

# CONNECTIONS

Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.

## THROUGH THE POWER OF FAITH... TWO CONGREGATIONS BEGIN A NEW CHAPTER IN THEIR MINISTRY

### Historic First Presbyterian in Galveston worships again in restored Sanctuary

By Elder Joe Trum, First PC, Galveston

Black storm clouds gathered. Intense non-stop winds began to blow. Sea birds disappeared. A blinding rain rolled over Galveston Island. Locals knew that a big hurricane was brewing just off the coast, but no one knew how nasty

was nearly empty. Well over half of the population had already fled the island by Friday afternoon, but those who stayed would have Hurricane Ike stories to last a lifetime.

The hurricane aftermath was worse than could be imagined. The Rev. David Green, pastor of First Presbyterian, and several church members braved fallen trees and debris mountains to check the church after the storm. It had taken a nasty wind-driven shower along with a long, slow soaking bath. The church was a water-logged mess. Extent of damage: unknown. Damaged beyond hope? No way.

Flash forward two and three-quarter years. First Presbyterian held its first Sunday service in its beautifully restored church sanctuary May 22, 2011. Through the power of faith and a will to fight long odds, the church had been restored. A determined band of Presbyterians proved their strength. And faith.

The journey from Ike to

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First Presbyterian Church, Galveston

this fellow would prove to be. This was to be the big one that old timers had predicted was someday coming. On Friday, September 13, 2008, the big one finally hit Galveston. His name was Ike. Hurricane Ike.

The I-45 causeway lifeline linking Galveston to the mainland

### Pathways Church of Houston holds chartering worship service

By Rev. Paul Hoang, Korean Young Nak PC, Houston

On May 1, the Pathways Church of Houston was chartered as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). That day at 3:00 p.m., members, families and friends gathered at Heights Presbyterian Church, where Pathways currently nests, to celebrate and witness this joyful event. The vibrant praise team opened the service with a contemporary rendition of the hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and all the people lifted up their voices and hearts to praise the Lord.

With joy and thanksgiving, the administrative committee of the presbytery constituted the congregation, installed and ordained elders and the organizing pastor, Rev. Shawn Kang, and charged the newly ordained officers and the congregation to continually follow Jesus Christ in their discipleship, mission, and service. As they have been nurtured by the presbytery for the past six years, Rev. Wendy Bailey encouraged



Chartering service of Pathways church.

the newly chartered congregation to now "take care of Christ's sheep" as the post-resurrection Jesus had commanded his disciples after nurturing them for three years.

In recalling the church plant, Rev. Kang thanked God, each of the members of Pathways, and the presbytery for their nurture since September 2004, when they first started out in the living room of one of their members. He said that God has blessed them in spirit and number with the growth of their young adults, families, and children. Named "Little Pathways," their children's ministry began with three children and now

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# FROM THE COLE MINE

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



## NEW COVENANT CONNECTIONS

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## “An Outsider’s Perspective”

I like to think of myself as a capable person, who can figure out how to make most things work. As my “stuff” gets more and more sophisticated, I seem to become dumber about how they work. When I bought my first smart phone (which obviously refers to the manufacturer and not the owner), I was befuddled by how to turn it on. The on/off button worked and the screen lit up revealing an unlocking mechanism on the screen. I tapped, pushed, talked to it, tried turning the phone off and on again but couldn’t get the screen to open up for me. When I mentioned this to my son, he took the phone and dragged the lock symbol across the screen and voila! I could use the phone. This is a role reversal that has been repeating itself more and more lately for me and my contemporaries. No longer are we the primary teachers; sometimes we have to learn from our offspring.

Last month, I had the wonderful opportunity to spend a week in Taiwan as the guest of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. I attended their General Assembly meeting in Taipei as an official delegate of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and then spent four days in southern Taiwan touring hospitals, schools, churches, and mission sites. Some insights from my trip may be helpful to us as we continue to seek who we are going to be when we “grow up” as a denomination. In much the same way that I am learning to take instruction from my son, we need to take instruction from our ecclesiastical offspring.

The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan was begun in the nineteenth century by two Scot Presbyterians – one from Canada and the other from Scotland. Today that church is the strongest protestant church on the island nation. The Presbyterian

Church in Taiwan was responsible for starting three large hospitals and many smaller ones, several universities and colleges, and three seminaries, all of which still have intimate ties to the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. The PCT is actively engaged in evangelism and has set a goal to double in size in the next five years. They are also deeply involved in social justice issues – poverty, illiteracy, discrimination, global warming, healthcare, the disparity between the rich and the poor, immigration reform, and relations with China. Somehow they have managed to blend faithful evangelism with faithful social witness, both of which are outwardly focused activities, without focusing on themselves.

Part of their story is that to be a Christian in Taiwan is still counter-cultural because Christianity is a small minority on the island. They can argue with one another – believe me in their General Assembly, they argue passionately with one another – but they know better than to divide because their impact will be lessened. They have serious theological disagreements with one another, but they also know that God has called them to be a part of a church where diversity prevailed among the very first disciples and has continued to be a dominant part of Christianity ever since.

Presbyterians in Taiwan have learned to contend passionately for principles of theology and polity. And they have learned that those battles are not the battles that count. The battle that counts with God is the one waged in a world where might makes right, where the powerful are first, and where the object is to be served. In a society where Christians are outnumbered 96 to 4, Presbyterians don’t have time to take their battles beyond the General Assembly, let

alone advertise their squabbles to the world. Presbyterian infighting is secondary to taking the gospel of love into a world that disregards the powerless, the impoverished, the ill, the imprisoned, the homeless, and the naked. It took only a week in Taiwan for our sisters and brothers in Christ to teach me what I already knew: the world expects us to treat them like we treat one another. Lately, that hasn’t been so good. We can do better.

In Christ’s service,

### CLERK’S CORNER:

Continued from Page 3

- Ordered Ministries: formerly offices in ministry” – Ordered Ministries will include deacons and presbyters (teaching and ruling elders)

I will be offering a workshop on transitioning to nFOG at FOCUS on Saturday, October 1, at St. Philip Presbyterian Church for clerks and moderators of sessions and any other interested ruling elder. A similar workshop will be developed for presbytery leadership - time and location TBA.

### Results of presbytery voting on proposed amendments to the Constitution of the PC(USA) (as of 6/7/11):

Amendments 10-A through 10-N: **adopted**

[although 10-D and 10-H are superseded by nFOG]

New Form of Government: **adopted**

Confession of Belhar: **defeated**

## GALVESTON:

Continued from Page 1

restoration has been a long one. Caring craftsmen had to be selected to make sure that the original beauty and design would shine again – even after unspeakable damage. Many church members volunteered countless hours to supervise the work of the specialists. First to be restored were church classrooms, offices, and fellowship hall. Next came the sanctuary restoration which presented special challenges. The sanctuary had been completed in 1890 under the supervision of noted architect Nicholas Clayton with three stained glass windows that were designed and constructed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and his studio artisans.

As work began, century-old wood paneling was removed - piece by piece, individually numbered, cleaned or restored, and reinstalled like a giant jigsaw puzzle.

Through hard work and diligent scholarship, an interior color and stenciling plan was crafted to make the colors of the stained glass windows and the pipe organ pipes - make design sense. The breath-taking ceiling Corona which had lost nearly all detail was hand painted and stenciled by specialists in this esoteric art.



The original black and white marble floors in the church narthex - long ago replaced with *what were they thinking* red painted concrete – were restored, based on old photos. Old vinyl tile beneath church pews has been replaced with oak hardwood flooring. Custom woven carpeting was selected to compliment the original design schemes.

The rare long leaf curly pine wainscot and staircase have been stripped of black varnish; the richness of the wood literally glows now.

All stained glass windows are now illuminated from inside and outside, so they will shine for all of Galveston to enjoy. Even the entry doors have been restored and the historic hardware rebuilt.

The struggles of full restoration continue, of course. The church pews - damaged by Ike - have survived a second disaster. During pew restoration at an Alabama

restoration specialist, the Alabama plant was hit by a tornado. All pew restoration work was halted – with pew delivery pushed to late August 2011. Also, the church's small chapel and elevator restoration has not begun.

Rev. David Green says, "Our goal was to return our sanctuary to the original glory and we feel that we have met that goal. We again have a historic church that all of Galveston can be proud of. This restoration is a tribute to a large group of Christians believing, then acting on that belief."

*The First Presbyterian Church of Galveston is the island's first church and one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in Texas. The church is located at 1903 Church Street.*

## PATHWAYS:

Continued from Page 1

numbers around 60 children. It was pleasant to see so many children in worship and fellowship afterwards. Rev. Kang also thanked the host congregations in the presbytery that have provided them with space to gather over the years. The service was followed by a wonderful dinner reception where all people were invited to share a meal and fellowship.

In their history as a new church development, the mission-minded Pathways has been very involved in local and global mission projects. They have partnered with organizations such as *Free the Captives* that fights human trafficking, and Living Water International that provides clean water to people around the world, as well as local organizations like Christian Community Service Center that serves the poor, hungry and disabled in the inner city. Even as a newly chartered congregation, Pathways is already poised to start planting new communities of worship and mission around the Houston area.

It is truly exciting to see congregations like Pathways Church of Houston that "passionately engage their community in making disciples" and seek to be faithful to God in their mission and service. May we pray for God's continual blessing upon Pathways as they journey forward in their new chapter of congregational life!

# clerk's corner

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



*This column includes a significant amount of research conducted by former stated clerk, Julie MacLemore, in preparation for the February meeting of the presbytery when the new Form of Government was considered by New Covenant. Thank you, Julie!*

I am writing this on June 7, the day the new Form of Government (nFOG) received the 87th positive vote for adoption – by Trinity Presbytery. This means changes are ahead regarding how we order ourselves as presbyteries, congregations, and sessions. In printed format the new *Book of Order* will be available by the end of July, although it will go into effect on July 11. In the meantime, you can download the full text of the new Form of Government (nFOG) from the presbytery's website ([www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org)), as well as materials that will be helpful to sessions during the transition. Click on **Office of the Stated Clerk** in the navigation bar on the left for a list of these materials. In particular, the side-by-side comparison of the current FOG with nFOG is a resource that we should all keep handy.

## ITEMS THAT WILL REQUIRE CONGREGATION AND SESSION ATTENTION

With the adoption of nFOG, there are a number of decisions congregations and sessions will have to make that are currently spelled out in the *Book of Order*. The following list is not all-inclusive but can serve as a guide. Some of these items may already be addressed in a congregation's by-laws, so it is wise to review them before taking any action.

### Congregations will have to:

- determine how meetings of the congregation will be handled w/re: parliamentary procedure. This can be done by adopting a rule that meetings will be conducted according to the most recent version of *Robert's Rules*, or define another process.
- provide by rule for the minimum notification requirements for a congregational meeting.
- provide by rule the quorum necessary to conduct the business of a congregational meeting.
- define by rule the composition of a nominating committee, how often this committee will be elected, and what the term of service of a nominating committee member will be.
- provide by rule who will moderate the session in congregations served by co-pastors.
- provide by rule the quorum required to conduct business in meetings of the congregation.

### Sessions will have to:

- provide by rule the quorum required to conduct business at its meetings.
- develop a manual of administrative operations that specify the form and guide for mission and ministry in that council (formerly governing body). Current administrative or operations manuals may serve as the bases for the new manuals.

### New Vocabulary includes:

- Council: formerly "governing body" i.e., sessions, presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly will be councils of the denomination, no longer "governing bodies."
- Teaching Elder: formerly "Minister of Word and Sacrament"
- Ruling Elder: formerly "elder"
- Commissioned Ruling Elder (to particular pastoral service): formerly "Commissioned Lay Pastor"

Please see **CLERK'S CORNER**, Page 2



## Mary's Musings

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

Do you know about the Sankofa bird? It is part of West African (Ghanian) folklore. It is a bird that flies forward while looking backward. It carries an egg, symbolizing the future in its mouth. It represents the wisdom of looking to our past as we move toward our future... that is *looking* at the past, not dwelling in it.

What does it mean to seek to be followers of Jesus Christ who are both faithful and relevant in the 21st century? The Reformed tradition has always been about living in the tension of a kingdom of God that is "already, but not yet." There is much debate in the larger church today about what, exactly, are the essentials and what are the habits of the heart that mark a vibrant and healthy (and faithful) congregation moving into the future.

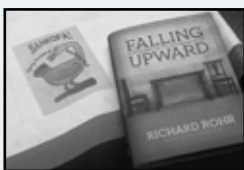
I tend to look at the wisdom of how Christians have dealt with hard issues and changing times in the past as a means of charting a future. It seems to me that Jesus offered a pretty good corrective to the religious leaders of his own day who were about the preservation of the status quo and the focus on outward forms rather than abiding principles. As we work with congregations in the area of transformation and living into a future that moves in partnership with God to where God is already at work in the world, we have to decide what there is about the way we do things that we will let die. After all, for resurrection to occur, something has to die.

This "letting go" is an important aspect of personal spiritual journeys as well. Perhaps because I'm preparing for a significant birthday this fall (you know, one of those that ends in zero), because I have recently made a "life list" pilgrimage to Iona, or perhaps because I've been doing a fair amount of reading on the tasks of spiritual maturity, I have come to believe that it will be essential to our future that we all cultivate the ability to trust God's providence enough to live in the mystery.

A core group of our presbytery vision consultants have spent a good bit of time in the past several years reading about transformation, spiritual renewal, incarnational ministry, cultural shifts in churches and the world, and the dynamics of change. As a group, we have grown closer together, have been challenged and fed by our readings and our conversations, and shared prayers that have made our time lively and well spent. As the group – like the Sankofa bird – flies forward, it will take wisdom from its past learning and move forward with a new call.

Part of that new call is to invite interested parties to join the group as we read our next book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. If you are intrigued, you have an open invitation to join us for the discussion on Tuesday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. Based on my reading of the book, some will be fascinated, others will be challenged, and still others will throw up their hands and say "hogwash!" Rohr, a Franciscan priest, puts his strong faith in Jesus and His teaching into conversation with Homer and Einstein, with Jung and Erikson. He suggests that an important part of our mature spirituality is learning to question, to move beyond our comfort zone and our self-reliance. And he promises that the benefits are of a deeper experience of the Holy, which will leave us forever changed.

What does *your* Sankofa bird reclaim from the past? What future is it flying toward? And what hopes is it carrying in its beak?



# Community News

## What Presbyterians Believe

Are you looking for a thoughtful and substantive – yet highly accessible and affordable – resource to use in your congregation about what Presbyterians believe? *Presbyterians Today* has a new special issue that is well suited for use with elder training, confirmation, and new member classes – or even as a great resource for an adult Sunday School class. Essays include articles on the Trinity, sacraments, grace, Biblical justice, the problem of evil, the paradox of predestination, and more.

Single issues are \$5, but group rates of 100 copies or more drop the price down considerably. The presbytery office will gather orders from churches at the cost to churches

of \$1 per copy until **August 1**, so that even our smaller churches can take advantage of the bulk rate. Copies will need to be picked up from the office on Lovett Blvd. If you as an individual would like to have a copy, speak to your pastor about placing a group order.

To reserve \$1 copies, churches should send church name and the number of copies desired to [mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org).



## Report on new Vision Initiatives Grants (Totaling \$33,726)

### Highlights of church plans:

- **First Dickinson** – outreach to the Spanish-speaking community through partnering with College of the Mainland to offer ESL and GED classes
- **First, Galveston** – communication program aimed at new members
- **First African NCD, Houston** – teach African culture and language to 2nd generation African children; hire teachers and transportation for children; tutoring kids in Math and Science
- **Heights, Houston** – improve building to meet code to develop an active children's ministry that reaches out to unchurched young families with small children who live in the area
- **Waverly, New Waverly** – Athletes of God speakers' expenses to ministry to young girls softball team. This program is an outreach to girls with and without a strong faith life to strengthen their discipleship.
- **St. Paul, Houston** – move from monthly to weekly worship event for homeless and unchurched at the SW Fwy. and Bellaire Blvd. Funds provide program material, advertising, and snack/food.
- **St. Philip, Houston** – Kids and Hunger, packaging meals for children in U.S. and the world.
- **Peace, Pearland** – mission through partnering with Pearland Park Dept. to reach out to unchurched and community
- **Westminster, Houston** – outreach to community through Random Acts Evangelism, WPC Concert Series, and Fall Fest
- **Woodforest, Houston** – landscaping, security lighting, and shade awnings for community engagement.

# E Highlights

## New President/CEO for Mo-Ranch named

The Board of Trustees of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly has announced Richard H. "Dick" Powell Jr. as the new President and CEO. He is currently pastor, head of staff at Forest Hills PC in Helotes, TX. He received his MDiv from Austin Seminary. Dick is a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Management Development Institute, as well as the Center for Creative Leadership in Colorado Springs.

"The Board is enormously pleased with the combination of skills that the Rev. Powell brings to the position," said Rebecca Gafford, chair of the Mo-Ranch Board of Trustees. An ordained Presbyterian minister with an exceptional executive business background and a deep knowledge of and love for Mo-Ranch, he was the

"ideal candidate."

Powell has been a leader in the Presbyterian Church for most of his life, starting as a "junior deacon" in the seventies, and including roles as moderator of the Committee on Ministry for Mission Presbytery, workshop leader and speaker at the Mo-Ranch Men's Conference, and keynote speaker and workshop leader for the Synod of the Sun's Small Church Pastor Retreat.

Three members of the Search Committee are from New Covenant – John Woodhouse (St. Thomas PC), who chaired the committee; Fred Robertson (First PC, Houston) and Julie MacLemore (St Philip PC.)



Rev. Richard Powell

## Introducing Synod of the Sun interim executive...

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Gerry Tyer, who has been elected to serve as Transitional Interim Synod Executive for the Synod of the Sun, effective August 1. Prior to coming to Texas, Gerry served as Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of



Rev. Dr. Gerry Tyler

Tampa Bay in Florida where he provided spiritual and administrative oversight for 75 churches. He has served as pastor at churches of various size and mission focus in New Jersey,

Minnesota, and Ohio.

Gerry received his MDiv and a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary. He earned a Doctor of Ministry from Boston University and received clinical training from Trenton Psychiatric Hospital and Princeton Medical Center. Author of *Seven Keys to an Effective Presbytery*, Gerry is the founder of the Presbytery Leadership Institute and the REACH Initiative.

He is married to Maxine Ryals Tyer, a retired mathematics teacher from St. Petersburg College. Welcome Gerry and Maxine!

## REMAINING CONNECTIONS DEADLINES IN 2011

Wed., August 10      September/October issue  
Wed., October 12      November/December issue

## Making History TODAY



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

## Celebrating an anniversary

Is your church approaching a significant anniversary (usually one that ends in either a "5" or a "0")? If so, such an anniversary is a wonderful occasion to celebrate your congregation's history and to make exciting plans for the future. Below are ten ideas that might be helpful as you go about planning for the anniversary.

1. Start planning early. Have a strong committee that is willing to begin planning at least a year in advance, and preferably 2-3 years in advance soliciting ideas from the congregation.
2. Plans should include consideration of the needs of the community. Are there needs such as building a new sign for the church, taking care of specific improvements to the church property, or establishing a relationship with a local school or college?
3. Set up a plan to reach out to the immediate neighborhood. How can the life and work of the church be made more visible to the local community? Are there certain needs in the community that the church could address?
4. Invite an able preacher to come as a guest to preach a series of sermons (anywhere from 3-5 nights.) This might be a source of encouragement to church members as well as an opportunity to invite newcomers to the church.
5. Use the anniversary as an opportunity for the youth to go on a mission trip and have them report back to the congregation.
6. Publicize the church's anniversary, using the church's website, the local newspaper, and radio. Invite former pastors to participate in the service. Invite former members and friends to be present. Invite neighboring congregations to participate in the celebration.
7. Have butcher paper posted along the wall in the fellowship hall and other, similar-type rooms. On that paper invite members to record significant events that they recall or were part of. The events should be recorded in chronological order, writing years along the top of the paper (1900, 1925, 1950, 1975, 2000, etc.).
8. Place session minutes and church register on microfilm. A copy of the archival quality and one reading copy should go to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia and one to the archives at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
9. Have someone research, write, and publish a history of the congregation. Put together a scrapbook with photographs, bulletins, etc. Some of the older members and retired pastors could be interviewed on videotape that could be shown at an appropriate time. Make a video recording of the events and activities of the anniversary year as well as of the anniversary service.
10. Other possibilities: have a pictorial directory made; order and sell, at cost, dinner plates with a replica of the current church building or replicas of buildings that have served the church; develop greeting cards with a picture of the church or some distinctive symbol of the church on it; piece together a quilt that includes various aspects of the history of the church.



## Wendy's Bailey-wick

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

Back in the early 1990s I started reading every book I could get my hands on about the church in the 21st century. I was convinced that if I read the right experts and futurists, I would be well prepared for leadership in the church. After a few years, the "expert" opinions were contradicting each other. I realized no one knows the future. "I can't say it was an "aha!" moment - it was more like a "duh!" moment." No one knows what the church will become, but we all have a responsibility in shaping it.

While I love reading about and observing the trends that are leading us into our future, and I am still intrigued by the future possibilities for the church, I am also deeply grounded in a faith that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead the people of God no matter what models or structures our congregations are shaped by. In other words, deep down I know that I trust God to do God's work with or without me, with or without the PC(USA), with or without the structures of U.S. Christianity.

Regardless, I am frequently asked, "So, Wendy, what do you think the future church will look like?" And, I have to confess, while I cannot tell the future, I do have a vision, an idea, or an expectation.

Faith communities (I resist using the word "church" or even "congregations" here) of the future will be **relatively small**... as small as a couple dozen, and no more than 100 or 125. That's about the size of a group of people who can be "community" together. Decades ago, John Naisbitt wrote that as technology develops, we will become a people who depend on "high tech" and "high touch." The rise of the mega-church seemed to be a contradiction to that, but the day of the mega-church is past. More and more people are looking for intimate, face-to-face relationships, in their spiritual and religious lives, not large programs or concert-like entertainment.

Our faith communities will be **focused on the work of the kingdom** (mission), not the maintenance of structures or organizations (buildings). The work of the church is to do mission, to make a difference in the lives of real people. This work will be the priority of our congregations. They will opt out of paying insurance or upkeep on a building if the building itself doesn't embody the compassion and justice of Christ in that neighborhood. They will meet in homes and coffee shops and schools and parks to pray, study, and fellowship.

There will also be a focus on **ancient practices** and rituals and sacraments. Spiritual practices of daily prayer, meditation, Bible reading, hospitality, faith sharing, pilgrimage, service, Sabbath keeping, etc., will all be visibly present in the day to day lives of congregation members. Gatherings will focus on sacraments, rituals of compassion and healing, and even liturgical practices... they will not be rote, but intentionally "real."

**Lay leadership** will be vital to the faith community. Every member of the community will be encouraged to read and study and practice their faith. This will lead to a higher level of "learnedness" among all members, not just an "educated clergy." Many pastors will be "tentmakers" and many members will step up to full leadership in the church either as commissioned lay pastors or as elders.

Finally, the faith communities will courageously deal with **real life struggles** and all life issues. Work and vocation, sexuality and relationships, mental illness and addiction, personal economics and generosity... every topic of life is welcomed to be explored in faithful relationship with each other and through Jesus Christ. Social issues will also be discussed and acted upon appropriately as the community is led in faithfulness to Christ.

# Mission &

## Responding to the world's need: over 20,000 meals packed and loaded!

One evening in April, 135 volunteers of all ages, eager to make a dent in the staggering hunger crisis throughout the world, stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian, Bryan. Their target: to pack 20,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now.



All ages helping out.

Each person

had been assigned to a team: the unloading crew, set-up crew, package labelers, filling crews, sealers, counters, boxing specialists, loaders, supper servers, and cleanup crew. Hair nets and plastic gloves were adorned by each BEFORE the packing began!



Assembling packages.

## FOCUS- Part 2

Have you heard that this year's FOCUS event is free? In these tight economic times, we are offering this to you with no charge. If you like the event, you will be able to make a love offering to help seed the event for next year.

Following the presbytery's mission statement, "Growing congregations that passionately **ENGAGE THEIR COMMUNITIES** to make disciples," we have designed three tracks of classes. In the last edition of Connections, workshops for the "passionate" part of New Covenant's vision statement, including classes on both Old and New Testament Bible study, a discussion of the confessions, and one on God's transformative call.

In the "Engaging Communities" track:

- "Passionately Connecting with your Community" Rev. Mark Downs, Heights Presbyterian. Mark will speak about how Heights PC has been re-energized by the partnerships with many organizations in the neighborhood the church has formed.
- "Empowering Members to Do Ministry" Elder Charlotte Wells, St. James Presbyterian, LaPorte.

• "Police and Church Together" Senior Officer Barry Curtis of the Houston Police Department.

• "Making a Difference in the Lives of At-Risk Children" Oralia Rios-Nunez, former Executive Director of Nehemiah Ministries, founded by First Presbyterian, Houston.

And as bonus tracks:

• "Be Prepared" with Elder Meg Scott, who is a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Nation Response Team.

• "Onward through the nFOG - What Will Change?" with Rev. Diane Prevary, Stated Clerk of New Covenant. This class is designed particularly for clerks and moderators of sessions, although everyone is welcome. The 2011- 2013 *Book of Order* will be used in the workshop and available for purchase (\$10).

FOCUS takes place Sat., October 1, at St. Philip Presbyterian, Houston, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Ed Kilbourne, known for his collections of moving music, quirky humor, and insightful monologues, will be the keynote speaker and present a workshop entitled "The Gospel According to You!"

# Ministry

## One's cultural point of view

Although the phrase "war on terror" only became common after the 9-11 attacks, I have read that some Native Americans feel as if they have been fighting terrorism since 1492, the beginning of the European invasion and occupation of their lands.



What! Early in school we learned that Columbus discovered America in 1492. He and those who followed him actually provided a great service to those who were already living in America - they didn't even know they were lost! No matter, finders keepers! And guess who wrote the history books?

Mental jump. When people describe their church, they often say at some point, "We're a warm and friendly church", that is, all are welcome, all are greeted, and if they have questions we will answer them. We will even guide them to various places in our church facility. And this is the case whether or not the visitor is of our race, our ethnicity or our culture. But did you know that we of the dominant culture, American-of-European descent, assume that:

- all other cultural groups think like us,
- all other cultural groups make decisions like us,
- all other cultural groups want to be like us,
- all other cultural groups find our worship experience to be meaningful and satisfying,
- the "language barrier" is the biggest obstacle in becoming a multicultural church.

Does this mean we are dishonest when we say we are a warm and friendly church? Of course not! It just means that we are warm and friendly according to our cultural understanding and practice. But we assume our culture is everybody's preferred culture. So maybe this is where we need to begin if we are to be faithful to our multicultural context and love the people God sends our way.

We need to become aware of our own cultural characteristics. What makes us who we are? We need to begin learning about other cultures as they become more and more a part of our lives, and the church's life in southeast Texas. God is building his (not our) church, and it is a multicultural church.

## Attention Inquirers and Candidates!

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry will begin communicating with Inquirers and Candidates of New Covenant through presbytery's e-newsletter, *Tuesday Connect*. This is an excellent forum for passing information to all those under care in this presbytery.

If you do not already receive *Tuesday Connect*, contact Helen Wolf, [hwolf@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:hwolf@pbyofnewcovenant.org), or Patricia Brantley, [pbrantley@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:pbrantley@pbyofnewcovenant.org), and request to be added to the e-newsletter circulation list. Short updates will be

included on topics such as ordination exams, annual consultations, the process for ordination, and late breaking information. In addition to information from CPM, *Tuesday Connect* provides information about all programs of the presbytery.

Members of CPM are hoping to use *Tuesday Connect* as a means to enhance communication to Inquirers and Candidates and support them as they move through the process of becoming ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder).

## Classifieds

### Position available: Director of Youth and Christian Formation

ChristChurch Presbyterian in Bellaire, is seeking a creative, high-energy Director of Youth and Christian Formation. The person filling this position should have a bachelor's degree (preferred); experience in teaching, organizing, administering and leading church programs for children and youth ministries; and the ability to work effectively with people of all ages both within and outside our church community. A complete position description is posted at <http://www.ccpres.org> or contact [director-youth@ccpres.org](mailto:director-youth@ccpres.org).

### Position available: Director of Children and Youth Ministries

First Presbyterian, Galveston, is looking for a part-time director for children and youth ministries. A college degree and experience with kids are required. Applicants may submit their resume to Marsha Scoggin, [scoggin@galvpres.net](mailto:scoggin@galvpres.net), or fax, 409-762-1467.

### Remember...

Church jobs openings are listed at [www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org). Church Jobs>Pastors, Educators, Other Church Professionals, and Support Staff.

## 'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!'

"In early 2002, my wife Julia went through her annual physical checkup with flying colors. In February, she went to her gynecologist for a checkup... The doctor told her... that she needed to have her thyroid examined."

So begins the long story of Elder Andrie and Julia Chens' journey through six years of tests, waiting, suffering, prayers, five major surgeries, and faithful living, ending in an affirmation of God's gentleness and peace. Read Andrie's complete story, "Suffering," which is located on the [Links](#) page of the presbytery website,

[www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org).

Andrie (Formosan Presbyterian, Houston) concludes his account by sharing a Bible passage that he and Julia dearly love: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* <sup>5</sup> *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.* <sup>6</sup> *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* <sup>7</sup> *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)*

## Brazos Presbyterian Homes announces expansion to Bayou Manor

Bayou Manor, a Continuing Care Retirement Community owned and operated by Brazos Presbyterian Homes, has announced a substantial expansion and renovation to its existing facilities. Located in the Meyerland/West University/Medical Center area of Houston, the new fourteen-story high-rise will have 84 new apartment residences and 32 assisted living residences, state-of-the-art wellness and fitness amenities, choice of dining venues, and a new 180-seat performance and event center. The newly named Brazos Towers at Bayou Manor will offer all levels of service, activities, and long-



Brazos Towers at Bayou Manor

term health care under one roof.

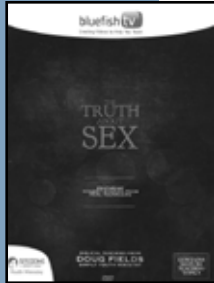
The new residences are expected to be available for occupancy by fall 2013. To find out more about this expansion, call 713-660-5000 or visit the Information Center at Brazos Towers, 4141 South Braeswood, Houston 77025.

<http://www.brazostowers.org/>

# In the Resource Center

## NEW Resources in the Resource Center

### The Truth about Sex. BluefishTV DVD



For mature high school students, this four session study featuring Doug Fields offers frank conversations and biblical insights as well as real life teen stories. Video segments are 25 minutes each, and this could be used in a retreat setting. Topics include The Truth About Sex, The Truth About Guys and Girls, The Truth About Boundaries, and The Truth About Forgiveness. Sex is described as one of God's good gifts within the context of marriage, but also equips young people to think proactively about boundaries and life choices. The final segment on forgiveness acknowledges implications of guilt and shame and the renewing power of God's forgiveness.

### Basic: Fear God, Basic: Follow Jesus, and Basic: Holy Spirit. DVDs



These first three entries in what will be a series of 7 short films featuring Francis Chan are produced by Flannel, the folks that created the popular Nooma series with Rob Bell. Lasting 14- 15 minutes each, they are short enough to allow plenty of time for discussion triggered by reflection questions. Don't miss the "behind the scene" features that show how the segment was filmed and what the filmmakers hope to capture about the spiritual life.

### Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God.

By Francis Chen - DVD



This New York Times best-seller calls the church into a passionate love for God that moves beyond complacency to radical demands of discipleship in all areas of life. This radical discipleship is not based on working harder on a list of do's and don'ts, but is based on falling in love with God. Readers may wish to visit [www.CrazyLoveBook.com](http://www.CrazyLoveBook.com) for video introductions to each chapter or read in conjunction with the DVD- based curriculum below.

### Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God. 10-session DVD curriculum



Author and pastor Francis Chen explores the passionate love of God for His people and the passionate response demanded in return, challenging us to move beyond lukewarm faith to deep relationships with God and with others. Each lesson ends with two open-ended reflection questions, which would be enriched by reading the book but are not dependent upon the reading.

### Joshua, Judges, and Ruth for Everyone and 1 & 2 Samuel for Everyone

By John Goldingray



### A Door Set Open: Grounding Change in Mission and Hope

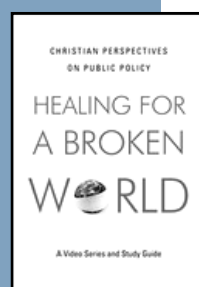
By Peter Steinke



Family systems expert Peter Steinke brings practical examples that are helpful AND challenging to this study of mission grounded in the Kingdom of God, a future built on hope, and the value of applying family systems principles to faith communities. He offers helpful insights on dealing with resistance to needed change and the proactive steps that must be taken to insure that life- giving, faithful change can occur.

### Healing for a Broken World: Christian Perspectives on Public Policy

12 session DVD curriculum



Many Christians desire to act as responsible citizens but are uncertain how to do so in a truly Christian manner that goes beyond simplistic sound bites. Developed from a centrist evangelical perspective, the resource develops underlying biblical themes Creation, Sin and Redemption; Justice; Solidarity; and Civil Society and then applies these insights to issues of division of church and state, poverty, life issues, environmental stewardship; solidarity; disease and poverty in Africa and war and terrorism. Rather than offering prescribed answers, each segment offers a framework for decision making and ends with solid discussion questions. An excellent leader's guide accompanies the DVD and could easily stand alone. Those wishing to deepen the experience may wish to encourage participants to read the book of the same title by Steve Monsama.

### New titles in the Being Reformed adult curriculum series

These 6-week studies with participant booklet and leader's guide are part of a growing library of topical studies that are available as permanent resources through Presbyterian Marketplace, the official online store for items created by Congregational Ministries Publishing. Participants read short essays each week and the leader's guides offer helps to guide the congregation in reflection on what is learned, what meaning this opens in our spiritual lives, and what implications for actions grow out of our head and heart learning. New titles include: Seeking Social Justice, Remembering Baptism, The Lord's Prayer, Temptation in the Desert, Seven Days to Glory and The Belhar Confession. For more details and to see the range of studies available, visit [www.pcusa.org/ministries/curriculum/being-reformed](http://www.pcusa.org/ministries/curriculum/being-reformed).



Two new entries in the Old Testament for Everyone series are now available. Each volume includes a crisp translation and intriguing commentary on principal portions of the titled books of the Old Testament. Designed for use by groups or individuals.

# Transitions

## Two New Covenant pastors granted Honorably Retired status

### The Rev. Connie Alexander

Connie may have heard God's call first as a 16-year-old but waited to answer the call after successful careers as a banker and a high school teacher. She received her MDiv from San Francisco Seminary and DMin in 2002 from McCormick Seminary. Connie has served churches in Plainview and Dimmitt, Texas, and Ruston and Winnfield, in Louisiana.



Connie Alexander

It was during her time in Winnfield that she signed up for a trip to Jordan with a group of Presbyterian pastors. On the flight there, she sat with two other pastors, John and Paul Alexander. "The three of us began to talk," reports Connie, "and we have been talking ever since!" Connie and Paul married in January 2007. They found their way to Texas in February when Connie was welcomed in the Presbytery of New Covenant as pastor for Drake Memorial Presbyterian in Orange. In retirement, Connie intends to keep enjoying her love of opera, biographies, and travel. "How blessed I am – living in interesting places, doing very satisfying work, and finding the love of my life at age 60 when I least expected to!" says Connie.

### The Rev. Tom Atkins

Tom is one of eight children born to Salvation Army officers who were missionaries in Mexico City and Laredo for more than 40 years. After serving in Vietnam, teaching in secondary schools, and ministry-related work with the Salvation Army, he received his MDiv from Columbia Theological Seminary. Tom decided to serve as a chaplain after frequent encounters with U.S. Navy chaplains from the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi.



Tom Atkins

"There was no way I could have anticipated such tremendous fulfillment and challenge in my privileged ministry to Sailors and Marines," says Tom. The fast-paced 24 years at sea with Sailors and on deployments with Marine units to hotspots around the world, made the encounter of Jesus with the Roman centurion (Matthew 8) all the more meaningful. "Time and again, I could say with Jesus: *I have not found anyone... with such great faith!*"

Tom served as pastor in Sarasota, Florida, and at St. Thomas Presbyterian in Houston. "At St. Thomas, I have been richly blessed by the regular prayer gatherings that have undergirded every expression of worship, study, outreach, fellowship and service in that family of faith. I will forever remember the incredible privilege and thrilling journey that God has afforded me as a pastor."

Tom and his wife, Alice, look forward to long visits with their three daughters and six grandchildren living in England, Germany, and New Hampshire. Their home base will be in Sarasota, Florida.

## Other Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. Dr. Fred Seay was installed as Pastor of First PC, Sugar Land, March 27, 2011.
  - Rev. Jimmie M. Chaffin (HR) – transferred to Arkansas Presbytery in April
  - Rev. Shawn Kang was installed as Pastor of Pathways Church, Houston, May 1, 2011.
  - Rev. Shane Webb has been called to First PC, Pasadena, as Mission Associate Pastor for the PC(USA). He will serve as a missionary in Peru for 12 months. He received his MDiv from Austin Seminary in 2011.
  - Rev. Brian Wiggins is serving as Designated Pastor at First Lufkin, effective July 1, 2011.
  - Rev. Jim Gill is serving as Interim Pastor at Westminster PC in Odessa.
  - Rev. Brent Hampton was installed as Pastor at Brenham PC, Brenham
- Pastors receiving DMin degrees this spring:**
- Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker, Campus Ministry in College Station, Columbia Theological Seminary
  - Rev. Dr. Nora Fitch, Member-at-Large – Austin Theological Seminary
  - Rev. Dr. Brent Hampton, Brenham PC – Austin Theological Seminary
  - Rev. Dr. David Green, First PC, Galveston – Pittsburgh Seminary
  - Rev. Dr. Kristin Huffman, associate pastor at Memorial Drive PC, Houston – Fuller Seminary
  - Rev. Lynn Hargrove (St. Giles PC, Houston) was elected at the June Presbytery meeting to serve as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant, effective October 1, 2011.
  - Rev. Jane Pettit has been called to serve as Associate Pastor for Congregational Life at Grace PC, Houston. She will be ordained at Grace PC July 17, 2011, at 11:15 a.m.
  - Rev. John Dearman has been called to serve as Associate Pastor at First PC, Conroe.
  - Chad Erb First PC, Kingwood, has been enrolled as a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
  - Rev. Paul Alexander, Member-at-Large, has transferred to New Covenant from Indian Presbytery.
  - Rev. David McKechnie has transferred to the Presbytery of Southern Kansas.
  - Rev. Doug Ensminger has transferred to Transylvania Presbytery.

Presbytery meetings  
Check your calendar!

**2011**

**Saturday, October 22, 2011**

Clear Lake Presbyterian, Houston, Celebration of Service

**2012**

**Saturday, February 11, 2012** - Memorial Drive (MDPC), Houston

**Saturday, June 9, 2012** - St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Houston

**Sunday, July 15, 2012** - Love Presbyterian (formerly United Korean), Jersey Village - Post-G.A. meeting

**Saturday, October 20, 2012** - Webster Presbyterian, Webster

**July 4**

Presbytery Office closed

**July 28-31**

Administrative Personnel  
Association  
Regional Conference  
Oklahoma City, OK

**July 30**

Session Records Review and  
Treasurers Workshop  
First PC, Livingston

**August 2-4**

Weekday Ministries  
Conference  
Memorial Drive PC, Houston

**August 13**

PW Beatitude Study/  
Training  
First PC, Livingston

**August 19**

PW Beatitude Study/  
Training  
Grace PC, Houston

**August 20**

PW Beatitude Study/  
Training  
First PC, Conroe and  
St. Andrews, Beaumont

**August 20**

Presbyterian Night at the  
Astros  
Minute Maid Park, 6:05 p.m.

**August 23**

PW Beatitude Study/  
Training  
St. Stephen, Houston

**September 5**

Presbytery Office closed  
Labor Day

**October 1**

2011 FOCUS  
St. Philip Presbyterian  
Houston

**October 14-15**

PW Fall Conference  
Cho-Yeh, Livingston

# A Friendly Reminder

1

Nominations are currently being sought for **New Covenant's Presbyterian Youth Connection Council**. Deadline for nominations is Monday, August 8. Each congregation may send up to 4 youth and 2 adults. All forms may be found using Quick Find on the home page of the presbytery website, [www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org).

2

Need help preparing for the **Presbyterian Women's Bible Study**, Confessing the Beatitudes? FREE training events for leaders will be offered:

August 13	First, Livingston	10:00 a.m. to noon
August 19	Grace, Houston	1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
August 20	First, Conroe	10:00 a.m. to noon
	St. Andrew's, Beaumont	9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
August 23	St. Stephen's, Houston	10:00 a.m. to noon

3

**Presbyterian Night at the Astros** – August 20

Discounted tickets for the 6:05 p.m. game with the San Francisco Giants. Visit [www.astros.com/presbyterian](http://www.astros.com/presbyterian) and use the password PRESBYTERIAN to receive your discount! Those wanting to go as a group (20 or more people) should contact Cody Arnold at [carnold@astros.com](mailto:carnold@astros.com) or 713-259-8315. This offer is not valid at Minute Maid Park Box Office.

4

**Presbyterian Women's Fall Conference**

Fri.-Sat, October 14-15 at Camp Cho-Yeh  
"Life in Christ: Good to the Last Drop"  
Details may be found using Quick Find on the home page of the presbytery website, [www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org).

5

**Weekday Ministries Conference**

Tuesday-Thursday, Aug. 2-4, at MDPC, Houston  
Training for Preschool and Mother's-Day-Out Teachers and Leaders. Brochure and registration info on presbytery's home page [www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org)

6

**FOCUS** - Saturday, Oct. 1, at St. Philip Presbyterian, PC

Featuring storyteller and folk theologian Ed Kilbourne and 18 workshops. Watch the presbytery website for registration information.

JUNE 28



## AN EVENING OF HEALING PRAYER

At 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, Rev. Mike Endicott of Cwmbran, Wales will speak at First Presbyterian, Pearland. His talk will be entitled, "It's all to do with your focus." "I've been thinking again about your kind invitation to speak in your church", said Mike and I think possibly the most useful



Mike Endicott

think I can so with any group of Christians is to raise expectation of God so that they are happy in prayer. The eye is the lamp of the soul, so if you see Jesus out of focus then you're working in darkness and you won't pray with any expectation." After Mike's talk and a time of worship, several prayer teams will be praying for healing for anyone who wishes.

Mike Endicott is an Anglican priest living in the United Kingdom and is the founder of Jacob's Well, a healing ministry under patronage of Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury. He is the author of many books and has spoken in the U.S., Canada, Europe, the Gulf States, and South Africa.

The church is located at 2930 E. Broadway (Hwy. 518) in Pearland, across from Kelley's Restaurant and next to Discount Tire.

# more events and gatherings to enjoy!

JUNE 29 - JULY 20

## Tough Questions of Faith

Ready to explore some of the toughest questions of faith? Challenge yourself to better understanding of our faith in this study based on the book, *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller. Sessions include two twenty-minute DVD presentations, followed by an MDPC pastor-led discussion of your questions, insights, and reflections. Classes meet Wednesdays, June 29-July 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Parlor at Memorial Drive PC, Houston.



- **June 29:** *What Gives You the Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life? Why Are There So Many Rules?*
- **July 6:** *Why Does God Allow Suffering? Why Is There So Much Evil in the World?*
- **July 13:** *Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice? Why Are Christians Such Hypocrites?*
- **July 20:** *How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time? How Can God Send Good People to Hell?*

Please register at [www.register.mdpc.org](http://www.register.mdpc.org) or contact Vicki Levins at [vlevins@mdpc.org](mailto:vlevins@mdpc.org) or 713-490-9561.

Each class is a stand-alone session; come for individual Sundays or the entire series!

JULY 8 - JULY 10



## Houston Area CELEBRATION!

Celebration is a fun, spiritual weekend retreat for high school students, sponsored by Houston Presbyterian Cursillo. The next Celebration weekend for this region, Celebration 11, will be held at Camp Cho-Yeh July 8-10. Connor Smith, a youth from Pines Presbyterian, will be Moderator and Rev. Carmen Fowler will be the spiritual advisor.

Youth leaders guide the weekend's activities (with the assistance of adult leaders) to provide opportunities for focusing on what it means to be a young Christian in today's world. Youth report two things that impress them about Celebration weekends: authenticity and Christian community. About 70 percent of the kids who attend are Presbyterians from New Covenant. Normally 25 churches are represented during a weekend.

Participants need to be rising 9th graders through just-graduated seniors. To sign up, contact Trish McElroy at 281-277-1706 or [p.mcelroy@windstream.net](mailto:p.mcelroy@windstream.net).

JULY 10-31



## MARRIED LIFE PREP

Taught by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement, this course for engaged and newly-wed couples is based on The Couple Checkup, a research-based online relationship inventory. Married Life Prep combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research. It also features the New York Times best seller, *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by Dr. John M. Gottman. Classes meet Sundays, July 10-31, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, at MDPC, Houston. Register at [www.mlp.mdpc.org](http://www.mlp.mdpc.org).



The church is located at 11612 Memorial Dr. (at Blalock).

JULY 31



All are invited to Pinecrest Presbyterian's

## Heavenly Hands CONCERT

Sunday, July 31, at 4:00 p.m.

Renowned pianists:

- Ms. Stepheny Scott
  - Ms. Lela Anderson
  - Dr. Theola Booker
  - Dr. Jacqueline Chambers
- will perform.

Pre-sale tickets: \$10 (\$15 at the door). Call 713-444-6684 or 713-633-2348.

The church is located at 4913 Market Street, Houston.

SAVE THE DATE

## Singin' & Tellin'

The Spirit in Story and Song



Webster Presbyterian invites you a special weekend that is being planned for this fall. Dr. Dennis Dewey, Biblical Storyteller, will present a 3-hour workshop on Saturday, October 29, (\$25). Second to fifth graders are also invited (\$15). Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.



Dennis Dewey

On Sunday, October 30, at 5:00 p.m. there will be a concert with Dr. Dewey and Webster Presbyterian Storytellers and the Faith Choir and Friends. Put these dates on your calendar now! Child care for children will be available. Pre-registration begins September 1. More details to come!

YOU ARE INVITED

## MID-WEEK SUMMER WORSHIP

Would you like to attend worship on Tuesday evenings during the summer months? Pines Presbyterian, Houston, invites you to attend their contemporary worship service each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Pines Presbyterian, through mid-August. The worship leadership team is comprised of young adults and college and high school students, but the worship services are designed for anyone (children, youth, and adults) who likes to worship with contemporary Christian music and wishes to give praise to God in the midweek of each week this summer.



A light dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the service. For more information, call 713-467-2234.

The church is located at 12751 Kimberley, Houston.

# In Our Prayers

Family and friends of the Rev. Young Lim Han, a member of our presbytery living in Korea. Rev. Han died in April. Lim's wife, Christine, served on the presbytery staff while they were in Houston.

The Rev. Jack Boelens, HR – Jack, now home, was hospitalized with pneumonia in late May. He continues radiation treatments. Jack is a former General Presbyterian in New Covenant Presbytery.

Gene and Mary Ann Marion - Mary Ann's brother died May 3, 2011. Gene is Commissioned Lay Pastor at St. Luke's PC, Cleveland.

The Rev. Rachel Young, associate pastor at Clear Lake PC, - Rachel's grandmother, Muriel Shackelford, died May 18, 2011.

Allison Purves (Atascocita Presbyterian) and Maegan Norman (First Presbyterian, Bryan) – will serve with the Young Adult and National Volunteer Program in 2011-2012. Maegan has completed a year serving in New Orleans and will continue for a second year in Denver. Allison will be working in Nashville. Both young women are graduates of the presbytery's Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC).

The Rev. Jim and Carolyn Davis – Carolyn has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Jim is pastor of First PC, Kingwood.

Judith Castañeda, General Coordinator of CEDEPCA – her second cousin, Juan Luis Paz Castillo, was murdered in Guatemala June 1.

Elder Ann Earnest, member of Grace Presbyterian, Houston, and Development Officer of the Presbyterian Foundation – dealing with a cancer diagnosis

The Rev. Larry Spencer and his wife Lucille (currently living in Dallas) – Lucille underwent surgery after both were in a car accident in June.

The Rev. Scott Cummings and family – Scott's grandmother, Mildred Cummings, died June 8, 2011. She was 96.

Elder Sharon Darden (Coordinator for Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry – Sharon will be elected Secretary of the Presbyterian Church Business Administrators Association at its July meeting.

Church Women United in Houston – celebrating 100 years of service to the community August 12, 2011 (1:30-4:00 p.m. at Holly Hall Retirement Center, Houston).

C. Ellis Nelson, Research Professor of Christian Education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, died June 9, 2011.

George and Linda Dobbin, St. John's PC, Houston – After dealing with prostate cancer for almost two years, George has received "All Clear!" results from recent tests. George is former chair of COM; Linda is a former receptionist at the presbytery office.

\*HR = Honorably Retired



## PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

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