bill Kelly (Marlton) led a group of seven adults and one youth to visit our brothers and sisters of the faith in Matanzas, Cuba, March 13-22, 2006. They spent a week visiting churches. They have rich stories of their experiences ready to share. For information, contact Cricket Cohen.

WEST JERSEY PRESBYTERY

OUR CHILDREN ARE IN DANGER

*Rev. Kate Killebrew, Chair of
Church & Society*

This is not an easy topic, but it is increasingly facing our children and youth.

- It is estimated that 2,000,000 children are victims of sexual exploitation and 1.2 million children are trafficked annually for the purpose of exploitation in the world (www.unicef.com).
- The international demand for children in the sex trade is high because of the (mistaken) belief that children are less likely to be infected by HIV/AIDS.
- Only three U.S. travel companies have signed the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Commercial Exploitation in Travel and Tourism" yet an estimated one-fourth of international child sex tourists are Americans.

North America is faced with increasing levels of child prostitution, trafficking, and child pornography. North American groups (EPCAT) are working to fight child commercial sexual exploitation through public awareness raising of the issue and through political lobbying and legal reform campaigns. They are focusing on changing the region's role as a "receiver" of trafficked children and as a major "sender" of sex tourism exploiters. Local groups also face the challenge of fighting internet child pornography, as the region is a major producer and distributor of these exploitative images.

So what can we do?

First of all, West Jersey Presbytery passed an overture in June 2006 and sent it on to the

General Assembly concerning our concern for children and youth and our commitment to put our faith into action. West Jersey will be sending letters to our politicians encouraging the passage of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by the United States*. We also will be raising this issue through the Presbytery and offering ways to help your youth avoid such pitfalls as internet pornography and to pressure travel agencies to stop offering charter flights for the purpose of sexual trafficking.

* The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a document created to ensure that children around the world will grow and develop to their fullest potential. With its 54 articles, its fundamental goal is to protect children from abuse and maltreatment when they are most vulnerable in their early years of life. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) sets out what governments and individuals should do to promote and protect the indivisible human rights of all children. More information on the CRC, including the full text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, is available on UNICEF's website: <http://www.unicef.org>.

SUDAN: "PEACE, PEACE, ...BUT THERE IS NO PEACE"

by Glenn W. Kindle

A peace treaty has been signed by the government of Sudan and by most of the rebel factions. However, there is still no peace. The terror goes on as before. You may recall that the African Union

has sent troops to Sudan, but they are too few to preserve order. Also, these troops are slated to leave Sudan by the end of September. Who is to replace them? U.S. troops are already overly extended. NATO is primarily concerned with western Europe, and it doesn't go around the world putting out fires. The U.N. can take action only if approved by the five permanent members of the Security Council. These five nations have agreed very rarely since the founding of the U.N.

Several U.S. senators, including Senator Frank Lautenberg, have sponsored Senate Resolution 531, which urges President Bush to appoint a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan. This is not a cure-all, but it is a step in the right direction. You can write to the President, senators and representatives by going to congress.org. In return for putting in your zip code you will be given the names of the two senators from your state and the representatives from your district. You can email any of them by clicking on the name. You can email President Bush the same way. Please email as follows: (1) to Senator Lautenberg commending him for being a sponsor of Senate Resolution 531; (2) to Senator Menendez urging him to support Resolution 531 and, (3) to President Bush urging him to follow the recommendation of Resolution 531. This is not a partisan issue. There is no Democratic way or Republican way of addressing this situation. There are two sides. There are those who hear the cries of the Sudanese people and those who do not.

WEST JERSEY PRESBYTERY

HEALTH FAIR VINELAND MEMORIAL



The Outreach Committee of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Vineland recently held a Free Health Fair to reach out into the community and help people to find the services they might need. Ten agencies provided representatives to answer questions, perform medical tests and hand out information. Among the agencies represented were: NJ Commission for the Blind, NJ Family Care, Southwest Drug and Alcohol Counsel, Senior Care of NJ, and the Vineland Health Department.

The church provided refreshments, a children's exercise tent and a church information table set up to address spiritual health issues. For information on how to host a similar event in your area, contact Pastor Brian Witherspoon (mpcpastor@verizon.net).

NEWS & NOTES

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Articles for **NEWS & NOTES** are
welcome from churches, committees, and
individuals.
Articles should be relevant
to the life and mission of
The Presbytery of West Jersey.
Editors. Judy Grantham & Pam Cosans

CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

65 years: Rev. Donald Killian,
retired.

60 years: Rev. Richard Craven,
retired

50 years: Rev. Daniel Barfield,
retired.

45 years: Rev. Robert Reader,
Cold Springs Church.

35 year: Rev. Gregg Meister,
teacher.

30 years:

Rev. Richard Carter,
Faith Church, Medford
Rev. John Shedwick,
Woodbury Heights Church
Rev. Paul Tuttle,
Union Church, Carneys Point

25 years:

Rev William Getman,
Haddonfield
Rev. John Scotland,
Community Church,
Brigantine

20 years:

Rev. Wanda Sevey,
Rev. Floyd White,
Woodland Avenue, Camden

15 years:

Rev. Patricia Epprecht,
Christ Church, Marlton

10 years:

Rev. Debra Cerra,
Calvary Church, Riverton

5 years:

Rev. Lori Bass-Riley,
Christ Church, Gibbstown
Rev. Mark Peake,
Pleasantville

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

In every church, of every faith, we can be certain that victims, survivors and abusers are present at worship. Some are listening for words of recognition, understanding, comfort and healing. They need to know that the church stands with them and wants them to choose life. Others need to hear that they must turn away from violence, repent and seek to make reparations to those they have violated.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and the Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN) has worship, educational and advocacy aids available free to help congregations break the silence about domestic violence and be of help in the process of healing. Visit www.pcusa.org/phew/padvn to access new and previous years' resources to use in your church..

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

September 19, 2006 – 7:00 PM

Ocean City,

November 21, 2006 – 4:00 PM

Atlantic City, First, (dinner and communion).

January 16, 2007 – 7:00 PM

Salem.

March 20, 2007 - 4:00 PM

**OPEN*. (dinner and communion)

May 15, 2007 – 7:00 PM Cherry Hill.

June 19, 2007 – 7:00 PM

Blackwood

September 18, 2007 - 7:00 PM

**OPEN*

November 20, 2007 - 4:00 PM.

**OPEN* (dinner and communion)

*If your church is interested in hosting a meeting, please contact the Stated Clerk's office.