

CONNECTIONS

Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.

God's Work for Haiti Joining forces to speed relief

By Elder John Freeman, St. John's Presbyterian

After partnering last summer for the installation of a water system in Haiti, ChristChurch in Bellaire and St. John's in Houston had already begun plans for their next project when the earthquake struck Haiti. The ChristChurch/St. John's (CCP/SJP) team immediately switched from planning water systems to an earthquake relief mode. Using funds raised quickly by the churches and using their personal contact at the JeLA Orphanage, the team began wiring funds to the orphanage and hopefully soon to a second orphanage at Léogâne that was totally destroyed by the quake.

Getting money quickly to the orphanages by direct contact is vitally important because many refugees have fled the Port-Au-Prince area to escape the chaos and smell of the city. This flood of

refugees has swelled the numbers of children and elderly at schools and orphanages in the outlying areas. Reports indicate that international aid has not followed the refugees into the country. However, it is possible, if money is available, to buy food, some of which is crossing the border from the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the money wired into Haiti, the CCP/SJP team accelerated work on filling a shipping container with medical and personal hygiene supplies, food, water, and clothing. Restoration Global provided us with a box-car sized shipping container fitted out like a mobile clinic with examination tables, basic medical facilities, a generator, and even an air conditioner. The container was filled with donations of medical supplies and clothes from ChristChurch, St. John's, and a variety of other sources such as Faith in Practice, Medical Bridges, the Haitian Multicultural



Youth and adults from ChristChurch Presbyterian and St. John's PC load a shipping container for Haiti.

Association, an association of Cameroon tribal members, several doctor's and dentist's offices, a number of individuals, and the Sheila Jackson Lee campaign. The container will be shipped to the Diquini- Adventist Hospital in Port-Au-Prince to be used in various locations and the supplies shared between the Diquini-Adventist Hospital and St. Thomas Parish in Arcahaie and the JeLA orphanage. A second container is now being filled.

This work by the ChristChurch and St. John's is a labor

of love for God. It is our living gift to the people of Haiti. One dream we have is to have churches in the Presbytery adopt one of these Haitian orphanages or schools. The need is great and it will continue for years.

We would be happy to tell our story at any church as part of the service or as a stand-alone presentation. For more information contact John Freeman (713-776-3548, freeman@rice.edu) or Rev. Mark Cooper (713-667-6574, mcooper@ccpres.org).

Synod of the Sun and Synod of Living Waters provide clean water for Haiti

■ Solar School trains volunteers

Like many humanitarian organizations operating in Haiti,

Living Waters for the World (LWW), a project of the Synod of Living

Waters, has been directly impacted by the earthquake in Haiti. Up to 50% of the water treatment systems installed by LLW have been destroyed by the earthquake. Most of these facilities get their electricity from gasoline-powered generators.

After assessing all of the

existing systems, a comprehensive plan will be developed to bring these systems back into operation. The people who installed them are being invited to return some time in the near future to repair them and install solar panels for each center.

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FROM THE COLE MINE

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



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"Stretching for Strangers"

I suppose it's a trait of human arrogance to be surprised when our aging bodies begin to feel things they never felt before – aches, joints popping, lack of hearing, soreness, and failure of eyesight. Not that I have experienced any of these symptoms, you understand. I'm told about them frequently by my older friends (ha, ha!)

This past year I developed some pains I'd never experienced, and each time I went to the doctor the "cure" was essentially the same. My neck hurt, so I had to take some anti-inflammatory and do stretching exercises every day. When my hip hurt, I got a shot and was told to do stretching exercises every day. When my toe hurt, I was given some ointment and, you guessed it, told to do stretching exercises every day. When I added these new stretching exercises to my modest morning exercise routine, I doubled the length of my exercise time (not a bad thing). I had previously focused on strength and fitness exercises, but now I'm stretching far more than strengthening just to keep from hurting.

A similar process occurs with our faith as with our bodies. The less we stretch our faith the more likely we are to hurt. Last fall I got some faith stretching exercise when the bishops of the major denominations and other church leaders invited me to participate in authoring a document addressing Immigration Reform from a faith perspective. I attended the meetings with some initial fear and trepidation because I had witnessed the vitriolic language around this issue and the infamous outburst of Joe Wilson last summer against the President when he addressed how health care would be impacted by immigration. I didn't want to get drawn into an angry debate and

labeled one way or the other. I confess that I had pretty much straddled the fence on the issue of Immigration Reform, claiming that I didn't know enough to contribute to the debate.

Then last summer I read a book, *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick. What caught my attention in the book was the realization that the Pilgrims were originally given a charter to settle on the Hudson River. Inclement weather prevented them from making it to the Hudson River, so they put in at Plymouth. Even if one accepts the legality of one nation granting title to property in another land, the Pilgrims were in Plymouth without documentation. The very roots of our nation go back to undocumented immigrants.

This realization led me to the conclusion that we are all immigrants by choice or by force (except the Native Americans) and have little "right" to claim America over other immigrants. We Christians have a unique place in the Immigration Reform debate because we bring a moral and ethical perspective to the discussion. We may not have the answers in terms of legislation, but we can articulate the moral and ethical issues involved while those in charge of writing the laws seek a fair and just way to reform what has become an immoral and inhumane system of immigration laws.

In a stretch of faith, the other religious leaders and I collaborated on an Interfaith Statement on Humane Immigration Reform, which doesn't offer legislation but a moral and ethical perspective driven by six major points:

1. Uphold family unity as a priority of all immigration policy.
2. Create a process for undocumented immigrants to earn their legal status and eventual citizenship.

3. Protect workers and provide efficient channels of entry for new migrant workers.
4. Facilitate immigrant integration in society.
5. Restore due process protections and reform detention policies.
6. Align the enforcement of immigration laws with humanitarian values.

For the full statement see: www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/sections/news_events/presbytery_news_events.html. (A link to this statement may be found in the weekly email Tuesday Connect).

On Sunday, March 7 at 3:00 p.m. there will be a gathering of the faithful at the Co-Cathedral for a service of worship and open forum for discussion of immigration reform. I hope you will come and share your faith and your perspective.

Through this statement, religious leaders in Houston are trying to establish faithful, reasoned and respectful dialogue on the issue of Immigration Reform. Our scriptures call us repeatedly to welcome the stranger among us because it's the right thing to do and also because our spiritual ancestors were once strangers in Egypt. I believe it is time for the faith community to promote hospitality for all those who have come to this great country seeking the same things our ancestors sought – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This is our moral and ethical responsibility as a nation under God.

In Christ's service,



Workers install solar panels at water treatment facility.

Solar Under the Sun (SUTS), a Synod of the Sun mission, is working in partnership with the Synod of Living Waters to augment the LWW program to rebuild all destroyed clean water systems. As part of this effort, and due to the lack of any reliable energy infrastructure (electricity, transportation, and fuel) for the foreseeable future, all clean water systems there will be converted

to solar power.

Toward accomplishing these goals, SUTS will host its first Solar School at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center outside of Little Rock, Arkansas, May 13-16. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.solarunderthesun.org/> or [http://www.ferncliff.org/Outreach/Solar Under the Sun](http://www.ferncliff.org/Outreach/Solar_Under_the_Sun).

Endowment funds social justice grants

The late Rev. Lynn Johnson, who served as Clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant until his death, left a legacy of generosity behind. Through his estate, Lynn left an endowment for the presbytery to be used “for social justice issues, particularly for issues concerning equality and inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation.”

Grants of \$500 to \$2,000 from the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grant Fund will be made available to churches and/or organizations with partnerships with the Presbytery or a church within the Presbytery. Priority will be given to those grants that

directly impact issues of inclusion, “particularly of all persons regardless of sexual orientation.”

The Guidelines for the grant program and an application form can be downloaded from the presbytery website www.pbyofnewcovenant.org or can be obtained by contacting the Rev. Helen P. DeLeon, 281-332-1251.

The first round of grants applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. March 31, and funding decisions will be made by the end of April. Send applications to the Rev. Helen P. DeLeon, hdeleon@websterpresby.org, or 201 W. NASA Parkway, Webster, TX 77598.

CLERK'S CORNER: CONTINUED

name the secretary or office manager as the registered agent, others the long-standing clerk of session. In any event, it is strongly suggested that the registered agent's reported address be the church address rather than that of a residence.

Note that the state legislature recently enacted a new requirement that anyone named as the registered agent must acknowledge and consent to that appointment in writing. SOS Form 401 is a state-promulgated form for that purpose, and for a nominal fee it may be (but is not required to be) filed with the SOS.

At minimum, that signed form or a similar consent from the registered agent should be kept with the church corporation's records.

Finally, it also would be a good idea for sessions to review their corporation's Articles of Incorporation to see if they need to be updated or made consistent with bylaws. Any updating can be done by means of an amendment filed with the SOS.

For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with me. If it is more than I can handle, I will refer you on to one who is able to provide assistance and support.

clerk's corner

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



'Tis the season for churches' Annual Meetings. This meeting may also be designated the annual meeting of the corporation. The minutes of the one can serve as the minutes of the other. In Texas, churches are permitted to be incorporated, and the Constitution of the PC(USA) requires incorporation, where permitted. Thus, our churches are at the same time congregations and corporations, and the members of one are the members of the other. I have written previously about the responsibility of sessions to stay current with the Texas Secretary of State (“SOS”) regarding corporation matters, but it bears repeating. I am grateful to a great friend of the presbytery, Douglas Ustick, Ustick Law Firm PLLC, for helping me to provide this information to you.

First, from our *Book of Order* (G-7.0401 *Incorporation and Trustees*): *Whenever permitted by civil law, each particular church shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained. Only members on the active roll of the particular church shall be members of the corporation and eligible for election as trustees. The elders in active service in a church who are eligible under the civil law shall, by reason of their office, be the trustees of such corporation, unless the corporation shall determine another method for electing its trustees.*

This paragraph of our Constitution is interpreted to urge congregations to provide for the session to serve as the board of trustees of the corporation (the “Board,” also known as the board of directors), with the elders in active service as the trustees/directors. While other methods of selecting trustees are allowed, session-as-trustees is preferable. A Board or trustees apart from session generally have no authority of their own—only that which session, the bylaws, or the articles of incorporation authorize. Under the *Book of Order*, the session is the governing body of the church, and it is only logical that the church corporation's governing documents should expressly designate the session as the governing body of the corporation.

The bylaws of the congregation/corporation should reflect the method for selecting the trustees of the corporation. If there is a change in the method of selection, for example to go from a separate Board of three persons to naming the session members as trustees, the bylaws (or, in some cases, the articles of incorporation) of the congregation must be amended to reflect that change. Technically, the bylaws are amended first, and then the new method is put into action. Frequently, the bylaws also will include a provision for electing a President of the session/Board, as well as a Secretary. Normally, the clerk of session would serve as the Secretary, and the session would elect one of their own as the President.

Changes in the session/Board membership would ordinarily be reported to the State by means of the Periodic Report of a Nonprofit Corporation (SOS Form 802), required to be filed with the state once every four years. If no one among the leadership of your church remembers submitting Form 802 in the past four years, I recommend that the clerk of session contact the SOS office to determine what records are on file for your church and whether new reports need to be filed to update the SOS records with names of current directors/trustees/officers.

Another important name to be reported to the SOS (Form 401) is that of the person designated to serve as the corporation's “registered agent.” This person does not have to be an officer of the church/corporation, although he or she may be. More important is that this person is expected to be present and involved in the congregation for a long period of time. Many churches

Please see **CLERK'S CORNER** on left



Mary's Musings

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

What shapes your theology of Christian Education? Do you have one? Can you state it clearly – and even succinctly? These were questions raised in an outstanding workshop I attended led by Dr. Roger Nishioka, Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Seminary, at the recent annual meeting of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators.

I strongly believe that all Christians are called to engage in theological reflection and that church professionals (pastors and educators alike) should empower members to ponder and articulate their heart-held affirmations about the nature of God and God's call on humanity. Because of this belief, I was intrigued by the workshop title: *Beyond Crafts and Flip Charts: Developing a Vibrant Theology of Christian Education*. Nishioka suggested that we sell ourselves short when we focus primarily on our mastery of process. While process and technique are important, it is the substance that gives value to our work. Christian Education, he suggested, is Practical Theology, critically important to the sustaining work and ministry of the church.

Nishioka then unpacked his definition of theology as "That discipline that strives to give coherent statement of the doctrines of the Christian faith, based primarily on scripture, placed in the context of the culture in general, worded in a contemporary idiom, related to the issues of life."

In order to "do theology" we must;

- ✦ Know doctrine
- ✦ Know confessions
- ✦ Know scripture (which is what gives shape and authority to our doctrines and confessions)
- ✦ Understand our personal, generational, and societal context
- ✦ Be aware of the "lens" through which we view the world
- ✦ Wrestle with challenges
- ✦ Articulate our "owned" convictions

He then challenged us to identify the scripture passage that most informs our theology of Christian Education and to memorize it. How does this key verse impact what I believe, how I live, and how I equip others? For Nishioka, it is Romans 12:2. For me, the short form is Romans 8:38-39. The conviction that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God informs everything else. My practice of ministry is most shaped by Luke 24:13-35, the Road to Emmaus narrative. What passage(s) would you select?

Our final assignment was to create 6 word (or less) theology statements. Here are some samples:

- ✦ Divine love overflows, transforms, and frees
- ✦ Called by God, trying to answer
- ✦ Live and love by serving God
- ✦ Each story uniquely formed by God
- ✦ Small box, big God doesn't fit
- ✦ Walking with Jesus
- ✦ Loved, claimed, sent

Are you up to the challenge? Six words are far easier to remember than long declarations. Their very pithiness encourages regular, frequent repetition of the sort that sticks not only in our own minds, but in those of others as well. And with those simple six words as a starting point we can dig ever deeper into the mystery and miracle of our Christian faith.

Community News

Lives change at Restoration Fellowship

Every Saturday evening, a devoted group of believers meet to worship together at a church building in the Houston Heights. The group, known as Restoration Fellowship, is led by Pastor Bob David, a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbytery of New Covenant. This NCD was planted in June 2006 to serve as a place where individuals can find comfort and support as they work through difficult personal situations.



Pastor Bob David

Many have experienced addictions, broken families, imprisonment, unemployment, health issues, and other trials. They come to worship in an environment where the love of Christ is freely available to them, without regard to the troubles of their past. They meet at Heights PC and work closely with the members of the church and with other groups who meet at the church. By sharing the facility, these groups are able to expand their influence in the local community.

The ministry touches the lives of many individuals as regular attendees at the weekly worship service, Bible studies, and other periodic events reach out to their friends and family. Several members have also established relationships with others in the Presbytery through attendance at Cursillo weekends and

other events.

One of the unique things about the church is that over 90% of the regular attendees were previously unchurched. Many of them are coming to have a very deep relationship with God through Christ. A number of them have been able to overcome their destructive addictions where previously they had failed without God's help.

When asked to describe the most important needs of the ministry, Pastor Bob first lists prayer support. He maintains an active prayer list that is supported by an extended prayer chain via email. There is also an ongoing need for additional Bibles, which Bob freely shares with anyone who needs one. Financial assistance is also welcome, since Restoration Fellowship depends on the benevolence of other churches and individuals.

The longer term vision for the ministry is that it will continue to change lives as members accept the grace of Jesus Christ. Another prayer is for the ministry to grow in number and eventually become a self-supporting, chartered church family.

Anyone interested in more information about Restoration Fellowship, or ways to help support it, can refer to the website www.RestInHim.net or contact Pastor Bob at the following email address: pastorbob@RestInHim.net.



About 100 members of St. Philip PC, Houston, help unload the truck that delivered the new Paul Fritts Organ that was built, packed up, and moved to Houston from Tacoma, WA. With smiles on their faces, they carried thousands of parts into the sanctuary! Dedication of the Organ will be **April 18** at the 11:00 service with an organ concert in the afternoon. All are invited!

E Highlights

Ike Recovery sends help to Bolivar!

A grant of \$15,000 has been given to the Bolivar Peninsula Community Outreach (BPCO) from presbytery's Ike Recovery Fund to assist qualifying homeowner families experiencing damage to their primary home during Hurricane Ike through the purchase of building materials to aid in repairing their homes.

Teams of volunteer workers from the Reformed Church in America are present on Bolivar to perform the repair work needed. The grant will fund six projects on the



Kendall Boyd, presbytery's Ike Recovery Coordinator, hands check to Bruce Hawley and Laurie Hawley with Reformed Church in America, and Larry Rhoden with Bolivar Peninsula Community Outreach.

Bolivar Peninsula.

Bags of Love, helping to ease the pain

By Penny Bell, First PC, Conroe

When children are removed from their homes because of the illegal activities of their parents, they often must leave with nothing. Having their very own "Bag of Love" helps to allay the fear and trauma of their displacement. Women at First PC, Conroe, and Conroe Seventh-day Adventist Church teamed up to assist these children in crisis, one Bag of Love at a time.

Fifty women from First PC, Conroe, gathered recently at the church for an all-day sewing event to create as many children's quilts for the bags as possible. Kits with specially-cut fabrics and instructions prepared by the FPC Mission Sewing Group were waiting at each woman's station down the halls and in the classrooms. The small army of mostly novice

quilters responded promptly at 9:00 a.m. to the call, "Ladies, start your machines." Some sewed, some tied, some ironed, and some prepared the luncheon.

Each of the colorful cloth bags contains items that are age and gender appropriate for infants and children up to age 17. The stuffed bags are distributed through an agency for Child Protective Services.

Sewing groups in all New Covenant churches are invited to join the "It's My Very Own" project. Volunteers are always needed to sew comforters and duffle bags, to donate items for the bags, or to donate money to purchase needed items. For more information, call First Presbyterian, Conroe, at 936-756-8884.

Community ministries finds new home at Faith PC

Pasadena Community Ministries (PCM) opened its doors at Faith PC, Pasadena, last October because the space it formerly used was no longer available. Many volunteers gave their time to renovate the quarters.

PCM provides food and clothing, and other items, to families and individuals. It spends approximately \$3,000 a month

for food at Houston's Food Bank. Funding for the ministries comes from a number of churches in Pasadena; Presbytery of New Covenant is also a donor to its ministry.

According to the staff of PCM, the Lord has made its ministry possible. "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures."

Making History TODAY



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

Bricks and Mortar

In January this year I had the privilege of worshiping at St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland. As most of you know, the reformer, John Knox, was the first Protestant pastor of that congregation and preached from the pulpit there. Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd preached the sermon the day I visited. Being in the same space that John Knox preached was a powerful experience. Being where so many others of our Reformed ancestors and contemporaries have preached and/or worshiped was inspiring.

We are often reminded that the church is the people; it's not bricks and mortar. That is absolutely true, but it is also the case that the building is not unimportant. It is a sacred space where we are baptized, where we are married, where the Word is proclaimed and heard, where bread is broken and the cup is shared, where, week-in and week-out, the people of God gather, tears are shed, laughter is freely offered, where lives are shaped, where we bear witness to the resurrection.

Several years ago I attended a baseball game in Yankee Stadium. As I sat there, I considered the fact that this is where Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe Dimaggio, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Tommy Henrich, Bobby Richardson, Whitey Ford, Tony Kubek, among many others, played. In our own day it's where Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez play. That stadium is now gone, and a new one has been constructed.

Space is important. Buildings – bricks and mortar – do not last forever any more than you and I will live in these mortal bodies forever. But one way history comes alive and can become meaningful is to remember who passed through this space, what happened here, and the various forms of ministry that graced this space.

One could say that the twelve stones that Joshua had the leaders of each of the twelve tribes of Israel erect by the Jordan were only stones. But they were much more than that, weren't they? Joshua says to the Israelites, "When your children ask their parents in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.'" (Joshua 4:21-22)

As we make history today, may we not make idols of buildings, but may we also honor the ministry that has taken place there and point, as they do, to the life, death, resurrection, and kingdom of Jesus Christ. Will we tell the next generation what these stones mean?

Remaining Connections deadlines in 2010: (Second Wednesdays of even-numbered months)

| Deadline | Issue | Deadline | Issue |
|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Apr 14 | May/June | Oct 13 | Nov/Dec |
| June 9 | July/Aug | Dec 8 | Jan/Feb 2010 |
| Aug 11 | Sept/Oct | | |



Wendy's Bailey-wick

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

The voicemail from "Scooter" was rambling but urgent. One of his friends and biker-brothers had killed himself the night before. He had spent most of the night with the family. His question for me, as pastor, had to do with theology and grace. The biker club was telling him that they couldn't honor their lost friend because he had committed an unpardonable act and disgraced the club. He was told that Christians believe if a person kills himself, they're going to hell and there is no forgiveness. His voicemail said, "I guess we believe the same? ... I'm hoping you can tell me what to say to the family."

I told you about this biker-elder last fall. In the October issue of *Connections* I wrote: "This elder sees himself as a minister ... I call him a missionary ... to the biker world. He is chaplain, visiting in hospitals and homes, listening and comforting, leading funerals and even an occasional wedding. But, more importantly, he shares the good news of Jesus Christ in his life and in his words."

I called back right away and assured Scooter that we, as Presbyterians, align ourselves with the words of Paul in Romans, that "nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." He asked me to repeat the words as he wrote them down, and they became the mantra of the next few days. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"What I'd like to do is offer our church building for a memorial service," Scooter later told me on the phone. "Should be no problem," I answered. I have been moderating the session of this congregation for fifteen months now. This twenty-eight member congregation is beginning to clearly understand its mission as "encouraging and supporting each member in their ministry and mission outside the church." This would give the session and the congregation a chance to know what that looks like.

The session gave permission to allow the building to be used for a memorial service the following Saturday afternoon. Scooter and I met with the family and planned the service together. He was the pastor; I was the mentor and pastor-to-the-pastor. We planned a service close to the traditional Presbyterian order of worship. When we asked if there was a favorite Bible verse, the 75-year-old mother-in-law chimed in from across the room, "Corinthians something - it's what they had at the wedding." With some favorite rock 'n' roll as a prelude, motorcycle boots, and a leather vest among the flowers at the front of the chancel, and a room full of people, many of whom felt that lightning would strike them dead if they ever walked into a church, the memorial service was a tangible witness of grace, love, and resurrection.

A half-dozen or so members of the congregation arrived early on Saturday in case they were needed. And, yes, they were needed! More than 200 people showed up for worship that afternoon. This modest congregation had never seen a crowd so large in their church! The parking lot was full more than a half hour before the service was scheduled to begin. The members were put to work parking cars (and motorcycles) in the lots of neighboring businesses, carrying every chair they could find into the sanctuary, helping guests find the restrooms, meeting parents of crying babies outside the sanctuary, and opening the nursery for them. They were the embodiment of hospitality and love. And they were living their mission - supporting and encouraging a fellow disciple and member of the congregation in living out the ministry and mission to which he was called.

Please see WENDY'S BAILEY-WICK on page 7

Mission &

Take the plunge, the Urban Plunge!

Understanding the transformation power of missional ministry

Heights PC, Houston, has put together a program to help people understand and experience the transformational power of missional ministry, called Urban Plunge. It is an intense day or two in which a group can experience a diversity of ministries that address the needs of people around us.

- The program includes learning about food programs: Sack Lunches for daily homeless distribution; Food Boxes, a weekly food giveaway program at Fuente de Esperanza; and Angel Food, not a hand out, but a hand up in which people purchase their food in a contemporary co-op fashion.

- The program puts together a panel of homeless individuals from the Heights area who share their stories, answer questions, and walk with you around the Heights to show where they live (perhaps under a bridge), how they survive, and who treats them well and who doesn't.

- The program presents a variety of perspectives on current issue such as immigration, mental illness, gangs, and other social issues, always striving to have the people affected by the issue present their perspective on it.

- The program also includes a choice of worship experiences. Restoration Fellowship is a worshipping group for those in the AA program. Beacon Light Ministries is a gospel/Pentecostal group where the spirit of God flows. We can also put together a contemplative worship experience or a Celtic healing service, when



Youth from The Woodlands Community PC experience the Urban Plunge!

requested.

- Integral to the program are times of reflection in which people explore their thoughts and feelings about the Plunge experience with one another, perhaps followed by scripture readings, prayer, and personal journaling.

Heights Presbyterian Church is proud to be 'Transforming Hearts in the Heights,' and wants to share the joy and passion we have found in having our own lives transformed by reaching out into our community with the grace of God. The Urban Plunge can be put together for a weekend or a Saturday... for youth groups, adult groups, staffs, or anyone in-between.

The Woodlands Presbyterian youth participated in the program in January and returned to their church with new eyes to see their own community and an ignited passion on how to be Christ's presence in the community.

If you want to learn more about how your group can have this experience, contact the Rev. Mark Downs at Mark@RevDowns.com or 713-725-9608.



Think about the occasional chances you have to share Christ's love. When a server delivers your food, tell them that you were about to thank God for your meal and ask if there is anything you could pray about for them? Or, make it a point to have a meal with one person in your church each week and one person who is not a believer each week. You never know what God might do with these little changes!

Ministry

Impact Texas offers youth opportunities

IMPACT is an approach to mission projects for Presbyterian youth that started from within New Covenant Presbytery. Impact offers both middle school and high school students an opportunity to put their faith into action by working together with other students from other churches.

The goal of IMPACT is to offer an opportunity for students to serve others through mission projects and share their faith. Impact is designed to connect youth from Presbyterian churches as they share God's love with the less fortunate. Participants work, worship, recreate and build relationships, and thus live



IMPACT youth take a painting break.

out our Christianity in very practical ways.

The IMPACT mission projects began in the summer of 2008. Fifty-nine participants, representing six churches from both New Covenant Presbytery and Mission Presbytery, traveled to Victoria, Texas, where they worked at eleven sites doing basic repair work and clean-up. They helped Meals on Wheels and Salvation Army organizations.

In the summer of 2009, IMPACT continued with a visit to Austin. Austin Theological Seminary provided lodging and worship space. The students worked in a variety of situations: sharing water with Austin's homeless, clean-up and restoration work on a Christian community center that helps individuals with drug addictions, and providing labor to further develop Austin's xeriscape horticulture center.

IMPACT is now entering the planning stages for IMPACT 2010. Interested churches should contact Keith Cummings jkummings@comcast.net.

Cross-country connection after feature in 2010 Mission Yearbook

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest, Cascades Presbytery, and Portland, OR, in particular! I've just spent some time reading the Mission Yearbooks for Prayer and Study - plural because I'm an 83-year-old geezer who has saved them since 2006. Also, I spent a little time on your well-designed website after which I had to say "Wow!" What an energetic Presbytery - from Grand Lakes PC through thirteen other new church developments with such a wide diversity of opportunities! I noted the work with Katrina and Ike hurricane recovery and then noted the number of churches in Galveston. I'm sure you've had much work from the havoc of wind and rain. No doubt

the effects of Single Parents Day, the Luis Palau festival, the work at Piney Point Elementary School, and Grace Presbyterian's investments of \$100 and their efforts to care for others all continue!

So a simple prayer of gratitude for the ministries of New Covenant that they may continue to reach out with the overarching love and grace of our Lord. May the staff of the Presbytery and all those in ministry, lay and clergy alike, find renewal in the wondrous curve of His smile.
— E.R. "Bud" Frimoth



Classifieds

"...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)

Part-time Position: Missions Coordinator

Heritage PC, Houston is looking for a Missions Coordinator to work part time in helping the church to engage the Copperfield/Cy-Fair community and make disciples for Christ through mission and outreach activities. Heritage has many ideas and needs a person to help start and organize projects. If you have a passion for mission work and the desire to work with Heritage Church, contact Mark Rumscheidt, mrumscheidt1@gmail.com, Chairman Mission Coordinator Steering Committee, for more information.

Volunteer Staff Needed

There is an urgent, immediate need for a volunteer Worksite Assignment Manager at our Texas City PDA Village. Read about the work of village managers and apply now! Applicant flow for this and other position is very important in maintaining our long-term presence in Ike recovery efforts. To read about these position and to apply, visit <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/volunteervillages-index.htm>

Part-time position: Choir Director

New Hope PC, Katy, is seeking a part-time Choir Director (6-8 hours per week, inclusive of prep time). Choir practice is Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., plus run-through Sunday mornings. Sunday services are held 10:30-11:30. Also, additional musical offerings throughout the year.

Contact the Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham at 281-492-8520 to submit resumé.

Children's Clothing Needed

LaMarque Presbyterian Church continues its twice monthly clothing ministry for persons in need in Galveston County. They report that they always seem to be low in baby and children's clothing. If any person or church would like to donate clothing, especially baby or children's clothing, please contact Susan Wittjen at 409-938-4367 (home), 409-739-5040 (cell), or swittjen@alumni.rice.edu.

New communications resource connects members of New Covenant

A weekly email, Tuesday Connect, is now being sent to anyone interested in being connected with the news about the work and mission of the presbytery and its congregations and partners in ministry. Brief announcements, a prayer list for the week, opportunities for hearing guest speakers, and links to helpful websites

and resources.

Email Helen Wolf at hwolf@pbyofnewcovenant.org to be added to the distribution list or to submit a short announcement. You can forward the email by clicking on a link at the bottom of Tuesday Connect. Helen Wolf's email address is also located there.

WENDY'S BAILEY-WICK: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

This congregation is beginning to realize their challenge and call is not about getting new members or growing a budget to support a full-time pastor. It's about sharing the Grace we know in Christ with neighbors and friends and co-workers who are longing for Good News in their lives. It's a kingdom mission they're on.

Three days later, Elder Scooter accompanied the widow as she viewed the lifeless body of her husband one last time before cremation. Before sharing a prayer, he read from the Brief Statement of Faith, "We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life ... In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, ... With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In the Resource Center

Vacation Bible School

Cokesbury's Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!

Starter kit \$74.99; Small church Starter kit (35 or fewer kids) \$49.99

At Cokesbury's Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School 2010, your cadets will voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily missions, your kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have your cadets developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Galactic Blast launches your VBS 2010 into orbit with:

- Daily "green" earth tips your kids can practice at home
- New and Improved FREE online registration tools to make recruiting volunteers and participants easier
- Music of Galactic Blast now available for purchase as downloadable MP3s

For more Galactic Blast VBS 2010 information, to listen to music samples, view videos, and get free downloads visit the [Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School 2010 website](#).

Mission One: Creation of the Universe

Bible Story: Genesis 1:1-2:4

Praise Phrase: Our God is wonderful! Praise God!

Bible Booster: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. - Psalm 24:1

Mission Two: Elijah at Mt. Horeb

Bible Story: 1 Kings 19:4-18

Praise Phrase: Our God is incredible! Praise God!

Bible Booster: But for me it is good to be near God. - Psalm 73:28a

Mission Three: The Woman at the Well

Bible Story: John 4:1-42

Praise Phrase: Our God is amazing! Praise God!

Bible Booster: O Lord, you have searched me and known me. - Psalm 139:1

Mission Four: A Blind Beggar in Jericho

Bible Story: Luke 18:35-43

Praise Phrase: Our God is magnificent! Praise God!

Bible Booster: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. - Psalm 29:4

Mission Five: Two Disciples in Emmaus

Bible Story: Luke 24:13-32

Praise Phrase: Our God is awesome! Praise God!

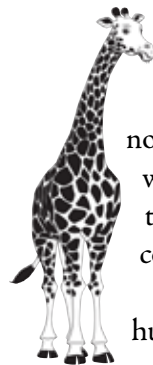
Bible Booster: The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior! - Psalm 18:46



Vacation Bible School

Augsburg Baobab Blast - Exam Kit \$79.99

At Baobab Blast, kids get a consistent message of God's unconditional love. Every activity helps kids understand how to build nurturing relationships



with God, family, and others. At Baobab Blast, building relationships is

not just a theory; it's a place where meaningful friendships happen. Plus, when kids participate in the mission project, Africa Jam, they learn how to help expand God's community.

At Baobab Blast, the baobab tree is the central figure - the hub of activity, energy, and life. The baobab tree supports and invites community. In fact, the baobab tree is a symbol of community.



Day 1: Trust

Bible Story: Abraham to Canaan (*Genesis 12:1-9*)

Bible Memory Verse: "Let the LORD lead you and trust him to help." - *Psalms 37:5*

Day 2: Love

Bible Story: Joseph and his Brothers (*Genesis 37, 41-45*)

Bible Memory Verse: "Love never fails." - *1 Corinthians 13:8*



Day 3: Follow

Bible Story: Jesus Calls the Disciples (*Luke 5:1-11, 27-32, 6:12-16, 8:1-3*)

Bible Memory Verse: "I will study your teachings and follow your footsteps." - *Psalms 119:18*

Day 4: Care

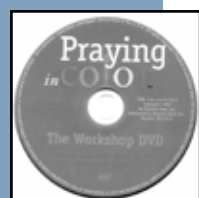
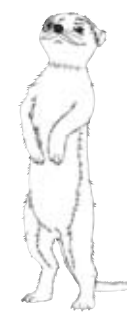
Bible Story: The Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:25-37*)

Bible Memory Verse: "Our Lord, you chose me to care for your people." - *Jeremiah 17:16*

Day 5: Share

Bible Story: Phillip and the Ethiopian (*Acts 8:26-40*)

Bible Memory Verse: "Share your faith with others." - *Philemon 1:6*



Praying in Color with Children DVD 14 minutes

This short DVD shows author Sybil MacBeth working with a group of children and teaching them how to use doodles as a tool for prolonged and intentional prayer. MacBeth explains to the viewer why she uses particular patterns of instruction as well as showing her modeling a good teaching methodology with children. This would be a great tool for teacher training or for families wanting to learn a solid technique for quieting busy minds for prayer.



Helping Children Grieve DVD, 55 minutes

This excellent video offers helpful information for parents, caregivers and professionals on how to help children of all ages grieve with hope and heart. Topics include differences in how adults and children grieve, how parents can grieve while still helping children with their own grief, three common feelings expressed by all grieving children, and how to be authentic and tell children the truth about death. The DVD features two well known grief specialists (Khris Ford and Paula D'Arcy) and shows them working with children and families.

In the Resource Center

Vacation Bible School

Group's Holy Land Adventure - Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace - Starter kit is \$94.99

"Egypt" immerses learners in Bible-times culture, helping kids and adults step backwards in time to experience new traditions . . . taste new foods . . . play new games . . . try new crafts . . . and learn more from Joseph, that God never leaves us alone through life's trials and triumphs!



Day 1: God Gives Us Hope

Bible Story: Joseph interprets dreams in prison. (Genesis 40:1-23)
Bible Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you . . . to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Day 2: God Gives Us Special Abilities

Bible Story: Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge. (Genesis 41:1-40)
Bible Verse: "God has given us different gifts." - Romans 12:6

Day 3: God Gives Us Wisdom

Bible Story: Joseph leads Egypt through famine. (Genesis 41:41-42:5)
Bible Verse: "If you need wisdom, ask your generous God." - James 1:5

Day 4: God Gives Us Forgiveness

Bible Story: Joseph forgives his brothers. (Genesis 42:6-45:15)
Bible Verse: "But you are a god of forgiveness." - Nehemiah 9:17

Day 5: God Gives Us A Family

Bible Story: Joseph settles his family in Egypt. (Genesis 45:16-47:27)
Bible Verse: "For you are all children of God." - Galatians 3:26

DVDs



Mudhouse Sabbath: Seven Ways of Christian Formation Inspired by the Jewishness of Jesus DVD, 65 minutes

This lively 7-8 session DVD is an excellent resource for small groups interesting in learning more about Spiritual Practices. Each segment is under ten minutes, allowing plenty of time for discussion and reflection inspired by the topic. The DVD features Lauren Winner, author of *Mudhouse Sabbath* and *Girl Meets God*. Winner is both articulate and faith-filled, sharing a unique perspective, informed by her loving experience of Orthodox Judaism before, in her words "falling in love with Jesus" and becoming a Christian. She serves as Assistant Professor of Christian spirituality at Duke Divinity School. While no leader's guide is provided, the book *Mudhouse Sabbath* will circulate with the DVD to assist leaders in their preparation.

Presbytery of New Covenant TRANSITIONS

Extending the hand of fellowship

Rev. Joseph Kho, Honorably Retired, is the newest member-minister of New Covenant, transferring here from Los Ranchos Presbytery in California. Actually, Rev. Kho is not really new – he was a member of New Covenant Presbytery from 1995-2006, serving at Formosan Presbyterian. He has returned to this "warm presbytery" after his retirement and is now living in Katy. Glad you're back in Texas!



Rev. Joseph Kho

- Rev. Jim Birchfield - installed as Pastor at First PC, Houston, January 10, 2010
- Rev. Thomas Edwards - installed as Associate Pastor of First PC, Kingwood, January 31, 2010
- Rev. Rachel Grassley Young - installed as Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation, Clear Lake PC, Houston, January 31, 2010
- Rev. Jonathan Murray - installed as Pastor at St. Paul's PC, Needville, February 27, 2010
- Rev. John Melsness – will be installed as Associate Pastor at St. Andrew's PC, Houston, March 3, 2010.
- Rev. David Jenkins – now in Grace Presbytery (Dallas)
- Rev. Ellen Babinsky – now in Missions Presbytery (San Antonio)
- Rev. Scott Thayer – now in Monmouth Presbytery (New Jersey)
- Rev. Steve Frazier – now in Homestead Presbytery (Nebraska)
- Rev. Craig Sanders – Grace Presbytery, effective March 15, 2010 (Dallas)
- Rev. Skip Ehrlich - granted HR status
- Rev. Ray Harper – granted HR status
- Rev. Paul Bennett - granted HR status
- Rev. Bill Poe - granted HR status, effective May 8, 2010

Other news:

- Amy Klinkovsky, an inquirer under care of New Covenant and student at San Francisco Seminary, has been elected by the presbytery as a Theological Student Advisory Delegate to the 219th General Assembly. She was nominated for this position by the seminary.
- Wendy Bleike, First PC, Houston, has been enrolled as a Candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.
- Chad Erb, First PC, Kingwood, has been enrolled as an Inquirer.

2010 Presbytery meetings

| DATE | LOCATION | SPEAKER |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Saturday, May 8 | Northwoods PC, Houston | Laura Mendenhall |
| Sunday, July 18 (3-5 p.m.) | Pinecrest PC, Houston | GA Debriefing |
| August 7 and 15 | Days of Service & Celebration | |
| Saturday, November 13 | St. John's PC, Houston | TBD |

March 5-7
Youth Conclaves

March 13
Session Records Review
Clusters 3 and 7
Faith PC, Baytown

April 9-11
Presbyterian Marriage
Encounter

April 13-15
Clergy Retreat at Cho-Yeh

April 17
PW Spring Gathering

May 8
Stated Presbytery Meeting
Northwoods PC, Houston

June 5
Session Records Review
Clusters 2 and 11
First PC, Conroe

July 3-10
Meeting of 219th General
Assembly
Minneapolis, MN

July 17
Session Records Review
Cluster 6
First PC, Lukfin

July 18
Stated Presbytery Meeting
GA Debriefing
Pinecrest PC, Houston

July 20-24
Youth Triennium
Purdue University

September 18
Session Records Review
Clusters 1 and 4
First PC, Alvin

October 15-17
Presbyterian Marriage
Encounter

October 30
Session Records Review
Clusters 5 and 12
First PC, Sugar Land

November 13
Stated Presbytery Meeting
St. John's PC, Houston

APRIL 13-15



get ready for the annual
clergy retreat

Cho Yeh Camp and
Conference Center
April 13-15

featuring
singer, story-teller and folk-theologian

ed kilbourne

Pastors, put the dates of April 13-15 on your calendars now! That's your time for R&R, attending the New Covenant's annual Clergy Retreat at Cho-Yeh. Come enjoy the time with other pastors after the busy Lent and Easter season. Ed Kilbourne, singer, story-teller, and folk theologian will be our guest! He is known for his collections of moving music, quirky humor, and insightful monologues. Bring your spouse, too!

MARCH 15-17

*Funding Mission
Today and Tomorrow*

**Stewardship
Kaleidoscope**

for elders, pastors, presbytery staff and volunteers



Are you looking for more ways to share the theological and spiritual meaning of stewardship? Are you looking for new ideas for stewardship campaigns? Do you want to infuse the discipline of stewardship with joy and reverence?

Registration is now open for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference **March 15-17** in Indianapolis, "Funding Mission Today and Tomorrow." Choose from more than 28 workshops and be motivated and renewed by inspiring worship and keynote presentations. Learn from the experiences and success of others gathered for this exciting event. Visit www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org for conference details and to register.

APRIL 18-19

Being ALIVE
in a
CrazyBusy World

*"I have come that you may have life,
and have it more abundantly."
—Jesus (John 10:10)*

If there are any two words that describe the average American on any given day, they are: tired and busy. Our lives are not only full, they are crammed full. And we are always trying to figure out how to be more productive. And, in the midst of all this, we want to be disciples. To follow the One who promises us rest, who promises us peace, who promises us joy, who promises us life. But we're not quite sure how to pull this off.

You are invited to the Jarboe Lecture Series at Grace PC, Houston, a series designed to help us claim the abundant life Christ offers and to live this life not only for ourselves, but also for the world that God so loves. Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby, W.C. Brown Professor of Theology, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will preach **Sunday, April 18** at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15a.m. worship services, and speak Sunday at 7:00 p.m., Monday at noon, and Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Her lectures will address:

*"Living From the Center: Christian Identity
in a Crazybusy World"*

*"Living Toward the Kingdom: Work and Play
in a Crazybusy World"*

*"Living in the World, But Not of It: Love and Hope
in a Crazybusy World"*

Childcare is available by contacting Debbie Kay, dkay@gpch.org by April 15. For more information, contact Rev. Katie Cummings, kcummings@gpch.org, 713-267-5014.



Rev. Cynthia Rigby

MARCH 6

**Father-Daughter
Summit**

*"To help fathers and daughters
strengthen or rediscover the unique
relationship needed to produce
strong Christian women"*

Saturday, March 6
9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Lunch included)
Memorial Drive Presbyterian, Houston

Daughters (age 11+) and Dads
Contact Patty Leonard for more information and to register at pleonard@mdpc.org.



More Community News

A Word from Out of Bounds

By the Rev. Donald Wehmeyer

Greetings in the name of our Lord. I am a minister-member of New Covenant working out of bounds with the World Missions Division in Merida, Mexico. Since I rarely get to visit the Presbytery, it occurred to me in a blinding moment of SHAZAAAM that this could be the perfect place to keep New Covenant Presbytery informed about our lives and work here!

Liturgical renewal is important to me, for example, because I am constantly discovering how many Presbyterians have never “learned” how to worship or pray. The way I know they haven’t learned is because they miss out on the marvel or wonder, the best part of both worship and prayer! Marvel and wonder get left out because of our overly pragmatic and cognitive approach to the Christian life. It is certainly salubrious for our brothers and sisters to relate to God and the world with both their rationality and deep affections, but sadly these are often at either ends of a see-saw.

The National Presbyterian Church of Mexico is the oldest protestant denomination in Mexico and now has 63 non-geographic presbyteries. Although most of the members of a presbytery are in fairly close proximity, some can choose not to be; in short, pastors can affiliate with presbyteries they are in harmony with and the General Assembly provides space for great differences among the presbyteries.

For example, in Campeche one of the presbyteries can jump/clap/shout with the most exuberant Pentecostals and yet next door in



The Wehmeyers and their children.

Tabasco, worship is celebrated with only traditional hymns and zero jump/clap/shouting. No one is sure of the total membership in Mexico, but 1.5 million is a frequent guess. Fourteen of the presbyteries speak indigenous languages.

Please write me if you would like a message for your congregation or if you would like to organize a mission team visit and serve in the Yucatan or Chiapas.

May the peace of our Lord be with you!

Your colleague south of the border,
Donald and Martha Wehmeyer
dwehmeyer2@gmail.com

Editor's Note:

Don teaches at the San Pablo Seminary, serves as pastor at the Door of Salvation Church, hosts short term mission teams, works with the development of a new mission community center in Comitán, Chiapas, and leads spiritual retreats. His wife Martha ministers as a volunteer medical doctor and certified family counselor. She likes to quilt and often attends Houston's Quilt Show. She loves handbells and several years ago created the only handbell choir in Mexico!

2010 IRS mileage rate drops

The IRS has changed the reimbursement rate for business mileage from 55 cents per mile to 50 cents per mile, effective 1/01/10. The reduced rate reflects generally lower transportation costs compared to 2009. The business mileage

reimbursement rate is used to calculate the deductible costs of operating a vehicle for business.

The rate for miles driven for volunteer work is 14 cents per mile.



General Council recommends ...

Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church by Reggie McNeal. Jossey Bass. Leadership Network Publication. 2009.

Much has been said about the missional church movement. McNeal's book takes a look at what it means to embrace the missional concept of being sent into the world to bear witness to Christ's light rather than hunkering down in our buildings to preserve the way things are always done in our institutions. Three key shifts are involved:

- From an internal to external focus, ending the church as exclusive social club model
- From running programs and ministries to developing people as its core activity
- From church-based leadership to community engaged leadership

This book is both so accessible and so practical that New Covenant's General Council and many of our committees are committed to reading and discussing it and its implications for our various ministries. Its premise directly relates to our presbytery's vision of "growing congregations that passionately engage their communities to make disciples." Sessions would also find it an excellent focus for how their particular congregation measures vitality and better engages community. Discussion guides are being developed by presbytery staff and lodged on our website (SAY WHERE) to assist those facilitating conversations. Visit www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/



Labyrinth Prayer in Central America



Rebeca Cascante (on right), CEDEPCA's Women's Ministry Coordinator in Costa Rica, leads women in prayer around a labyrinth that was provided by the Presbytery of New Covenant.

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Guatemala, and from your friends from CEDEPCA!

I was blessed to participate in the course, "Gender relations in the Church," at the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica. In this course Rebeca Cascante, CEDEPCA's Women's Ministry Coordinator in Costa Rica, was invited to lead the Labyrinth prayer with the group of women from CEDEPCA. It was something very special for the forty women who were receiving this course.

One testified, "I received a great blessing because I felt listened to and felt the love from God." Another: "I freed myself from the burdens of the past and I found a new direction."

Thank you to all of you for bringing this important tool to our context, and for sharing another way of personal prayer.

Betty Carrera
Coordinadora Nacional
CEDEPCA
bcarrera@cedepca.org or www.cedepca.org

In Our Prayers

Family and friends of the Rev. Reynaldo Suarez, HR – Reynaldo died in a pedestrian accident January 7, 2010.

Rev. Mary Currie Member-at-Large – Mary's brother, Martyn Miller, died January 11, 2010.

Family and friends of the Rev. Jack Bennett, Pastor Emeritus, First PC, Galveston, and former Interim Pastor at St. Philip PC, Houston – Jack died January 21, 2010.

Family and friends of Elder Andrew Lee, worship and Bible study leader at Grace Taiwan PC, Houston – Lee died January 27, 2010.

Rev. Jackie Hannan, Atascocita PC, and family – Jackie's stepfather, Cyril Rogers, died February 3, 2010.

Rev. Jim Gill, First PC, Tomball – Jim's mother, Anna Belle, died February 10, 2010. Anna Belle was a Commissioned Lay Pastor and a member of First PC Tomball.

Rev. Judy Fletcher, Synod of the Sun Executive – her sister, Paula Bishop, died February 15, 2010.

Rev. John Potter, serving in Okinawa as Chaplain in U.S. Navy, married Li-Chuan Sara Yang February 27, 2010, in Taiwan.

Rev. Belinda Windham, New Hope PC, Katy –son Sam is dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

Rev. Ray Harper, HR – recovering from a back injury

Rev. Charles Teykl (HR) and his wife Randee – Randee is recovering from shoulder surgery February 14.

Rev. Bryan Kile (HR), Parish Associate at First PC, Kingwood – eye surgery in January

Elder Eileen Moore, presbytery volunteer and member of St. Paul's PC, Houston – continuing health concerns

Elder Gary Akin, Northwoods PC, Houston and member of Ike Recovery Team – his mother is now in hospice.

Elder Sharon Darden, coordinator for Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry – Sharon's mother is recovering from surgery on February 8.

**HR = Honorably Retired*



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