

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

During 2005-2006, the Presbytery of Pueblo will be exploring three important questions: 1) What in the world are we doing as a presbytery? 2) What do we believe? and 3) What is our mission to which God is calling us? The first question will be answered in part by the powerpoint presentation the Congregational Services Committee is producing. We hope to present it at the July 20th meeting of presbytery and then make copies available to every church. Our target audience is the person in the pew without a clue about the purpose and program of the presbytery.

We are addressing the second question with the formation of Presbytery's Faith Reflection Group of 12 people representing a wide diversity of theological perspective and viewpoints. This group of clergy and lay folks have committed to meeting monthly for the next twelve months in order to explore such themes as:

Who is Jesus Christ? How do we interpret scripture? What do we believe about the "peace, unity and purity of the church?" What do we believe about Christian vocation? We will explore these important themes through a process of prayerful discernment and dialogue trusting the Holy Spirit to inspire our hearts and inform our minds. From time to time we will report to Presbytery our experience.

The last question is, perhaps, the most challenging and certainly needs your input and involvement. The Presbytery has commissioned a Mission Study Task Force of six people from the four area clusters of churches to lead us in a presbytery-wide survey of determining the purpose, priorities and programs we believe God is calling us to be and do in the 21st Century. Every Presbyterian in our presbytery will have the opportunity of expressing his or her vision of the presbytery God wants for us.

After all, WE are the presbytery. WE are part of the Body of Christ seeking to be faithful to God in a world hungry for truth, peace, justice and love. May God guide us as we reflect together on who we are as the Presbytery of Pueblo!

Peace & Joy,
Gary R. Weaver
Executive Presbyter

TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- We pray for the following friends, recovering from surgeries and medical concerns:
 - * the **Rev. Bill Tibert** (Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church)
 - * the **Rev. Ruth Lundeen Miller** (At large)
 - * **CLP Sam Madrid** (pastor, Aguilar Presbyterian Church)
 - * **Joan Mace** (wife of the Rev. Bob Mace, Hon. Retired)
- Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for May and June, 2005 are as follows:
 - May 2 – First Presbyterian Church in Salida*
 - May 9 – Ecumenical Social Ministries, Colo. Sp.*
 - May 16 – United Presbyterian Church, Canon City*
 - May 23 – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Colo. Sp.*
 - May 30 – CEPAD, our mission partner in Nicaragua*
 - June 6 – New Church Development Committee*
 - June 13 – La Puente Home in Alamosa*
 - June 20 – Evangelism & Church Development Committee*
 - June 27 – Korean First Presbyterian Church, Colo. Sp.*

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

The Presbytery of Pueblo held its Stated Meeting on April 23, 2005 at First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo. Following registration and fellowship, a worship service was held, led by the Rev. Nancy Fox and Elder Scott Hiemstra (Covenant).

The business portion of the meeting included the following:

- Welcome to the Rev. Jim Singleton, the new Co-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, and to the Rev. Bob Mitchell, Interim Pastor for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pueblo
- Inquirer Andrew Tibert was examined by the Presbytery, and was moved to the status of Candidate for Ministry
- Candidate Jeff Kintner, having received a Call from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, was examined by the Presbytery, which found him ready for ordination. He will be ordained and installed as Associate Pastor on July 10.

- Presbytery accepted the Congregational vote of the Kirkwood Memorial Presbyterian Church in Penrose to reluctantly dissolve the pastoral relationship between the church and the Rev. David Bribach. Presbytery expressed its appreciation for his 12 years of service as Stated Supply at Kirkwood.
 - Presbytery declined to endorse an overture from First Presbyterian Church of Pueblo, regarding Hebrew and Greek language requirements for seminary students.
 - The New Church Development committee has purchased 35 acres in the Falcon area as the future site for Grace Community Church.
 - The Presbytery's newly-formed Mission Study Task Force was named, and a Commissioning Service was held for them. They are the Rev. Jim Smith, the Rev. Brad Munroe, the Rev. Cristabelle Russell, Elder Allen Schwab, Elder Shirley Skirvin, and Elder Bill Elder.
 - The new Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions, Rick Young, offered his services to churches and members.
 - At her final Presbytery meeting, the Presbytery's Resource Training Consultant, Elder Marti Sutterlin, was given gifts and a standing ovation for her nine years of ministry to the churches and committees. She will be resigning her position in June to pursue her interests in international affairs and missions.
 - Following lunch, two workshops were held: Carolyn Brown led church representatives in ways to create and maintain an effective Sexual Misconduct Policy; and the Evangelism & Church Development committee sponsored a panel discussion of several churches' representatives highlighting different methods of community outreach.
- The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Pueblo will be held on July 20 at Grace Community Church in Falcon, Colo.

From the Resource Center

NEW VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL RESOURCES

“Around the World in 5 Days: Living as Forgiven Children of God” (PCUSA VCS Curriculum)

Children will take an “imaginary train ride” through Taiwan, Northern Ireland, Brazil, Zimbabwe, and Nepal. Children ages 4 through Grade 5 will explore the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). With the help of mission workers from around the world and through activities designed to educate and enrich, participants will discover what it means to live as Christians, loved and forgiven by God.

The Curriculum includes: Bible stories; letters written by mission workers; crafts, games, & foods common to the customs and cultures of the 5 countries; and a new music CD created especially for this VBS

This VBS curriculum is available to preview in our Resource Center now. For your own copy of the material, or for more information and descriptions, visit www.pcusa.org/curriculum or call (800) 524-2612 and ask for item #624900.

ALSO AVAILABLE: Free Downloads of supplemental materials!

Log on to www.pcusa.org/webelieve/vbs and download:

- ❖ passports
- ❖ invitations
- ❖ tickets
- ❖ thank-you cards
- ❖ clip art
- ❖ overview chart

All-Church Summer – *We Believe* God’s Call: Our Vocation

The summer quarter offers an exciting intergenerational approach to learning. Students – preschool through adult – study together as they participate in active learning experiences. Adults, youth, and children can strengthen their ties in the community of faith as they learn together. Adults experience the eagerness of children; youth are given opportunities to mento and lead; and children gain the perspective of faith across a lifetime. The All-Church Summer *We Believe* weekly sessions are an opportunity to *be* the church as you study the call of the church. The 2005 *Children’s Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* will be an integral part of this year’s All-Church Summer materials.

Available now in our Resource Center

NEW RESOURCES

❖ **“Jesus and the Hip-Hop Generation”**

Hip-hop culture has become a major influence on young adults inside and outside the Christian church. Is it possible for young adult to maintain the integrity of the Christian walk while identifying with a culture that expresses the rhythm of their generation? Should Christians sacrifice culture in order to live pure and holy lives, or is it possible to extract something spiritual from this emerging worldview? How much should we allow culture to influence our worship styles, our choice of clothing, our morals and values, and our economic perspectives? How would Jesus interact with the hip-hop generation? Participants will be encouraged to listen and evaluate hip-hop music and explore its spiritual values. They will also explore the commercial industries spawned by hip-hop music and videos. In small groups, they will be encouraged to compare biblical perspectives of economics with the material values promoted through hip-hop. Available to you now through our Resource Center.

❖ **“Professing our Faith: a Confirmation Curriculum”**

This confirmation curriculum presents lessons that teach youth the biblical foundations and theology of the Apostles’ Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord’s Prayer. Additionally, *Professing Our Faith* invites young people to explore the meaning of their baptism and their participation at the Lord’s Table, and to learn about church polity, stewardship, spiritual practices, worship, and mission.

The Leader’s Guide is designed with two different formats. The 35-session format includes session for use at Christmas and Easter, and is designed for use during the school year. A second format offers eight sessions that can be used as a stand-alone confirmation program or in conjunction with the longer program.

The Leader’s Pack includes a Leader’s guide, a 35-session Student’s Notebook, an 8-session Student’s Notebook, the *Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*, and a set of confirmation certificates.

The Resource Center has one copy of the “Preview Booklet” and will receive a copy of the entire curriculum in July.

--Marti Sutterlin, Resource Training Consultant

The Presbytery in Mission

A Plea for Help ~

Sara and I received a letter from Damaris Obando Orozco of Jacinto Vaca, Nicaragua. Damaris, 17 years of age, is Pastor Orozco's daughter who welcomed our Presbytery team to Jacinto Vaca, prepared our food and did our laundry. She became ill this past summer and has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Her family has spent all of their resources buying medication and is asking for assistance in purchasing needed medication.

We have established an electronic transfer account between CEPAD, our Nicaraguan Partners, and Pueblo Presbytery for such occasions. A small amount from a few of us will add up to a lot. Your check, payable to "Pueblo Presbytery" and with "Damaris medical fund" on the memo line, will be placed into this account and sent to CEPAD for Damaris' medical needs.

The Presbytery address is
Pueblo Presbytery,
803 W. 4th Street, Suite H
Pueblo, CO, 81003

Any questions, email or call me... & thanks!

Rusty Edmondson
719-378-2907 h
719-588-5756 c
zapata@ctelco.net

Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering Grant

CEPAD of Nicaragua, our Presbytery's international partner, has received the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering 2005-2006 grant of \$20,204. Pueblo Presbytery voted to send a letter of support for this grant application at their October Meeting.

The work will be focused around the community of San Jose' de los Remates, about 90 Km. from Managua. Some of the problems faced in this community are a devastated coffee market, drought, recurring natural disasters and contaminated water. The male population is leaving this area seeking work. This male flight has left 39% of the homes headed by women. The Thank Offering grant will train 30 women to become trainers, leaders and coordinators utilizing CEPAD's established Patio Project, Economic, and Continuing Educational programs. Also, 34 youth (male & female) trainees, a 5 member municipal commission and a 55 member community development network will be established and participate in this project.

A CEPAD director, Evenor Jerez, said that this community "is very happy and grateful to receive this blessing."



PUEBLO PRESBYTERY BULK ORDER

2006 MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER & STUDY

Theme: *From Age to Age*

Church or individual: _____

Address: _____

Adult Yearbooks.....Number of Copies: _____ x \$6.60 = \$ _____

Children's Yearbooks.....Number of Copies: _____ x \$4.40 = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT BY **JULY 25, 2005** TO THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE.

Payable to: Presbytery of Pueblo
803 W. 4th St., Suite H
Pueblo, CO 81003

Your order will be available to pick up at the October 14-15, 2005 Presbytery meeting.

Pueblo Presbytery Bulk Order Form
2005-2006 Presbyterian Planning Calendar
"Expanding Our Hearts in the Presence of God"

To take advantage of the lower, bulk-rate cost for your planning calendar, please complete the form below and return with your check for \$6.00 per calendar ordered to the Presbytery office, no later than May 13, 2005.

Name/Church: _____

Address: _____

Number of Calendars: _____ **X \$6.00 = Total Payment enclosed \$** _____

Checks should be payable to: Presbytery of Pueblo
803 W. 4th St., Ste. H
Pueblo, CO 81003

Presbyterians Today

Coming in the May issue: "Help without handouts"

When the tsunami swept across parts of Asia and Africa in December, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) responded – as did a multitude of other relief agencies. But some disaster responses end up doing more harm than good. In "Help without handouts," the cover article in the May issue of *PRESBYTERIANS TODAY*, Alexa Smith looks at what the real needs are in the wake of the tsunami and what strategies are most likely to meet those needs. Smith, a reporter for the Presbyterian News Service, says that building dignity, not dependency is the philosophy behind Presbyterian disaster response.

Also in the May issue is the third in this year's series of articles on What Presbyterians Believe. In "Reclaiming the Trinity," Charles Wiley, associate for theology in the PCUSA Congregational Ministries Division, warns that today's Presbyterians are in danger of losing an essential doctrine. "We haven't rejected the Trinity outright," he says, but we no longer seem to need it. The Trinity is not an optional "extra," Wiley contends, but "is the very nature of God as revealed to us in Scripture."

In "Kidnapped – a true story from Haiti," Gwen C. Whiteman tells how a courageous woman survived a harrowing experience, and how her faith changed the hearts of her captors. Whiteman is director of Young Children's Ministries at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, N.C. She heard Jacqueline Dorleans' inspiring story while visiting Haiti last year.

Some pastors are baseball fans, but not many get a chance to play in the big leagues. In "Diamond Dream," newspaper columnist Derek Maul describes what happened when members of a Wisconsin congregation gave their pastor the ultimate gift: a week at Baseball Fantasy Camp with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Maul interviewed John Zingaro, pastor of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian church in Cottage Grove, Wis., as the 50-year-old pastor relived childhood dreams on a sunny Florida baseball diamond in January.

COMING IN JUNE:

25 YEARS OF PRESBYTERIAN PEACEMAKING

Founders of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program gave it only four years to secure its place in the church. Twenty-five years later the program is still going strong – a sign of hope in a violent world. The June issue of *PRESBYTERIANS TODAY* offers a behind-the-scenes look at people and congregations that have made working for peace a vital part of Presbyterian mission.

Subscriptions: www.pcusa.org/today/subscribe

10 Reasons to Get Excited about the Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost offering give us the chance to make positive changes in our world. Through it, we nurture the faith of Presbyterian young people, call forth a new generation of leadership in mission service, and bring healing and hope to the most vulnerable members of our society: children at risk.

1. Your congregation gets to keep 40 percent of the Pentecost Offering for children-at-risk ministries of your choice.
2. It is your opportunity to help develop a new generation of church leadership through support of the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer program and Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
3. The children and youth activity booklet includes a boatload of activities, two children's worship bulletins, and an opportunity to read with your fingers.
4. Your congregation gets the chance to tell its story. Read stories on the Web at www.pcusa.org/pentecost/missionmap.
5. Materials save you work! The packet includes a complete worship service for Pentecost Sunday, including new hymns and a children's sermon.
6. You are supporting advocacy for children on a national level.
7. It is a great way to recognize and celebrate the birthday of the church.
8. The materials help develop youth stewardship habits through the coin box and the Kids Countdown sharing calendar.
9. Planning the offering promotion is easy, and materials are free. Everything you need to plan a successful offering promotion is included in the packet.
10. Pentecost Sunday is May 15, 2005. The time to get ready is now!

For more information, contact Billie Healy at (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689.

The Presbytery's website,

www.pueblpresbytery.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.

Position Opening

Gateway Presbyterian Church, located on the Westside of Colorado Springs, is a caring community wanting to maintain and expand its youth program. This part-time position would include planning, developing, and implementing a fellowship/spiritually-based youth program for Middle School students, as well as continuing the vibrant High School youth group we already have. The right person will have experience in growing and maintaining a dynamic youth program and be able to communicate well with youth and the adults who support the programs. Relationship building is vital. Musical ability is a plus. Pay: Part-time salary of \$15,000 plus expenses.

Call (719)473-3430 for more information.

Send resumes to:

Gateway Presbyterian Church
731 Castle Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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Presbytery Calendar of Events

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

- 5/1 – Installation of MWS Jim Singleton, First/Colo.Sp., 6:30 pm
- 5/1 – Taize Worship Service, First UMC/Pueblo, 7 pm
- 5/7 – Faith Reflection Group, call Presbytery office for details
- 5/10 – Colo. Springs cluster lunch, Charlie's Pit BBQ, 11:30 am
- 5/12 – Presbytery Mission Study Task Force, First/Pueblo, 10:30 am
- 5/15 – Pentecost Sunday
- 5/17 – Budget Planning meeting, First/Pueblo, 9 am
- 5/18 – Mission & Interpretation, Westminster, 11 am
- 5/19 – Spirituality Group, call Presbytery office for details
- 5/20 – Evangelism & Church Development, Ivywild, 11 am
- 5/24 – CLP Coordinating Committee, First/Pueblo, 10 am
- 5/30 – Memorial Day: Presbytery office closed
- 6/4 – CLP Training Event, First/Pueblo/9 am
- 6/11 – Faith Reflection Group, call Presbytery office for details
- 6/14 – Committee on Ministry, First/ Pueblo, 1 pm
- 6/21 – New Church Development, First/Colo. Sp., 1:30 pm
- 6/22 – Congregational Services Committee, La Renaissance, 11 am
- 6/22 – Church in Society, First/Pueblo, 4 pm