

CONNECTIONS

Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.

What are your plans for August 1? Weekend of Service and Celebration is gaining momentum!

When the Presbytery called for a weekend of service and celebration August 1 and 2 in place of a regular presbytery meeting, hopes were high that every congregation would join together to send a message to our communities that the Presbyterian Church is alive and well. Excitement continues to build as congregations make their plans.

So far, 47 congregations have expressed a desire to participate in the Day of Service on August 1. Plans are developing now for what the numerous service projects will be. Some will tap into ongoing ministries (such as the work for hurricane recovery or partnerships that already exist between churches and local schools) or with one of the many community ministries (such as food pantries or shelters). Remember, each congregation selects its own project, one that suits the interest and ability of the local church. Several churches are choosing to work together on projects, creating quite a bit of energy and enthusiasm.



Grace PC crew take a break during a day of work.



Members of Pathways NCD stock a food pantry.



Storytelling with young children.

IMMEDIATE NEED:
Be sure to register your church as a participant by going to [www. adayofservice.org](http://www adayofservice.org) and clicking on registration. Follow the simple steps to register.

The Day of Service will be followed with a Worship Celebration on Sunday, August 2, at Pines PC, Houston. This late afternoon event will provide a chance to enjoy delicious food, mingle with friends from other churches, share stories

of how we saw God at work in the various service projects, and offer our praise and adoration to God in a time of worship. Plans are in the works to have a multi-media presentation featuring photos from the many service projects. Worship will be led by a combined choir of local churches, as well as some of our gifted young musicians who have led music at Conclaves and Youth Celebrations.

The weekend of Service and Celebration is gaining momentum.

What will make this a truly outstanding weekend is for EVERY one of our local churches to share in the joy.

Churches: designate someone to sign up your congregation, so we can serve and celebrate together!
Presbyterians all: be sure you set aside that day to join in on your church's project!

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FROM THE COLE MINE

By Rev. Mike Cole, General Presbyter, Presbytery of New Covenant

“So Great a Cloud of Crosses”

When I was ordained thirty-four years ago (it seems like just yesterday but also several lifetimes ago), I was given a “Jerusalem Cross” to use as a door knocker. Although initially it seemed an odd use of a cross, there was something profoundly satisfying in using the cross to open a door to my home. Over the years folks have continued to give me crosses of varying sizes, colors, and materials. Each one is distinct and unique but also very recognizable as a symbol of our faith.



About twelve years ago I started a “cross wall” in our dining room to display crosses which were meaningful gifts to Ellie and me. Our cross wall has now grown to contain about twenty-five crosses, each of which has a story and a significance that lend a spiritual quality to our dining room.

As I have visited churches in our presbytery, I have noticed that more and more of our congregations are displaying a “cross wall” filled with crosses donated by individuals and families to represent their faith in a unique way. Crosses come in all shapes and sizes, colors and hues, media and materials, each representing an individual expression of faith. A cross is not just a decoration or an adornment – it is a powerful symbol of the faith we share. I find the cross walls captivating in their distinctiveness.

At the March meeting of the presbytery’s General Council, one of the members noted all the

photographs of our churches on the walls of the room. The question was asked, “Why do we have photographs of our buildings when we know that the church is so much more than the building?” It made all of us pause and reflect. One person commented that “the presbytery is not a collection of buildings, steeples or resting places. It is a community of Jesus’ followers that are seeking to love God, love neighbors and make disciples, and together **grow congregations that engage their community** and make a difference.”

The suggestion that grew out of our in-person and email discussions was to encourage our sessions to select a cross to represent the faith of their congregation and send it to the presbytery office for display in room 206. General Council will work out how to display the crosses and show respect for the buildings that serve as a spiritual “home” for thousands of Presbyterians in Southeast Texas.

Each session is receiving a request from General Council to contribute a unique cross between 8 and 16 inches in height to enhance the spiritual atmosphere of the presbytery office. I hope that you will encourage your session to ponder the power of the cross in the life of your community and offer the presbytery an artistic representation of that faith. These crosses will serve as constant reminders to hundreds of people, who pray, meet, reflect, discuss, debate, and make decisions, that they are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses.”

In Christ’s service,

Seed Funds for outreach projects

The Presbytery Outreach Ministries Committee has funds available for churches to support new or ongoing outreach mission projects. These are one-time grants of up to \$1,000. The deadline for these requests is **May 1**. To request mission seed funds, send a one-page description of the project, along with the specific amount requested, to:

Outreach Ministries Committee
Presbytery of New Covenant
1100 Lovett Boulevard
Houston, TX 77006

Get in focus with FOCUS!

Are you experiencing blurred vision when it comes to the direction of your church?

Is it hard to see your next step in life or in ministry?

Do you feel like you are blind to what resources are out there?

Then you need to get FOCUSed! Plan to attend the Presbytery’s annual FOCUS event October 3, 2009.

In life and in ministry, we often get in a rut, feel fatigued, or hunt for new ideas.

Ignite your life and ministry with workshops on ...

- ♦ Spirituality of Change
- ♦ Small Church Ministry
- ♦ Children’s Ministry
- ♦ Bible Study on Joshua

Burst through the bubble of complacency with workshops on ...

- ♦ Church Music
- ♦ The Sacred in Art and Film
- ♦ Transformed and ALWAYS Transforming
- ♦ What’s New in Youth Ministry?

Transform lives and hearts through workshops on ...

- ♦ Opportunities for Mission in your Community
- ♦ The Emerging Church
- ♦ Disaster Preparedness
- ♦ Multicultural Church



NEW COVENANT CONNECTIONS

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Email: hwolf@pbyofnewcovenant.org

**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE/JULY ISSUE:
MAY 6**

Community News & Highlights

A testament to faith in our connectional fellowship!

The Presbytery of New Covenant has received a gift of \$40,000 for our Ike Recovery Fund from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery. The gift represents one-third of a tithe of their net proceeds from the Kirk of the Hills settlement. The Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma, which was hard-pressed financially during the lawsuit with Kirk of the Hills (Tulsa), voted to tithe these proceeds to three recipients, our Ike Recovery Fund being one of the three.

"Your gift will make a huge difference in people's lives, many of whom are not Presbyterian," writes Stated Clerk Diane Prevary

to the Oklahoma presbytery. "Such discipleship is evidence that the missional church is alive and well – Christ's followers reaching out to God's people in need, regardless of faith commitment or denominational affiliation."

With this gift and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) grant to provide for a paid Volunteer Coordinator, we will continue to work alongside Methodists and Lutherans and many other denominations, local governments, and others who are working to transform broken lives.

Rising Renewal!



Pastor Joe Hause (above) welcomed members to the rededication of the West Isle PC building in Galveston on March 29, after months of rebuilding following Hurricane Ike. And what would such a special occasion be without lots of food!

clerk's corner

By Rev. Diane Prevary, HR
Stated Clerk of the Presbytery
of New Covenant



Over the Christmas holidays I joined Facebook (FB), the online social networking program that allows folks to send friends quick messages and to share photos, articles, and YouTube findings. Wikipedia describes Facebook in this way: *users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people. People can also add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. The website's name refers to the paper facebooks depicting members of a campus community that some U.S. colleges and preparatory schools give to incoming students, faculty, and staff as a way to get to know other people on campus.*

I have mixed feelings about Facebook. I enjoy using it to be in touch with friends and family who are "on" FB and to see what's going on in their lives. It has also allowed me to reconnect with friends and acquaintances from my past, e.g., my high school graduating class is busy planning our 45th anniversary on Facebook.

On the other hand, there are considerations about FB that give me pause. For one, there is clearly a privacy issue. I have come to understand that ANYTHING entered on FB must be presumed to be available to the world – not just to a select group of friends. My husband and I have three adult children and a d-i-law who have security clearances and cannot even consider joining FB.

My larger concern with Facebook has to do with separation ethics and the relationships of pastors and their former congregations. Few circumstances in their professional lives challenge pastors to exercise more wisdom and judgment than the ones raised when leaving a congregation. Somewhat ironically, the most difficult transitions are often those involving congregations in which the pastor has been warmly loved and appreciated. When the transition involves the retirement of a pastor who elects to remain in the community, or a minister who accepts a call within the same presbytery, the issues become even more complex and challenging.

It is clearly inappropriate for former pastors to agree to step in and conduct funerals, weddings, etc. for former parishioners unless invited by session of the former congregation. It is clearly inappropriate for ministers to continue to relate intentionally to former parishioners in a pastoral way. But email seems so innocent. And how much more Facebook appears to be.

I beg to differ. While Facebook can be a fun opportunity to connect and reconnect, it is the responsibility of the former pastor to ensure that cyberspace not be used to continue pastoral relationships with former parishioners. Of course, there is also a responsibility on the members of the former congregation not to pursue that relationship once the pastor leaves. While the former pastor is likely still to be interested in the health of the congregation, it is imperative that members avoid discussing the congregation, the new pastor, the session, or any other aspect of congregation life with the former pastor. Such discussions are likely to be perceived as soliciting the former pastor's advice or counsel on church matters. It is in her/his best interest and for the health of the church that the former pastor distance herself/himself from the congregation. Raising issues related to the congregation with the former pastor makes this more difficult and frequently puts her/him in an awkward ethical situation.

[Our presbytery's Committee on Ministry has two statements on separation ethics: one is for the departing minister, the other for the congregation from which the minister is departing. These policies are sent to minister and congregation when a pastoral relationship is dissolved. They may also be requested through Sharon Darden or Diane Prevary.]



Wendy's Bailey-wick

By the Rev. Wendy Bailey, Associate General Presbyter, Presbytery of New Covenant

A session I'm working with is seeking discernment as they lead their congregation through a process which will decide the future of the congregation. Will they close? Sell the property? Move to a new place? What is their future? They've been declining in membership for a while and can no longer afford a full time pastor. What's next?

As the session was contemplating the weight of this decision, I began to talk about the importance of prayer in the process of discernment. "It's not enough to merely speak to God in prayer, but we need to create ways for your congregation to listen." Then I asked each elder to tell us about his/her prayer life. When and how do you pray? What's the nature of your prayers?

One elder, who had had a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, confessed that his prayers still focused a great deal on asking for forgiveness for the way he used to live. "I know what you mean about forgiveness," a grandmotherly elder chimed in.

"I know God forgives me, and I've even talked to my kids, but I have such trouble forgiving myself." Then through the tears welling in her eyes she told the session that she had never mentioned this before to anyone, but she knew that she had been a mean mother. Not only mean, she said she had abused her children when they were young. She knows that she should believe God forgives her, and she does believe that, but she cannot seem to forgive herself. As we were all allowing the weight of her confession to settle in to our awareness, she added, "Sometimes, I just wish I were Catholic. I could go and confess to a priest, he would tell me what to do, and that would be the end of it."

"You know what Presbyterians believe," I told her, and went on to explain that she had just made her confession before the session of the congregation. She had even asked for forgiveness from the children. Now, as the body of Christ, we have the power and authority to convey the assurance of God's forgiveness. "If you'd like, and the session agrees," I said, "we could all lay hands on you and pray to God, asking him to lift this burden of guilt from your shoulders." She wanted to pray and the session agreed to lay their hands upon her. And the Holy Spirit showed up.

Oh, it wasn't as visible as the doors being blown open by a great wind and tongues of flame resting on each one of us, but it was palpable and it was real. At the next session meeting the same elder told us how the burden had been lifted. "Oh, I still think about it, and I haven't forgotten about what I did or how I felt, but it's okay." "Forgiving is not forgetting," I told her, "but it is letting it go and restoring the relationship." It's clear that she was able to start loving herself again, and to begin allowing herself to experience the love of God in a much deeper way.

On the day of the prayer, we named the presence of the Holy Spirit. As this congregation discerns its future, clearly the Spirit of Christ is with them. Church is not about buildings or programs as much as it is about growing disciples. "This is church," I told them that winter day. "As long as you have this, you have church."

Mission & Ministry

Persistent Peace

By Rev. Whitney Wilkinson, Associate for Mission in Belfast, First PC, Bryan

You may have heard Northern Ireland on the news recently. In Antrim (about 20 miles from Belfast), two British soldiers awaiting deployment to Afghanistan were killed by those who claim to be the Real IRA, a dissident branch of the IRA who were responsible for the Omagh bombings and have consistently resisted the non-violent peace process. Also, last night, a police officer was killed in Craigavon, a town that was hit hard by the Troubles. There is not evidence that these two incidents are linked—or that the Real IRA was responsible for both, but it is troubling none the less.

I want to assure all of you that I am safe. I am, as most everyone here is, deeply saddened and angered by such a blatant disregard for life and disregard for the monumental non-violent progress towards peace that Northern Ireland has embraced. This event has made people here grip ever more tightly to the sometimes fragile bond of unity and peace and redouble their commitment to progress ushered in not by guns, cowardly ambushes, and fear but by understanding, shared pain, healing, and love. I pray for this place, for the families of those killed, and for all who come to see violence as their only option, that God would bring secure peace, justice, and comfort and "fresh and responsible relations" across this particular line of conflict.

The majority of my reconciliation work here is in addressing the needs and prejudices against immigrant people here, especially Roma people. But in light of the recent events, I am reminded that Northern Ireland's peace is one wrought by the Belfast Agreement in 1998, forged by politicians, and not necessarily trickled-down into the lives of ordinary people who suffered loss in the Troubles. I also assumed that the Protestant/Catholic divide was purely cultural

with a religious label, dealing more with being British or Irish than with how the Lord's Supper is celebrated. However, I am finding more and more that this cultural divide is founded on a theological one: many evangelical Protestants here (and most Presbyterians would fit in this category) claim that Catholics are rarely actually Christians, because they are not "born again" or they just go through the motions.

There are many layers to my work here, and I am finding that the claim by many that the Troubles are over sometimes means they are just tired of talking about it. Unlike South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Northern Ireland never had a public forum where people could share their pain and hurt, confess their sins to one another, and be healed together. Sadly, this means that in some deeply sectarian areas, that decades-long conflict bubbles right under the surface of civility, and has the potential to rise again.

People in Northern Ireland may not have always addressed the root cause of their war, but they have seen its effects, and the majority absolutely refuse to go down the road of violence again. So in these trying days, people are angered, tired, and determined to hold onto peaceful reconciliation. After all, this is Northern Ireland, one of the most green and beautiful places in the world, childhood home of C.S. Lewis, and perhaps (I believe) the birthplace of witty banter and sarcasm. These are a resilient people.

I ask for your prayers for all people here, and prayers for me that God would help me address the theological and cultural divide between people, whether Protestant and Catholic or Romanian and Northern Irish. I am so grateful for your support and prayers, and know that I have a wonderful Presbytery of New Covenant family behind me. As always, you can see updates on my day-to-day life here on my blog: <http://glimpses-of-grace.blogspot.com>.

Making History TODAY



By Dr. James S. Currie, Executive Secretary
Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest

What is a saint?

The story goes that in the first half of the 20th century a professor at Austin seminary would open every class with the words, "OK, let's get to work, saints!" How would you define the word "saint"? In the Roman Catholic tradition a saint is one who has distinguished himself or herself by some heroic virtue or act. A person is declared a saint by a pronouncement by the pope.

In the Reformed tradition we are all saints. We are all children of God, brothers and sisters in Christ, chosen and called by God to be God's people, ambassadors of Christ. "Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:10) Because God claims us as God's own, we dare to call each other saints - not by virtue of who we are, but by virtue of who God is.

One of the most powerful hymns in our *Presbyterian Hymnal* (#526) is "For All the Saints" by William Walsham How. Written in 1864, this hymn captures the frail nature of human beings, yet at the same time, the powerful witness those same human beings bore to the grace and glory of God. Three of the verses follow:

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Recently, I've come across another hymn in our hymnal (#364) that expresses this idea. Written in 1929, "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" was an attempt by Lesbia Scott, an English mother, to help her children understand what a saint was and that they, in fact, were saints. See if the words speak to you as well:

*I sing a song of the saints of God, Patient and brave and true,
Who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, And one was a shepherdess on the green:
They were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.*

*They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And God's love made them strong;
And they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, The whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, And one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
And there's not any reason, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.*

Perhaps better than anything else, these hymns remind us what history has to do with our lives, and what our lives have to do with those who have gone before us. You belong to the saints, and you and I have been called to make our own joyful witness to God's love, mercy, grace, and faithfulness.

So, let's get to work, saints, as we make history today!



Mary's Musings

By Mary Marcotte, Associate General Presbyter,
Presbytery of New Covenant

On a recent weekend I found myself spending some significant time in my car. Very early Saturday morning I was heading out a remarkably empty Highway 290, past the commercialized suburban and commercial sprawl, and heading to College Station to lead a day retreat for the good women of First PC, Bryan. Around 3:30, I climbed back into the car and headed to Camp Cho-Yeh to join our last weekend of Youth Conclaves. Conclave Number 3, with 166 participants from 18 churches, led by Youth Council members, was well underway. Sunday afternoon found me once again in my car, heading back to Houston with a carload of equipment ready to be stored until next year.

It was a great weekend. The weather was beautiful, even if a bit cold. The bluebonnets along the highway were, as always, a wonderful sight. I was blessed to lead a very interactive study of scripture. It is probably one of my greatest joys to open scripture with individuals and groups in ways that allow them to hear God's word in fresh, clear ways that allow them to grow more deeply in relationship with God and to ponder what God's message is for their lives today. Watching our youth and their faithful (and faith - full) adult leaders laugh, sing, dance, engage in contemplative prayer and deep conversation always delights me.

Now here's the deal: on this giant triangle of a road trip, my car radio was turned to its normal position on National Public Radio. I enjoy the mix of extended news, classical music, the homespun wisdom of Garrison Keillor and the silliness of the Car Guys. But it was that time of year - pledge drive. I confess that I experienced some annoyance with the repeated pleadings for contributions, especially when the same words were used over and over again. And yet there was a repeated phrase that resonated for me with our life in the church. Listeners were invited over and over again to be "not just a listener, but a supporter." They were asked to make a commitment and make a difference.

It seems to me that has a resonance with the scripture's call to be not just hearers of the Word, but doers as well. It is, in effect what we mean when we encourage our congregations to grow and nurture not just members, but disciples. It is about developing life-long, holistic learning that calls us to be increasingly shaped by our relationship with our triune God and to live out that calling in our relationships with others.

What was it that made that group of women give up their Saturday to dig into scripture and to stay so fully present during our study that I could practically see the light bulbs of new insight go off over their heads? What was it that caused them to wrestle with faith as they spoke of their deep sadness about the declining health of one of their beloved young friends? What caused those young people at Cho-Yeh to enter into deep silence and yearning prayer for a forty-minute stretch in our Spirituality Center? What caused them to call out the brokenness in their lives and in the lives of those they love in their prayer requests? What called adults to sit on the floor and stay awake long hours as they walked side by side with young people eager to know what plans God has for their lives and what guidance can be found in the kingdom ways of Jesus?

The answer, perhaps, is in that fund drive call: Be more than a listener. Be a supporter. Make a difference. Make a commitment. Let it be so in our faith and our faithfulness as followers of Jesus, disciples of the Christ!

In the Resource Center

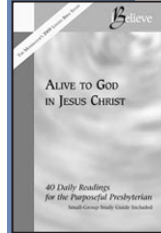
New Resources



Lost in the Middle: Claiming an Inclusive Faith for Christians Who Are Both Liberal and Evangelical

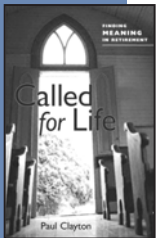
By Wesley Wilman and Stephen Garner

The authors seek to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of both sides of an increasingly bitter theological divide. Beginning with five questions and the conflicting visions of reality, authority, history, morality, and the church that are behind them – the authors seek moderate conclusions on the way forward for those “lost in the middle.” The authors also look at the liberal-conservative split in American politics, relations between religion and society.



Alive to God in Jesus Christ an iBelieve Resource

This is a wonderful resource for small group study or personal reflections – 40 short daily readings. Each week emphasizes a different word in the statement “Jesus Christ is My Lord and Savior.” Additional study/discussion resources are provided for weekly small group conversations. Fully grounded in our Reformed understanding of Jesus Christ, yet also touching on the personal, this text was selected as the Moderator’s 2009 Lenten Bible Study, but would be appropriate for use at any time.



Called For Life: Finding Meaning in Retirement

By Paul C. Clayton

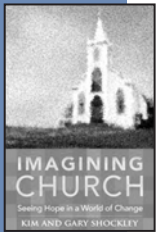
People facing retirement ask a variety of questions, each framed by a different perspective. This book reflects on the calling of all – pastor and laity alike – to serve God and neighbor in the context of retirement. It also provides helpful insights as to the challenges retirement can offer to an individual’s sense of self-worth and identity as well as the specific challenges of transition to retirement for pastors. With the retirement years capable of being a third of our lives, what does it mean to explore our gifts and passions and to shape a new chapter of a life of service, value, and worth?



Cross-Shaped Leadership: The Rough and Tumble of Parish Practice

By John A. Berntsen

For Lutheran pastor John Berntsen, the cross is about more than the crucifixion on Good Friday. It is shorthand for the whole drama of salvation - God’s decisive act of reconciling the world to God’s own self. Those who lead are subject to the cross no less than others. In contrast with the current fashion for “visionary” or “purpose-driven” leaders, cross-shaped leaders are not primarily the providers of master plans, nor are they master builders. Cross-shaped leadership is provisional, contextual, and fallible—ministry that has the character of a pilot project.



Imagining Church: Seeing Hope in a World of Change

By Gary and Kim Shockley

What is your mental image of what church is and ought to be? This is the starting point for this exploration of a call to be all that God wishes the church to be. There are no cookie-cutter solutions or step-by-step process; rather it offers a format rich in story telling that can help leaders think more imaginatively about how God is at work in the world and in our ministry contexts.



Four Seasons of Ministry

By Bruce Epperly and Katherine Gould Epperly

Ministers often find themselves caught in the day-to-day pressures of leading a congregation and yearn to experience the unfolding of their professional lives from a larger perspective. Four Seasons of Ministry serves as a guide for what you will find on your ministerial journey and gives meaning to the routine and repetitive tasks of ministry. The authors invite clergy to see their ministries in the present as part of a life-long adventure in companionship with God, their loved ones, and their congregations.

How have you used new technologies to share your faith? You could change your Facebook status to share your favorite Bible verse, or write an article on your profile about how God has touched you. You could use MySpace or Twitter to share Jesus, as well. Maybe link a powerful, inspiring video on your page. At our church we text our teenagers short, memorable Bible verses when they get out of school.

Our gadgets and gizmos may have changed, but Christ’s call to share His love remains the same! Use what you have to reflect Christ to a world that still needs him no matter how great our technology!



Missional Living for Today’s World

Memorial Drive PC, Ecclesia Houston, Mission Houston, and St. John’s U. Methodist Church have partnered to present “Missional Living for Today’s World” on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5 & 6, featuring speaker Michael Frost who is Director of a mission study center in Sydney, Australia. The gatherings will explore questions surrounding the missional calling of the Church – what does it mean to truly be Jesus in the communities and cultures we live in?

For details about these gatherings that will be held Tuesday night, Wednesday lunch, and Wednesday night, and to register, visit mdpc.org.



Michael Frost

May 9

Stated Presbytery Meeting
Woodlands Community PC
The Woodlands

May 17

Multicultural Worship
Extravaganza
Pines PC, Houston

May 23

TIPS Course
Presbytery Center
Houston

June 11-13

Big Tent Event
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Atlanta, GA

July 8-11

John Calvin Legacy
Montreat, NC

July 25

TIPS Course
Presbytery Center
Houston

August 1-2

Weekend of Celebration
& Service
Sat – Service Project
Sun – Worship/Dinner

August 4-6

Weekday Ministries
Conference
Memorial Drive PC
Houston

August 22

Session Records Review
Treasurers' Workshop
First PC
Silsbee

August 22

Presbyterian Night
at the Astros
Minute Maid Park
Houston

August 22

TIPS Course
Presbytery Center
Houston

September 26

TIPS Course
Presbytery Center
Houston

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Houston Extension Spring Forum

“The Fundamentals of Fundamentalism”

Jill Carroll, Executive Director
of the Boniuk Center for the
Study and Advancement of
Religious Tolerance at Rice
University, will speak



Sunday, April 26
3:00-5:00 p.m.
in the Amphitheater
Memorial Drive PC, Houston

Also Adjunct Associate Professor in the
Department of Religious Studies at Rice, Jill
teaches widely in the Houston area and conducts
religious diversity training for many groups. All
are invited to attend.

FRIDAY, MAY 1 and SUNDAY, MAY 3



Bayou City
Bells
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Bill Nave, Director

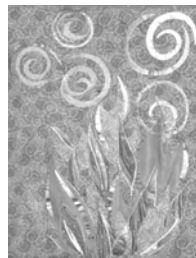
Spread the news! The Bayou City Bells, a five octave,
auditioned handbell choir will hold two Spring Concerts.

Friday, May 1, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
5309 Buffalo Speedway
Houston, TX

Sunday, May 3, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
910 North Washington
Livingston, TX

SUNDAY, MAY 17

ALL IN ONE ACCORD



Presbytery of New Covenant
**MULTICULTURAL WORSHIP
EXTRAVAGANZA**

Multicultural Sunday, May 17, 2009
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Pines Presbyterian Church
12751 Kimberley
Houston, TX 77024

For more details, please contact
Nancy Diaz at diaz_nancy74@yahoo.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22



Astros

PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT
at Minute Maid Park



VS



Saturday, August 22

\$2 from each ticket sold will benefit
The Presbytery of New Covenant Ike Recovery Effort

Biggio Bronze Bust presented by
Coca-Cola and Wal Mart
(1st 10,000 Fans)

For purchases of less than 20 tickets:
*Log on to www.astros.com/presbyterian
Password: presbyterian

For group ticket purchases of 20 or more, contact:
Cody Arnold at 713-259-8315 or carnold@astros.com

In Our Prayers

The Rev. John Linton, HR – John's wife, Barbara who is a member of St. Luke's PC, Houston, is recovering from recent surgery.

Chief Clayton Sylestine of the Alabama-Coshatta Nation and elder in the Indian Presbyterian Church – health concerns.

The Rev. Connie Alexander, Drake Memorial PC, Orange – recovering from 4th surgery on her ankle.

Imelda Carrillo (Commissioned Lay Pastor of Emmanuel PC, Galveston) and Isabel Wages Rivera-Velez (Candidate Under Care of Presbytery) – their mother, Delphinia Sifuentes, died April 8, 2009

*HR = Honorably Retired

Classified

"...The Lord bids each one of us in all life's actions to look to his calling... It is enough if we know that the Lord's calling is in everything the beginning and foundation of well-doing."

(Calvin. Institutes. 3.10.6)

POSITION: Staff Associate

First PC of Kingwood, located at 5520 Kingwood Dr., is seeking a Staff Associate for Pastoral Support. This full-time secretarial position provides administrative support to the pastors as well as to the session and deacons of the church.

To learn more about FPC-Kingwood and the position, visit the website at www.fpc-kingwood.org. Resumes and letters of interest may be submitted by mail or by e-mail (employment@fpc-kingwood.org).



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