

TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- Please remember in your prayers:
 - **The Rev. Brian Reeves** (pastor at the La Jara church) and his family in the death of his father in April, and
 - **The Rev. David Bribach** (member at large) and his family in the death of his father in May.
 - **The Rev. Alan Deuel** (pastor at Monument) and his wife, **Nancy**, as they move to San Diego where Alan has accepted a Call to Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church.
 - Our Commissioners to the 217th General Assembly in Birmingham, AL this June 15-22: **The Rev. Quinn Fox** (Associate Pastor, First, Colo. Springs), **Elder Debbie Buckman** (Gateway), and Youth Advisory Delegate **Christy Fisher** (Canon City).
- Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for June through August, 2006 are:
 - June 4 – Presbytery's New Church Development Committee.
 - June 11 –La Puente Home in Alamosa.
 - June 18 –Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly.
 - June 25 –Korean First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs.
 - July 2 –Presbytery's Church in Society Committee.
 - July 9 –First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs.
 - July 16 –Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
 - July 23 –United Presbyterian Church in Trinidad.
 - July 30 –First Presbyterian Church in Lamar.
 - August 6 –Presbytery's Congregational Services Committee.
 - August 13 –Gateway Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs.
 - August 20 –Westside Cares in Colorado Springs.
 - August 27 –First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo.

(The Prayer Calendar can also be accessed online at our website at <http://www.pueblopresbytery.org/prayercalendar.htm>)

Presbytery Calendar

(subject to changes/additions)

- June:** 3 – Comm.Lay Pastors Training Event, 9 am, First/Pueblo
13 – Committee on Ministry, 11:30 am, Presbytery office
15-22 – 217th General Assembly, Birmingham, AL
18-24 – Jr./Mid-Hi Camp, Horn Creek
28 – Congregational Services/Council joint meeting, 11 am, La Renaissance restaurant, Pueblo
29 – Spirituality Group (call for location and time)
-
- July:** 3-4 – Independence Day holiday, Presbytery office closed
5 – Church in Society, 1:30 pm (call for location)
7 – Retired Pastors & Spouses luncheon, noon, Faith/Colo. Sp.
11 – Pueblo/Canon City pastors lunch, noon, DC's/Pueblo
18 – Preparation for Ministry, 11 am, First/Pueblo
19 – Presbytery meeting, Alamosa Presbyterian Church
-
- August:** 18 – Mission & Interpretation, 1 pm, Westminster/Pueblo
27 – First Church, Monte Vista, 125th Anniversary celebration

Presbyterian Connections

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of Pueblo

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

803 W. 4th St., Ste. H, Pueblo, CO 81003 * Phone (719)542-1013/(800)662-1013 * FAX (719)545-7956

Website: www.PuebloPresbytery.org * E-mail: pueblpby@qwest.net

Second Quarter, 2006



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

I'm always a little amazed when Presbyterians unanimously agree on something. But that's what happened at the last Presbytery meeting, April 22nd. The Presbytery decided to celebrate their 125th Anniversary by focusing on **MISSION**. First we heard a report from most of our churches about some exciting mission their congregations are doing. Then we approved of a **125th Anniversary Mission Fund Campaign** with a target goal of **\$125,000**. The total amount will be divided between **Local Mission** (\$50,000), **National Mission** (\$50,000) and **Global Mission** (\$25,000). Donors have the option of contributing to the Anniversary Fund or designating within the Fund a specific mission. The **Local Mission** grants will go toward the "Pueblo Hispanic Ministry Initiative" and the "Falcon New Church Development Building Campaign of Grace Community Church." The **National Mission** grant will go toward rebuilding in Louisiana and Mississippi, including a Presbytery mission trip within the next 12 months. The **Global Mission** grant will go toward our partnership with C.E.P.A.D. in Nicaragua, including the costs for a representative from C.E.P.A.D. to join our Mission Team to the southern states and to send a Mission Team to Nicaragua within the next year.

We are asking each congregation to do three things in support of this 125th Anniversary Mission Fund:

1. To remember the Presbytery of Pueblo and the 125th Anniversary Mission Fund in your prayers over the next 12 months.
2. Send out brochures and interpretive materials generated by the Presbytery with a cover letter from the pastor and session soliciting individual gifts.
3. To designate a Sunday in the Fall to collect a Special Offering for the Presbytery of Pueblo's 125th Anniversary Mission Fund.

We hope we experience the same unanimous excitement and support in the "pews" that we experienced at presbytery. We do agree on something very important: to fulfill Christ's command to go into the world and share the good news of Christ's love and justice with our hands and our hearts, with our voice and our involvements. Let us continue to focus on this mission started by Sheldon Jackson over 125 years ago!

Peace & Joy,
Gary Weaver,
Executive Presbyter

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

At the Stated Meeting on April 22, 2006, the Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo. After enjoying refreshments and fellowship, a service of worship was held, led by MWS Gary Gardner (Trinidad), MWS Suzanne D'Spain (First, Pueblo), CLP Nancy Smith (First, Pueblo), Elder Nancy Maffett (First, Colo. Springs), Elder Mary Lou Nelson (Canon City), and Deacon Renee Segers (Trinidad).

In celebration of the Presbytery's 125th Anniversary, representatives of most of the Presbytery's 28 churches and the new church development gave their dates of organization. They also each gave a "Moment for Mission," focusing on a particular mission project of their respective congregations.

The business portion of the meeting included the following:

- The "125th Anniversary Fund" was presented and unanimously approved. (See the "Weavings" article for more information.)
- Candidate for Ministry Hilary Downs was examined and approved as ready for ordination. She will be installed as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Salida following her ordination this summer.
- George Qualley was accepted as a new Inquirer for ministry by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- An appeal was made to pray for and give to the Pueblo Hispanic Ministry, which will run out of funds within the next two months.

Following lunch, the Presbytery Mission Study Task Force ("Blue Tigers") reported on the results of their questionnaire and led a discussion on the future and possible restructuring of the Presbytery.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance supports earthquake relief

The office of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is following the situation in Indonesia following the May 27 powerful earthquake in the country's Central Java province.

Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta living in Yogyakarta are okay. Partners in Indonesia have been contacted to express our concern and to be assured of their safety. PDA has responded with \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds towards the initial \$1.5 million appeal.

Partners request our prayers for both survivors and humanitarian workers. Funds are needed to support this response.

If you would like to give by check, make your check out to PC(USA) and please print "**Southeast Asia – DR000146**" in the memo area. Send your check to: PC(USA), Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

You may also respond to this and other disaster assistance needs online. Log on to www.pcusa.org/pda and follow the instructions.

Preliminary Top 10 List

Issues Before the 217th General Assembly

1. Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church – The Theological Task Force appointed by the 213th General Assembly will bring its report and recommendations. This report focuses on the basis of our covenant together as Presbyterian Christians and on how we can move forward as a church honoring our diversity and being faithful to the gospel.
2. Justice and Peace in the Middle East – There will be a number of overtures and recommendations following up on the actions of the 216th General Assembly for justice in Israel/Palestine and new proposals for positive investments for peace in the region.
3. Building Bridges in the Presbyterian Family – This assembly will be held concurrently with the assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America as we together celebrate the 300th anniversary of American Presbyterianism and seek ways to cooperate together in mission.
4. Significant Anniversaries for Women in Ministry – 2006 is the 75th anniversary of the ordination of women as elders and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women as ministers in PCUSA, and this will be a significant focus at the assembly.
5. Financial and Organizational Concerns – The growing financial crisis at all levels of the church will be addressed with proposed budget reductions and new structures to carry out the work of the church at the General Assembly level.
6. Confirmation of a New Executive Director of the General Assembly Council – The assembly will express appreciation to John Detterick as he retires from service as the GAC Executive Director and take action to confirm the election of his successor.
7. Economic Justice Concerns – Proposals will be coming from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches to address concerns of poverty and economic justice. Major proposals will be coming on usury, social insurance for older adults, and global economic justice.
8. Constitutional Revision – Proposals will be before the assembly to move us toward a more foundational and flexible constitution to serve a multicultural church and to address a number of polity issues of concern to various segments of the church.
9. Agency and Permanent Committee Reviews – The assembly will act on recommendations of review committees and self studies for the following groups: Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation, Advisory Committees on the Constitution and on Litigation, Committee on Representation, and Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns.
10. G-6.0106b – There are already a substantial number of overtures calling for the removal of the Constitutional provision limiting ordination to those who practice "fidelity in marriage or chastity in singleness."

To find out what decisions are made at G.A. this June, log on to www.pcusa.org/ga217, call PresbyTel at 800-872-3283, or order a bulletin-size insert, *Assembly in Brief*, through Presbyterian Distribution Service.