

TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- **Please remember in your prayers:**
 - Those who have health concerns:
 - **The Rev. George Bott** (Honorably Retired)
 - **Elder Margaret Abbott**, mother of **Elder Janet Thurston** (member, Westminster and Presbytery Office Administrator)
 - **The Rev. Cliff Anderson**, for his ongoing cancer treatment
- **Welcome:**
 - **Henry James Holz**, born on Sept. 27th to the **Rev. Jennifer Holz** (Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs) and her husband, **Adam**.
 - Twins **Caleb Jackson** and **Carissa Joy Kintner**, born November 8th to the **Rev. Jeff Kintner** (Associate Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church) and his wife, **Angie**.
- Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for December, 2006 through February, 2007 are:
 - Dec. 3 – Ecumenical Church of Pueblo West
 - Dec. 10 – First Presbyterian Church, La Junta
 - Dec. 17 – Presbytery's Christian Education Committee
 - Dec. 24 – Community Presbyterian Church, Rocky Ford
 - Dec. 31 – Presbytery's Evangelism & Church Development Committee
 - Jan. 7 – San Pablo Presbyterian Church
 - Jan. 14 – United Presbyterian Church in Antonito
 - Jan. 21 – Presbytery's Committee on Ministry
 - Jan. 28 – Community Presbyterian Church in Aguilar
 - Feb. 4 – First Presbyterian Church in Las Animas
 - Feb. 11 – Presbytery's Mission & Interpretation Committee
 - Feb. 18 – Ivywild Community Church in Colorado Springs
 - Feb. 25 – Mountain States Wee Kirk

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

Don't forget... You can now place orders with Cokesbury through the **PRESBYTERY'S WEBSITE!** Our new Virtual Bookstore offers everything Cokesbury sells, and when you buy your books and supplies through our site (at no additional cost to you), ***THE PRESBYTERY BENEFITS!***

Simply go to www.pueblopresbytery.org and click on the Virtual Bookstore icon on the right side of the page, then purchase your items as you normally would, using your regular account number. Try it out!

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: pueblopty@qwest.net

Fourth 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

In this Season of Advent, we await the coming of the "Prince of Peace." Ironically, we are also waiting to hear from the Baker/Hamilton Commission how best to respond to the rising level of violence and terrorism in Iraq. Every year as we look to the coming of Christ at Christmas we are challenged again to embrace the "New Reality" that the angels announced. The Reality that says, "Do not be afraid." The Reality that says, "Love your enemies; pray for those who persecute you; forgive as you have been forgiven." I've been praying about how our nation responded to terrorism after 9/11/01 and I've been reading a recommended book on how one man is working to win the hearts and minds of would-be terrorists in Pakistan and Afghanistan. His name is Greg Mortenson and as the book by his co-writer, David Relin, tells it, he began his journey quite by accident. He was mountain-climbing in the Himalayas in 1993 and got separated from his guide. Weak and disoriented he wandered into an impoverished village in Pakistan's high mountain country and was nursed back to health by the villagers. Grateful to them for their warm hospitality, he found himself making an incredible promise: that he would return and build them a school for their children! He managed to catch the attention of a benefactor who enabled him to do just that and has since built over 55 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan--even during our invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq! If you want to read more about this fascinating story, the book is *THREE CUPS OF TEA*. The title comes from what Mortenson learned from a village elder that in Baltistan, the first time you share tea, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honored guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family. "And for our family," the elder went on to say, "we are prepared to do anything, even die."

We believe in the same transformation in the family of God, except that the first time a stranger takes the cup from the Table, he or she becomes a member of the Family! Is there a way we as a nation can transform enemies into friends, strangers into members of the human family? Is it possible to do that with bombs and bullets or might it take school buildings and community-building? Just think if we had a tenth of the money spent on the war in Iraq to spend on re-building relationships with the people of the world. Just think if we really behaved in a way that corresponded

**Best wishes for a blessed Christmas
and a very Happy New Year!**



From the staff at Pueblo Presbytery:
Gary, Duane, Janet, and Carolyn



with our beliefs: that Christ has come; that the kingdom of God is at hand; that we are ALL members of the household of God and so are prepared to do anything for each other...even die! Can we at least let die the notion that the way to peace is war, the way to reunion is division, the way to healing is violence? And, perhaps this year, unlike any Christmas before, can we actually expect the peace of Christ to reign in our world, in our time, in our hearts, and in our lives?

Peace and Joy,
Gary Weaver,
Executive Presbyter

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

At the Stated Meeting on October 13-14, 2006, the Presbytery met at Mt. St. Francis Conference Center in Colorado Springs. After enjoying refreshments and fellowship, the meeting was called to order. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Dana Wilbanks, Professor Emeritus of Christian Ethics at Liff School of Theology, whose topic was, "Hospitality and the Challenges of Immigration: A Christian View of the Debate." Following dinner, a service of worship was held, led by guest preacher Dr. Jim Ryan, Council Executive of Colorado Council of Churches. Other leaders in the service were CLP Barbara Gilliland (Faith), Rev. Gary Gardner (Trinidad), and Elder Melinda Orendorff (Westminster), with music provided by Elizabeth Shoemaker (First, Pueblo)


Included in the business portion of the meeting:

- New committee members and moderators were elected, and the Rev. Gary Gardner and elder Melinda Orendorff were installed as Presbytery Moderator and Moderator-Elect, respectively.
- The Presbytery voted to approve the recommendations of the Blue Tigers (Mission Study Task Force) for the restructure of the presbytery, effective in 2008. The changes will primarily affect the budget and the mission gifts to organizations, promote better communication between the presbytery and churches, and foster new relationships between congregations in the presbytery. (If you would like details of the task force's report as approved, please contact Janet at the presbytery office.)
- Seminary student Scott VanderWal (First, Colo. Springs) was examined by Presbytery and was moved from Inquirer to Candidate status.
- Elder Ed Brown (Westminster) and Rev. Gary Gardner were commissioned to attend CEPAD's International Partnership Encounter the following week in Managua, Nicaragua.
- Rev. Gary Weaver was given a certificate of appreciation for his 10 years served thus far as Executive Presbyter.

The next Presbytery meeting will be February 7, 2007 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pueblo.

Presbytery Calendar

(subject to changes/additions)

- Dec.** 3 – Taizé worship service, 7 pm, Center for Inner Peace/Pueblo
4 – Presbytery office closed
11 – Presbytery office closed
13 – Evangelism & Church Dev., 11:30 am, Macaroni Grill/Colo. Springs
18 – Presbytery office closed
22-25 – Presbytery office closed. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** 
- Jan.** 1 – Presbytery office closed. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
3 – Council & Congregational Services Committee meet
7 – Taizé worship service, 7 pm, Holy Family Catholic Church/Pueblo
9 – Committee on Ministry, 11:30 am, Presbytery office
10 – Presbytery Worship planning, 9 am, First/Pueblo
15 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Presbytery office closed
24 – Church in Society, 1 pm, call for location
25 – CLP Coordination Committee, 10 am, First/Pueblo
26 – Mediation Team, 10 am, Presbytery office
- Feb.** 4 – Taizé worship service, 7 pm, First UMC/Pueblo
6 – Preparation for Ministry, 11 am, First/Pueblo
7 – Presbytery meeting, 8:30 am-2 pm, Westminster/Pueblo
21 – Ash Wednesday
-

New in the Resource Center:

The Resource Center has many new resources for children, youth, and adult study groups, as well as for individuals. Here are two of our newer items:

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE BEATLES

by Steve Turner for Young Adults/Adult Study Groups/Individual Study

This book looks in depth at the development of the Beatle's philosophy and how it affected their lives, their music, and their listeners. Through interviews, archive materials, and photographs, music journalist and author Steve Turner follows the Beatle's journey from the churches in Liverpool to the temples of India and Japan, their use of marijuana and LSD and its effects upon them. Through the topics and discussion above, the author offers a deeper view of what the Beatles were all about and shows readers the message of love, peace, freedom and transcendence that was at the heart of their gospel.

BIG CHRISTIANITY: WHAT'S RIGHT WITH THE RELIGIOUS LEFT

by Jan G. Linn for Adult Study Groups/Individual Study/Church in Society Groups

The author of this book believes that in recent years, the religious and political dialogue in the United States has been set by the so-called "religious right," a coalition of conservative Christian leaders who may be seen to speak for all Christians. It is the author's opinion that this type of Christianity has excluded many and falls short of the true gospel message. This book presents a different viewpoint, recovering the prophetic voices of our faith that cannot be reduced to a single nation, race, or class, and which calls for justice, integrity, and a faithfulness in the political environment of contemporary America.

The complete Resource Center catalog is downloadable at www.pueblpresbytery.org, or contact Janet at (719) 542-1013 or (800) 662-1013, or email to pueblpby@qwest.net.