



# In The Know

A Weekly Communication of Providence Presbytery

## Preparing for General Assembly Special Edition

June 12, 2006

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**“I am very excited about going to Birmingham as a YAD. I’m trying to learn all that I can about this year’s issues facing the Presbyterian Church so I can give my best input at meetings. I’m really thrilled at the opportunity to serve my church and Presbytery and welcome prayers as I continue to prepare for this summer.”** (Ginny Holloway, Providence Presbytery’s Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly)

### Pray for General Assembly

Please keep General Assembly and all those in attendance in your prayers. Mark will be there along with commissioners Jesse Hegler, Thom White, and Ginny Holloway (YAD). Want to know more about General Assembly and keep up with the day-to-day happenings? Go to [www.pcusa.org/ga217](http://www.pcusa.org/ga217).

### Information to prepare yourself and your congregation for General Assembly

Mark Verdery, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Providence Presbytery, sends [these words](#). David Bender, pastor of Bethesda (Y) wrote [this article in his church’s monthly newsletter](#), explaining to his congregants how to respond to controversial issues discussed at GA.

### More articles about General Assembly

The June issue of [Perspectives](#) has been posted with articles on General Assembly and reflections on the passing of two former stated clerks, William Thompson and James Andrew

### Churchwide Letter Coming From Cliff Kirkpatrick At Conclusion Of GA

As a way to help Presbyterians receive accurate and timely information about the actions of the 217th General Assembly in Birmingham, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Cliff Kirkpatrick, will send out electronically a churchwide letter the afternoon of the day the Assembly adjourns, June 22. The letter will be forwarded to our congregations in Providence Presbytery from the Presbytery Office. You are asked to consider reading the letter during morning worship on Sunday, June 25.

### Increase the Readership of *Presbyterians Today*

In determining recent budget cuts, the General Assembly Council voted to continue short-term support for *Presbyterians Today*, our award-winning denominational magazine. If your congregation does not subscribe through an every-home plan, ask permission from the session to send the church’s mailing list to the magazine. The list will not be shared and will be used one time only to send each member a special subscription offer (call 888-728-7228, ext. 5520 for more information). A growing readership will keep *Presbyterians Today* rolling off the presses for years to come.

### Presbyterians Raised Nearly a Million Dollars for Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl of Caring officials say Presbyterian churches collected nearly a million dollars in this year's annual anti-hunger campaign. As of June 8, organizers say 2,387 Presbyterian churches have raised \$921, 616 – and collections haven't been fully reported. Churches that have not yet reported 2006 Souper Bowl totals or wish to register for the 2007 campaign should log on to [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org) or call 800-358-7687.

### **Skilled Workers Needed for Disaster Relief**

The Presbytery of Mississippi and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are urgently looking for skilled workers to help with hurricane recovery efforts. The Presbytery of Mississippi has two compensated positions: Site Manager and Assessor. For information on these, call George Bates at 228-604-2424. PDA has two volunteer positions to fill: Financial Officer and Volunteer Village Manager. [Learn more about the PDA positions.](#)

### **Revised GA Staff List Available**

Because of the reduction in staff, a [revised GAC staff list](#) for the 2006-2007 Planning Calendar is available. You may want to bookmark it since it is 26 pages.

### **Extra Commitment Opportunity Available**

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) is a non-political, non-profit American relief group established in 1991 to address the extraordinary medical and humanitarian crisis facing Palestinian youth in the Middle East. Since then, it has expanded in order to help suffering children from other Middle Eastern countries. PCRF helps locate cost-free medical care and treatment for children who are unable to obtain the necessary and specialized treatment in their home country. In Iraq the PCRF works with local NGOs, U.S. military personnel and the Iraqi Ministry of Health to identify children who were either injured in the current conflict or who were born with medical disorders that cannot be treated in country. You can give directly to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (Goal: \$500,000) [online](#) or by mailing your check designating the name (PCRF) and account number (052804) to:

PC(USA) Individual Remittance Processing  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

### **Does Your Church Have News to Share?**

*In The Know* is a weekly e-newsletter sent to ministers, educators, and lay leaders in the 58 churches of Providence Presbytery. If you have news, event information, joys or concerns that your church would like to share with others in the presbytery, please email your copy ready information to [Kathryn McGregor](#) by Monday at 12:00 noon for publication in that week's newsletter.

### **This Week at Providence Presbytery:**

Thurs., June 15 – 22 – PC(USA) General Assembly convenes in Birmingham, AL  
Sun., June 18 – Presbytery Swim (Bethelwoods – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

This e-newsletter is sent to all ministers and educators in Providence Presbytery as well as elders and other interested people who ask to be added to the email list. To unsubscribe, please email [Kathryn McGregor](#).