

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

The Church in Society Committee of the Presbytery of Pueblo invites you and your neighbors to a very special event they are planning and sponsoring. It is an **"Interfaith Prayers for Peace Service"** on **9-11** (Sunday, September 11th) at **4:30 p.m.** at **Shove Chapel** on the **Colorado College** campus in **Colorado Springs** (see flyer insert). Three speakers will represent the Christian, Jewish, and Islam faiths, reading from sacred texts and preaching on what they understand those texts to be saying about the holy calling of peacemaking. Following their comments, they will offer a prayer for peace from their tradition. There will also be an opportunity for those attending to offer prayers for peace and to sing songs of peace from the different traditions. We are pleased to announce that the Christian speaker is the **Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall**, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. The Jewish speaker is **Rabbi Irv Ehrlich** of Temple Beit Torah, Colorado Springs. The Muslim speaker is **Imam Ibrahim Karazooni**, Director of the Abrahamic Initiative in Denver. A reception and refreshments will follow the service.

In these times of strife and conflict between people of faith, we believe God is calling us to remember what we have in common,

what we share with all people on this planet, what loving God and loving neighbor really means in terms of our public as well as private lives. So this event is planned to demonstrate in a worshipful way the common cord of love that binds us through our faith in the God of love. It won't be a dialogue or a lecture. It will be worship, prayer, people speaking from their heart and the core of their faith.

We encourage you to make this a priority event in the life of your congregations. Circle this date: 9-11; and this time: 4:30 p.m.; and plan to join us with your family and friends. And, please, get the word out to your interfaith connections. Demonstrate the ancient virtue of hospitality to strangers by inviting them to join you for this special occasion. Hope to see you the Second Sunday in September, 2005!

Peace & Joy,
Gary Weaver
Executive Presbyter,
Presbytery of Pueblo

TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- We pray for **Elder Midge Cranson** (La Junta) and her family in the loss of her husband, **Walt**, last month.
- We give thanks for the good results of **CLP Rory Gillespie's** (Pastor at Lamar and Bristol) an-giogram in May.
- We pray for the youth and adults participating in the Mission Trip to Nicaragua from July 20-31.
- We welcome the **Rev. Virginia (Ginger) Memmott** as the new Interim Pastor for Faith Pres-byterian Church.
- We also welcome **Jeff Kintner**, who will be or-dained and installed as an Associate Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church on July 10.
- We give thanks for the ministry of the **Rev. John Stevens** (pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Colo-rado Springs) upon his retirement on July 31.
- Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for July and August, 2005 are as follows:
 - July 3- Presbytery's Church in Society Committee.
 - July 10 – First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs.
 - July 17 – Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
 - July 24 – United Presbyterian Church in Trinidad.
 - July 31 – First Presbyterian Church in Lamar.
 - Aug. 7 – Presbytery's Congregational Services Com-mittee.
 - Aug. 14 – Gateway Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs.
 - Aug. 21 – Westside Cares in Colorado Springs.
 - Aug. 28 – First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo.

You're invited –

The Rev. Charles Proudfoot, former pastor of Alamosa Presbyterian Church, is getting mar-ried! He is now the pastor at the Community Presbyterian Church in Payson, Arizona. His fiancé is Dawn Ashton. They have scheduled the wedding for July 11th, 2:00 p.m. in Payson. They have also extended an invitation to a re-ception on July 13th aboard the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railway. If you would like to respond to either invitation, contact Chuck and Dawn at: dawnandchuck@yahoo.com or call them at 800-659-2520.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO Western National Leadership Training Event STILL AVAILABLE!

If you are interested in attending this wonderful conference, held October 5-7 in Jackson, Wyo-ming, please contact the Presbytery office as soon as possible! We have a few scholarships remaining, and would love to fill all ten slots.

The theme of this year's conference is: "How To Be a Reformed Christian in Today's World." The Plenary Speaker will be Dr. Cynthia L. Rigby, W.C. Brown Associate Professor of Theology, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The Worship Leader will be the Rev. Dr. Cynthia McCall Campbell, President and Cyrus McCormick Professor of Church and Ministry, McCormick Theological Seminary.

Some of the workshops include:

- The Challenges of Gods' Call: Beyond inter-net Dating for Churches and Ministers
- An Introduction to Spirituality and Spiritual Direction
- Celtic Christian Spirituality
- Ministry in the New Millennium
- Is your Church Prepared? Sexual Miscon-duct and Session Responsibility.

The scholarships cover the cost of the conference and lodging. Reservations should be made early, since there is limited space in some of the workshops, and the hotel rooms near the host church may fill quickly. Call Janet at (719)542-1013 or (800)-662-1013, or email to puebloppy@aol.com for more informa-tion and registration materials.

**Please consider making
WNLT part of your continuing
education.**

From the Resource Center

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, I am resigning as Resource Center Coordinator for the Presbytery as of June 30. I want to thank all of you for enriching my life and my faith journey as I have attempted to serve you and your congregation over the past 9 years. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve in this position----and it was fun!

Even though the position of Resource Center Coordinator has not been "officially" filled at this time, I want you to know that the Center and its contents are still open and available to all of you! You may call Presbytery's Office (719-542-1013) or email Janet Thurston, Duane Gould, and Gary Weaver at PuebloPBY@aol.com, and they will ably assist you with whatever you may need.

May you and our Presbytery continue to grow in Christ's love, and may you remember that Jon and I shall hold you in our hearts and prayers as we leave.

*God's grace and peace be with you,
Marti Sutterlin*

Celebrating Christian Education Week

Do you and your congregation celebrate "**Christian Education Week?**" Although the church calendar designates a week in September as **Christian Education Week**---it is September 11-17 this year---many of you begin your "normal activities" in August because of the public school calendars. No matter when your program year begins, it's a good time for remembering those who are teaching

and leading and those who participate in other ways in the educational ministry of your church. Here are a few ideas for you to consider as you plan for this special time in your congregation:

- **Print adult study options in brochures** and place them in pews.
- **Use your church newsletter** to promote what is happening for all age groups.
- **Send postcards to children & youth** to inform them about classroom location and teachers' names.
- **Make phone calls to children and youth** to invite & welcome them to classes. Calls are a good way to keep in touch during the year too!
- **Email messages to children & youth** announcing Fall plans (ask permission from parents to send email messages)
- **Plan a "Church School Awareness Day"** – have an Open House or other special event for the congregation to see the classrooms (adult, youth, & children's). Sunday's "coffee time" could offer different snacks in each classroom.
- **Use your local newspaper** to promote educational options in your church. (Pictures are especially good tools to draw attention to your activities.)

Especially important is the **Recognition and Commissioning of Teachers/Leaders**. On the Sunday designated to highlight Christian Education, print a list of all the people involved in education in your bulletin. Have them stand for a litany or for a commissioning prayer. (it is helpful to work with your pastor and worship planners to incorporate this recognition into the worship service rather than just listing names in the bulletin.) Offer prayers for all those leading and attending your education program and also prayers for those in the public schools.

For more information and ideas for commissioning services, go to www.pcusa.org/ideas.

--Marti Sutterlin

" Interfaith Prayers for Peace Service "



September 11, 2005

Sunday

4:30 p.m.

Shove Chapel

Colorado College

1010 Nevada

**with parking at Cache la Poudre and Tejon
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

**Speakers from three faith traditions (Jewish, Islam, Christian)
will reflect on their understanding of the holy call
to peacemaking and lead us in prayers for peace:**

- **Rabbi Irv Ehrlich, Temple Beit Torah, Colorado Springs**
- **Imam Ibrahim Karazooni, Director of the Abrahimic Initiative, Denver**
- **The Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall, President, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia**

**** Refreshments following the Service****

(Sponsored by the Church in Society Committee, Pueblo Presbytery)

The Presbytery in Mission

The following two articles are excerpts from the Summer 2005 newsletter of Ecumenical Social Ministries (ESM) in Colorado Springs, one of the organizations receiving support from the Presbytery. Reprinted with permission.

Help for the Hungry

This year, more individuals and families are receiving emergency food from ESM than last year. From July 2004 through February 2005, ESM gave 3,525 families emergency food baskets. More than 5,000 families also received food from the government commodities program during that time.

According to the federal government, a family of four making less than \$19,000 a year lives in poverty. Even with food stamps, this family will still spend \$4,815 – more than a quarter of their yearly income – on food. In addition, more than 50 percent of those living in poverty spend one-half of their earnings on rent. Little money is left for utilities, transportation, health care, child care, school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. The stark reality of poverty reveals how much our needy neighbors rely on the services provided by ESM.

Recently, Mark came to ESM for help. He had been electrocuted at work and was under the care of doctors as they determined the extent of his injuries. He may eventually get financial assistance, but for now, he needed help from ESM. Dedicated volunteers made sure he had an emergency food basket and helped him sign up for the commodities program.

Each month, hundreds of people like Mark need a helping hand as they navigate their way through a crisis. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and donors, ESM is there for all of the Marks who walk through our door.

One Disaster Away from Homelessness

Since it began, ESM's Housing Program has helped thousands of people keep a roof over their heads. Here is one family's story.

"Several years ago, I stood in line early in the morning to request assistance. Due to a job loss, relocation, and drastic loss of income, plus lack of health insurance and ongoing automobile breakdowns, my family and I were close to being evicted from our home. However, because of the financial help we received from your ministry and the kind advice and encouragement of your volunteer staff, we were able to stay afloat another month. Our financial situation has improved, and though at times we have struggles, they are nothing compared to being 'just one paycheck or disaster from becoming homeless.'

"The memory of standing in line in the sub-zero cold with other potential applicants, as well as the positive aspects of the help your ministry gave us is etched into my mind forever. Please find enclosed a small contribution to help someone else in need.

"Thanks again for being 'Christ-like' when it mattered most."



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.

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received." ~ 1 Peter 4:10



**The Rocky Mountain Region of
The Administrative Personnel Association**

is having its annual conference

September 22-25, 2005

at the Doubletree Hotel

in **COLORADO SPRINGS!**

Please consider sending your church's office support staff to this Continuing Education opportunity. Membership in the APA is not required to participate in workshops offered:

- »Theology
- »Parliamentary Procedures
- »Microsoft Excel
- »Business Letter Writing

The goal of APA is to improve the quality of professionalism in the offices that are usually the first points of contact with congregations...of the

Presbyterian Church (USA). APA affirms the Ministry of the Lay Church Professional and recognizes the importance of efficient office procedures and competent personnel who strive to provide a deeper commitment and understanding of the issues, polity, history and theology of our church

For more information contact Janet at the Presbytery office at (719)542-1013/(800)662-1013 or email to: PuebloPBY@aol.com.

A BIG Thank-you...

With the departure of our wonderful Resource Center Coordinator, Marti Sutterlin, we are also going to miss her husband, **Jon Sutterlin**, who has served so well as the Presbytery's legal counsel. Jon's hard work and collaboration with our Stated Clerk, Duane Gould, has brought us a new Sexual Misconduct Policy, and his expertise has helped the New Church Development committee with property transactions for Grace Community Church in Falcon. His less official, yet invaluable services to the Presbytery have included handyman, courier, laborer (for carrying innumerable boxes of books to and from vehicles for Marti), and on occasion, e-mailer of the joke-of-the-day.

So – THANK YOU, JON! You will be missed.

COME TOGETHER

The Seven Percent Event 2005

October 3-6, 2005

Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco

Ministers of Word and Sacrament under the age of 40 have a unique perspective. Being younger than most Presbyterians, they also have challenging experiences, leading to prayers that occasionally start with, "Oh dear Lord, what in the world..."

This conference is designed to bring together these younger pastors, offering them time to worship, attend workshops, network with others in similar situations, and establish a longtime connection providing mutual support, advice, encouragement, friendship, and learning. Workshops include:

- Holy Conversations – Planning as Discernment
- Journey of Beloved: Youth, Youth Leaders and Contemplative Youth Ministry
- Tax & Financial Issues for the Clergy
- The Call and Money
- Spirituality and Self Care
- Saying "Hello" and Good Bye": How to Begin or End a Pastorate
- Do-Be-Do: The Do's and Be's of Elder & Deacon Preparation

Register online at:

www.pcusa.org/youngadult/sevenpercent/sevenpercent.htm

or call the Presbytery office for a copy of the brochure and registration form.

Presbyterians Today

Coming in the July/August issue: "Small Churches Doing Big Things"

Some small congregations accomplish more in mission, Christian education, worship and other ministries than churches many times their size. A dozen "Small Churches Doing Big Things" are featured in the July/August issue of *Presbyterians Today*. These churches prove that size does not determine vitality. They illustrate the rich varieties of ministry flourishing throughout the Presbyterian church (USA) – even in congregations with average worship attendance of 100 or less. Many other small churches have equally inspiring stories. Descriptions of some 200 congregations were submitted to *Presbyterians Today* in response to a call for nominations. Profiles of the 12 churches featured are written by the magazine's staff and Presbyterian News Service.

Also in the July/August issue is "Sabbath-Keeping: It's OK to Start Small," a practical look at how Christians can begin deliberately to slow down and rest in God. Lynne M. Baab, a Presbyterian minister and author living in Seattle, Wash., points out that because God sustains the universe so powerfully, we don't have to be productive every minute.

What if kids from several violence-prone parts of the world got together and explored ways to make peace? In "Growing Up Peaceful" freelance writer Nancy Blakestad describes how an ecumenical program that originated at Andrew Riverside Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minn., is enabling exactly that kind of collaboration to happen. Titled *ARK: Global Journeys to Harbors of Hope for Young People*, this creative approach to peacemaking has brought together teens from the United States, Guatemala and Israel/Palestine.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER: New Bible Study Series! Amy Pauw begins a series on Troublesome Texts in the Bible Exploration department of *Presbyterians Today*. Pauw, a professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, shares insights from an adult Sunday school class she taught in which the participants wrestled with some of Scripture's most puzzling passages.

Subscription information: call 800-558-1669 or log on to www.pcusa.org/today/subscribe.

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.

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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)

July 4 – Independence Day – Presbytery office closed
 July 9 – Faith Reflection Group, location TBA, 9:30 am
 July 10 – Ordination/Installation of Jeff Kintner at Covenant, 4 pm
 July 19 – Preparation for Ministry, 1st/Pueblo, 1 pm
 July 20 – Presbytery Meeting, Grace Community Church, Falcon
 Aug 11 – Mission Study Task Force, 1st/Pueblo, 10 am
 Aug 24 – Mission & Interpretation, Westminster, 11 am
 Aug 31 – Worship committee, 1st/Pueblo, 10 am
 Sept 1 – Pueblo Pastors Cluster lunch, TBA, noon
 Sept 5 – Labor Day – Presbytery office closed
 Sept 8 – Nominations Committee, presbytery office, 10 am
 Sept 10 – Faith Reflection Group, location TBA, 9:30 am
 *Sept 11 – Interfaith Prayers for Peace Service
 Sept 13 – Committee on Ministry, 1st/Pueblo, 1 pm
 Sept 13 – Christian Education, 1st/Pueblo, 4 pm
 Sept 21 – Congregational Services, La Renaissance/Pueblo, 11 am
 *Sept 22-25 – APA Conference, Doubletree Hotel/Colorado Springs
 Sept 23-24 – Presbyterian Women's Fall Retreat, Canon City