

Presbyterian Connections

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of Pueblo

Synod of the Rocky Mountains * Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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The Presbytery of Pueblo believes we are called as the body of Christ to...

**Learn to live together,
Live to love each other,
Love to serve God and neighbors.**



Weavings

*God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.
1Corinthians 1:27*

How incredible that God came to us in the weakness and vulnerability of a baby! The All-Powerful God became the all-dependent babe on his mother's milk, his father's protection, the world's goodness. It's as though with the baby's first cry of life, God is announcing the power of weakness to overcome the illusion of strength proclaimed by the powerful. Our missionaries in the Middle East, Marthame and Elizabeth Sanders, picked up on this theme in a letter they wrote to their Palestinian Christian colleagues:

The Israelis are strong and they use the power of the strong – military weaponry, tanks, airplanes, helicopters, bulldozers, soldiers, snipers, armed civilians, closures, curfews, demonization, manipulation, propaganda, religious fervor. The Palestinians are weak economically, politically, and militarily, but they have resorted to the violent methods of the strong. Doing so, they can never win and achieve justice and peace, because the strong will destroy the weak when they use the same means.

We cannot help but be reminded of the battles for desegregation in America, or the struggles against Apartheid in South Africa. What won? What worked against the institutionalized, violent, and powerful forces of segregation and

racism? It was the non-violent, peaceful movement. It was the power of the weak.

The Palestinians – and those in Israel and around the world who will stand with them against the injustices they face – must first embrace their weakness and then manifest the power that is inherent in it. The power of the weak will defeat the power of the strong every time. And in its victory, all of the violence, power, terror, brutality, and cruelty will be redeemed. This is the message of the cross – that the one who accepted its fate is the one who gave redemption to those who sought to destroy him.

Friends, help us to fight our battles here with the power of the weak. We shall celebrate its perfected victory together.

May the gentleness and grace of Christ and the peace and joy of Christmas be weak enough to overcome all the powers of fear and anger and aggression that haunt our lives and diminish our hope. And may the peace of Christ be with you in this season in a persistent and present way.

Peace & Joy,

Gary Weaver,
Executive Presbyter

TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- We pray for **Lois Boyd**, wife of CLP **Jim Boyd** (San Pablo) and their family following the death of Lois' sister, **Leola Walker**, last month.
- We pray for **CLP Sam Madrid** (Aguilar), who has had some heart trouble.
- We also pray for **Elder Ed Devine** (First Presbyterian Church, Pueblo and NCD Moderator) as he also faces some health concerns.
- We say goodbye to the **Rev. Ray Lincoln** as he retires from service at the Ecumenical Church of Pueblo West in February.
- Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for January and February, 2005 are as follows:

Jan. 2 – San Pablo Presbyterian Church.

Jan. 9 – United Presbyterian Church in Antonito.

Jan. 16 – Committee on Ministry.

Jan. 23 – Community Presbyterian Church in Aguilar.

Jan. 30 – First Presbyterian Church in Las Animas.

Feb. 6 – Mission & Interpretation Committee.

Feb. 13 – Ivywild Community Church, Colo.Springs.

Feb. 20 – Mountain States Wee Kirk.

Feb. 27 – the Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll, missionary & teacher in Guatemala.

(The full 2005 Weekly Prayer Calendar is now online at www.pueblopresbytery.org. For a hard copy, please contact the presbytery office.)

Name That Christmas Carol!

1. Bleached Yule
2. Castaneous-colored Seed Vesicated in a Conflagration
3. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors
4. Righteous Darkness
5. Arrival Time 2400 hrs - Weather Cloudless
6. Loyal Followers Advance
7. Far Off in a Feeder
8. Array the Corridor
9. Bantam Male Percussionist
10. Monarchial Triad
11. Nocturnal Noiselessness
12. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Chevaliers
13. Red Man En Route to Borough
14. Frozen Precipitation Commence
15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
16. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Probiscis
17. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant
18. Delight for this Planet
19. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
20. The Dozen Festive 24 Hour Intervals

Answers on Page 6

A letter from Guatemala:

Sisters and brothers,

It is with sadness that I report to you that CEDEPCA has been victimized on two occasions recently. On November 9, one of the CEDEPCA cars was stolen in broad daylight from in front of our office. On Friday, Dec. 3, the office was broken into early in the morning and 10 computers were stolen. Not only does CEDEPCA now face having to raise funds to replace the lost equipment, hours and hours of staff time will be needed to reconstruct the information that was lost.

Please pray for the members of the CEDEPCA team.

Karla

The Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll serves as professor of history, mission and religions for the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), an interdenominational institution located in San José, Costa Rica, that has been training Latin American Protestant leaders for over 80 years. The UBL asked Karla to serve at its branch in Guatemala, which is administered by the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA).

✿ **Please contact Karla at kakjtb@cabledx.tv if you or your church can help CEDEPCA with their financial needs due to these thefts.** Please call the presbytery office at (719)542-1013 or (800)662-1013 for other contact information.

The Presbytery's website, www.pueblopresbytery.org, now has this and earlier newsletters ready to download to your Adobe Acrobat® reader.



Just click on *News* on the Home Page, then select the issue you'd like to download. And check out the rest of the site for useful information and resources.

From the Resource Center

Many of you have recently elected Elders and Deacons to serve your congregation and this Presbytery, and requests have been coming in to the Resource Center for ideas and resources to use for Officer Training sessions. Therefore, the Resource Center column in this issue is devoted to suggestions for your use toward equipping and training the spiritual leaders in your churches:

Books:

"What It Means To Be Presbyterian"

Book Table Display Program

Here is a complete list of books included with this series:

[A Brief History of the Presbyterians](#)
[Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt](#)
[Calvin for Armchair Theologians](#)
[Definitive Guidance](#)
[Faith in Words](#)
[How To Spell Presbyterian](#)
[Living Water](#)
[Presbyterian Beliefs](#)
[Presbyterian Creeds](#)
[Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers](#)
[To Be A Presbyterian](#)
[This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterians Affirm](#)
[Witness Without Parallel: Eight Biblical Texts That Make Us Presbyterian](#)

Other Books:

[The Presbyterian Elder](#)
[The Presbyterian Deacon](#)
[The Presbyterian Trustee](#)
[The Ordination Questions, A Study for Church Officers](#)
[God Views, The Convictions That Drive Us and Divide Us](#)

Notebook/Manual:

[Called To serve, A Workbook for Training Nominating Committees and Church Officers](#)

Videotapes:

"So, You've Been Elected a Deacon" with study guide
"So, You've Been Elected an Elder" with study guide

Series of Videotapes: *"The Presbyterians"*:

Part I: The People
 Part II: History & Tradition
 Part III: Belief & Doctrine
 Part IV: Polity
 Part V: Vision & Mission

Series of Videotapes: *"The Distinctiveness of Presbyterianism"* (Dr. Isabel Rogers) Set of 8 videotapes & study guides discussing: History, Faith & Theology, Relating Faith & Society, and Ecumenism

Videotape: *"The Great Ends of the Church"* with study guide

Videotape: *"Who Are We Presbyterians"* with study guide

Videotape: *"Who is Jesus Christ?"* (from "Seeking Peace, Unity, and Purity Series – General Assembly's Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity)

Videotape: *"The Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith"* (Part I)

"Touring the Historical Creeds and Confessions" (Part II) Led by Rev. Dr. Jack Rogers

Books, Manuals, & Videotape:

"Worship-ful Work" Resources by Rev. Charles Olsen. Includes a Book, [Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leadership](#), a Video: *"Worship-ful Work --- New Life for Church Boards"*

Manuals for Church Officer Training and Enrichment

Many other resources are also available for your leaders' spiritual growth, formation and enrichment.

If you are interested in previewing or using any of these materials, please contact Marti Sutterlin at the Presbytery Office: (719) 542-1013 or by email: jsutterlin1@juno.com

Marti Sutterlin
 Resource Center Training Consultant

THE PRESBYTERY IN MISSION

COFFEE & TEA AVAILABLE AT THE FEB. 2 PRESBYTERY MEETING

Equal Exchange Coffee and Tea will be sold at the Stated Meeting of Pueblo Presbytery at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pueblo on February 2, 2005.

Income from the sales goes into an account to help with travel expenses between Nicaragua and our presbytery, specifically for our Mission Partners at CEPAD.

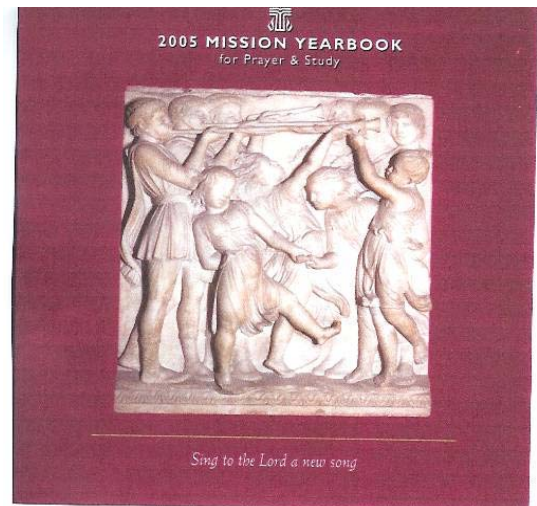
The prices are:

- \$8.00 – Regular Coffee (3 varieties)
- \$9.00 – Decaffeinated Coffee
- \$5.00 – Tea (2 varieties)

These are also available at anytime through the Presbytery office.

The Presbytery office has extra 2005 Mission Yearbooks for Prayer and Study!

These books contain a wealth of information, prayer guides, and devotions for the whole year - suitable for individuals, classes, study groups and families. Contact the Presbytery office for your/your group's copies, available at-cost at only \$5.00 apiece.



Don't Forget the "Souper Bowl of Caring" Offering Sunday, February 6, 2005

Join with thousands of youth and congregations throughout the country to alleviate hunger in your own community and throughout the world.

Every dollar dropped in a soup pot helps people in need feel the power of God's love.

Check out www.souperbowl.org for more information about the offering in your church!

Presbyterians Today

Coming in the January/February Issue

How to recognize God's call

A burning bush stopped Moses in his tracks. A blinding light knocked Saul to the ground on the road to Damascus. But how do the rest of us know when God has a task for us to do? In "Forget burning bushes," the cover article in the January/February issue, writers Eddy Hall and Gary Morsch examine the ways God calls all Christians – not just clergy – to ministry. Morsch, from Olathe, Kan., is a physician and president of a global humanitarian organization, Heart to Heart International. Hall, from Goessel, Kan., is senior consultant with Living Stones Associates, equipping churches for healthy growth.

Also in the January/February issue is "In praise of partnerships," an in-depth look at what has become a growing edge of Presbyterian mission. Pat Cole, associate for communications in the PCUSA Worldwide Ministries Division, describes how more and more U.S. Presbyterians are finding their faith enriched through links with Christian groups in other nations.

In "Meeting God in the media" Teresa Blythe and Dan Wolpert explain how watching films and TV shows can be a spiritual experience – if we cultivate eyes to see and ears to hear what God is saying. Blythe and Wolpert are authors of Meeting God in Virtual Reality (Abingdon, 2004), and Blythe edits the Critics' Corner department of *Presbyterians Today*.

Presbyterians Today gets a makeover! Design changes, at least a year in the planning, will be unveiled in the January/February issue of *Presbyterians Today*. The new look is fresh, contemporary and reader friendly, and will highlight articles related to mission priorities of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Also making its debut in this first issue of 2005 is a new column by PCUSA leaders. The first column features reflections by Rick Ufford-Chase, moderator of the 2004th General Assembly.

COMING IN MARCH: Women trailblazers

In today's Presbyterian Church women are filling pulpits, flocking to seminaries and holding high-visibility leadership positions. But it wasn't always this way. Women who have taken risks and broken down barriers to answer God's call tell their stories in the March issue of *Presbyterians Today*.

For more information contact: Eva Stimson, Editor
1-888-728-7228, ext. 5635 or estimson@ctr.pcusa.org
<mailto:estimson@ctr.pcusa.org>

Holiday Wishes, Attorney-At-Law Style

submitted by Jon Sutterlin, Esquire

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral celebration of the winter solstice holiday.

Feel free to celebrate within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice or the secular persuasion with which you are most comfortable or any other tradition which might best appeal to you.

I hope you have a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2005. However, we are not without regard for and recognition of the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great, which is not to imply America is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only America in the western hemisphere.

All wishes emanating from this household go forth without regard to race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, sexual orientation or choice of computer platform of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting you are accepting these terms: this greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal, is freely transferable providing there are no alterations to the original message and implies no promise by this wisher. It is naturally void where prohibited by law.

These charitable thoughts and good wishes are warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings, for a period of one year or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first. Said warranty is limited to replacement of these wishes or issuance of an entirely new wish with the wishee retaining full power to decide which application of the warranty applies in the event of an unforeseen manufacturer's defect.

Any similarity between this wisher and others, whether living or dead, is purely coincidental.



Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday June 5, 2005

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the
Ordination of Women Elders - 1930-2005

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is set aside to honor women who contribute their gifts and talents to the church and community. In 2005 the celebration focuses on women's call and ordination to leadership in the PC(USA). As we celebrate these women, named and unnamed, "we are reminded of God's eternal call to us to do justice and make peace here and in the whole world that all of our sisters and brothers, God's daughters and sons, might sing and prophesy to the good news of the coming reign of love and justice and peace."*

In 2005, the Presbyterian Planning Calendar designates June 5 as *Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday*. Celebrate the Gifts of Women is often associated with International Women's Day, March 8, and many congregations choose the Sunday closest to that date for their annual celebration. However, this resource may be used whenever your congregation or women's group chooses to celebrate women.

The *Celebrate the Gifts of Women* resource is available each year in the November/December issue of *Horizons*, the magazine and Bible study of Presbyterian Women, and in the January 2005 InfoPak, to help you plan your celebration. The resource provides:

- Prayers and litanies
- suggested sermon emphases
- Suggested hymns
- Program suggestions
- Additional resources.

The Celebrate the gifts of Women resource is for pastors, worship planners and committees, Christian educators, moderators of Presbyterian Women, peacemaking and justice committees, and campus ministers.

(* From the 2005 Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource written by June Ramage Rogers.)

3rd Annual Pastor's retreat

At Highland Camp & Retreat Center
Allenspark, Colorado

April 19-21, 2005

Featured Speaker:

Kathryn L. Roberts

**Associate Professor of Old Testament
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Professor Kathryn Roberts joined the faculty of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the fall of 1998 after having previously taught for four years at Rutgers University. Dr. Roberts' research and writing interests are in the area of the worship and religion of ancient Israel. She is presently combining these areas of study with her experience in the church and in leading worship in a book on the question of the motivations and theological issues surrounding the reform of Christian worship.

The retreat begins at noon on the 19th with lunch, ending after lunch on the 21st. There will be several choices for free time: You will have an opportunity to talk with Dr. Roberts at round table discussion ; listen to book reviews on the newest and latest publications; peruse the book store; worship together; plus other planned activities for your relaxation. Or you may just want to enjoy the beauty of Highlands, whether by hiking or sitting on the deck!

Brochures will be available in January 2005.

Presbytery Calendar of Events

For information on any of these events, contact the Presbytery office.
(* - indicates information can be found in this newsletter)

12/24 – Christmas Eve, Presbytery office closed
 12/25 – Merry Christmas!
 1/2/05 – Taize Worship Service, First United Methodist, Pueblo 7 pm
 1/5 – Congregational Services, La Renaissance/Pueblo, 11 am
 1/11 – Colorado Springs Pastors lunch, Caspian Café, 11:30 am
 1/12 – Church in Society, First/Pueblo, 4 pm
 1/17 – Martin Luther King Jr.s' Birthday, Presbytery office closed
 1/18 – Committee on Ministry, First/Pueblo, 1 pm
 1/18 – Christian Education, First/Pueblo, 4 pm
 1/19 – Pueblo/Canon City pastors lunch, Rojas, Pueblo West, noon
 1/30 – Installation of Rev.s Harold & Cris Russell, Alamosa, 3 pm
 2/1 – Preparation for Ministry, First/Pueblo, 1 pm
 2/2 – Presbytery Meeting, Westminster, registration 8:30 am
 2/3 – Retired Ministers lunch, Mt. View/Colo. Springs
 2/6 – Taize Worship Service, First Presbyterian/Pueblo, 7 pm
 2/23 – Mission & Interpretation, Westminster, 10 am

Answers to Name That Christmas Carol!:

1. White Christmas
2. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
3. All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth
4. O Holy Night
5. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
6. O Come, All Ye Faithful
7. Away in a Manger
8. Deck the Hall
9. Little Drummer Boy
10. We Three Kings
11. Silent Night
12. God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen
13. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
14. Let it Snow
15. Go, Tell It on the Mountain
16. Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer
17. What Child is This?
18. Joy to the World
19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
20. The Twelve Days of Christmas

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