

in the KNOW

The weekly communication of Providence Presbytery

| Lancaster | Union | Chester | Kershaw | York |

Guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to equip, support, and connect our congregations as they faithfully serve Jesus Christ in a changing world.

July 6, 2009

Volume 5, Number 26

"Each of us has suffered or will suffer at some time in our lives. The Book of Job was a preview of what can happen to the most faithful and to the least faithful. Yet, the greatest gift we can offer to one another is encouragement — encouragement through spoken or written word, through deeds however small or gracious, through intercessory prayer and through the kindness of recognition: 'I know this is a difficult time for you and I am holding you in daily prayer.' God's gift of life is truly amazing!

None of us knows how many days we will be granted. As you look into the mirror each and every day, take time to marvel that you have been created in the image of God. Count your blessings often. Smile more and frown less! Tell those you love, how much you love them each and every day. Share yourself abundantly with those who need encouragement, hope, and care. Give thanks that with Christ all things are possible! Keep that twinkle in your eye and help the world learn to laugh."

William Ross Forbes, in a note to the church's General Assembly in San Jose. Forbes passed away in the morning of June 30th after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. [Read the Letter from Board of Pensions President, Robert Maggs.](#)

WELCOME!!!

Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church has called Dr. Jim Simpson as Pastor and Head of Staff to assume his duties July 1. Many know Jim because of his most recent position as Director of Church Relations at Presbyterian College and his work at various conferences at Montreat. [Read more about Jim on the church website.](#)

Attention CLPs! This Conference is for YOU!

Join other CLPs for a time of renewal and refreshment as you build your skills and knowledge in the area of prayer and worship at a continuing education event at Montreat just for CLPs. "The Place of Prayer in Reformed Worship" will be held Oct 21-23 at Montreat Conference Center. More info: <http://montreat.org/current/2009-continuing-education-for-commissioned-lay-pastors-preachers> Remember that Providence Presbytery has scholarship money available for lay people and church staff to attend continuing education events that will benefit your ministry in the local church. Application: <http://www.providencepres.org/Communications/forms/leadership%20scholarship.pdf>

Central American Travelers Reunion

Calling all past Central American Travelers! You are invited to join us Thursday, July 16 at 7pm for a "Dutch Treat" meal at [Lempira's Restaurant](#) (5906 South Blvd, Charlotte, NC) known for its authentic Honduran dishes. Bring your pictures and share experiences of Honduras! Please RSVP by July 15 to [Fred Powell](#) so he knows how many places to reserve at the restaurant.

New Youth Ministry Opportunity Starting at Bethelwoods

Help the youth at your church become involved in a new youth ministry that several Providence Presbytery churches in York County along with Bethelwoods are working to create. We are working on a once a month gathering on the first Sunday evening of the month beginning in October. This would be an opportunity to reach out to youth in the York County community who may or may not

have a church home. A planning meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14th at 5 pm at Bethelwoods. Please contact Sam McGregor at mgregorsk@comporium.net or 803-366-1302 if you have further questions or if you are interested but can't make the meeting on the 14th.

Can you help ACPC with curriculum?

Allison Creek Presbyterian is looking for an Advent Rotation curriculum to use for four weeks with their elementary aged workshop rotation Sunday School. If you have a rotation curriculum you would be willing to loan, please contact Kathryn McGregor at kmcgregor@providencepres.org or 800-922-1609, ext. 6. Allison Creek has several PowerXpress Rotation units they would be willing to loan other churches as well.

Apply Now for the Leadership Initiative

Clergy and lay persons who are interested in becoming transformational, missional leaders in their congregations should apply for the Leadership Initiative. Offered by Mark Tidsworth, leader of our recent Providence Leadership Seminars, the 9-month-long program will provide 1 group coaching session per month, 1 one-on-one coaching session each month, and reading targeted to the LI goals. LI runs from September 2009-May 2010. [Read more about the program online.](#)

Spiritual Foundations for Fruitful Churches Workshop

Mark your calendar and join Providence Presbytery churches for the Spiritual Foundations for Fruitful Churches September 26 from 9:30AM-1PM for an exciting event. Joan Gray, author of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* and moderator for the 217th General Assembly, will lead this important workshop for our churches. Pastors, Elders and other church leaders are encouraged to attend. The workshop will be held at Grace Presbyterian in Lancaster and will include lunch. Cost is \$5 per participant. Registration will be available online in August. Wondering if your church would benefit? [Read the Spiritual Leadership article from PCNews.](#)

Monthly Podcast to Promote Stimulating Conversation about Issues of Faith

WJK Radio with Dan and Jana is a new monthly podcast from Westminster John Knox Press (WJK) designed to promote honest and stimulating conversation about issues of faith. The podcasts feature conversations with some of today's most respected authors addressing a variety of religious issues including the Bible, ethics, social justice, popular culture, the church, cultural and religious diversity, and the spiritual life in general. Sometimes moving, sometimes controversial, often provocative, and always enlightening, new shows are available on the last Monday of every month. [Read the BLOG to Subscribe or find out more.](#)

Opportunities to Serve

Pianist Needed

Doby's Bridge Presbyterian Church is seeking a pianist to play for choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and for worship on Sunday mornings. Any applicants may contact Edgar McCall at the church at 803-547-5240 or by email at edgar@dobysbridge.org.

Presbyterian Communities Seeking Chaplain

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina is seeking a **part-time** Chaplain for our Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in Florence, SC. To learn more about us please visit www.preshomesc.org. Please send your PIF/resume to the administrator at Florence, Walter Hickman, whickman@preshomesc.org. Deadline for submissions is August 28th.

Around the Presbytery:

- *Carmel and Uriel announce Joint Service to Celebrate Calvin*-Carmel Presbyterian and Uriel Presbyterian, both of Chester, are planning a joint worship service on Sunday, July 12 at 10AM at Carmel Presbyterian to celebrate the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. Pastor Fred Powell, III will be the guest speaker. Join us for this exciting event!
- *Worship for YOUth*: Mark your calendars NOW to bring the youth from your church to Providence Presbytery's Youth events during the [2009-2010 school year](#). We will kick off the year with our annual Youth Rally, which will feature our brand new **worship 4 YOUth** at Bethelwoods. Three more youth worship services will be held on Sunday nights throughout the year. We will join other youth from across the presbytery in some hands on mission work at our second annual Youth Mission Retreat to be held March 26-27, 2010 at Bethelwoods. Contact [Kathryn McGregor](#) or [Kat Ward](#) for more info.

Check out the events below on the [Presbytery Calendar](#)--for event details, click on the event!

This Week in Providence Presbytery

7/5 Sunday Swim for all members of presbytery congregations—2-4PM (Bethelwoods)

Next Week

7/11-15 Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering (Louisville)

7/12 Carmel and Uriel Joint Worship to Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Calvin's Birth - 10AM (Carmel)

7/12 Sunday Swim for all members of presbytery congregations—2-4PM (Bethelwoods)

7/13 Bethelwoods Ministry Team-6PM (Bethelwoods)

7/15 Educator Luncheon-1PM (Carlos' Café, Rock Hill)

7/16 Central American Travelers Reunion-7PM ([Lempiras Restaurant](#), Charlotte)

Mark your Calendar!

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July 13, 2009

Volume 5, Number 27

"If you're a layperson in a congregation that's experiencing decline, whether the congregation thrives is ultimately up to you and the other members. Your pastor can teach, guide, lead, support, inspire, even cajole. But in the end, congregational health is a function of how people in the congregation relate to one another, to God, and to their community."

Daniel P. Smith and Mary K. Sellon in [A Place that Offers Life](#)

The Resource Center has these authors' new book entitled [Pathway to Renewal](#).

Nominate Your Older Adult of the Year Today!

Older Adult of the Year Nominations are due by August 14. Talk with your session NOW about who you will nominate. Please be sure and complete the section that indicates why you chose your nominee as this information is used to honor your nominee at the event! [Submit your Nomination Online](#) or [Print](#) the form and mail it to the Presbytery Office. Don't miss this opportunity to let your older members know they are appreciated! The Annual Older Adult of the Year Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15th at Bethelwoods.

Honduras Mission Partners Ask for Prayers for the People

Tim and Gloria Wheeler report that they are fine. However, they are requesting prayers for the people of Honduras in this time of great difficulty. [Read the email.](#)

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Global Mission Exchange Partner visited Providence Presbytery

Presbyterian Women are pleased to announce that Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center was one of the sites Rev. Jirina Kovarova, our Global Mission Exchange Partner from the Czech Republic, visited during her tour through Synod of the South Atlantic last week. Her tour included many local mission outreach projects with special emphasis on projects supported by PW mission giving. [Read more about Presbyterian Women's Global Mission Exchange and Rev. Jirina's visit.](#)

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Group project applications are being accepted through September 28 for participation in Columbia Theological Seminary's S3 (Sabbath, Study and Service) Project. S³ offers small, self-selected groups of clergy and other church professionals the opportunity to design and participate in learning projects that strengthen their practice of ministry. Groups will receive \$500 per person to fund their self-directed group work. Participants must attend two retreats: February 2-4, 2010, at the beginning of their year-long project and another at the conclusion in February 2011. The application procedure requires a group proposal and individual applications for each group member. Information and application materials are available [online](#), or by contacting Sarah Erickson at 404-687-4526 or ericksons@CTSnet.edu. Groups will be notified of acceptance by October 16. S3 is funded by the Lily Endowment.

Board of Pensions Update

In a July 10 email, Charles Simmons of the Board of Pensions announces there is no percentage dues increase for 2010 for medical. [Read the Board of Pensions Summer Bulletin.](#)

Grammy Award Winner Performing Free concert at Montreat!

Don't miss what promises to be one of the best concerts ever in Montreat Conference Center's Anderson Auditorium. You've seen David Holt on television, you've heard him on radio, and you may have even caught a glimpse of him (always with the cocky white hat and the big, friendly smile) in the popular movie *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou*. David, a Grammy award winning musician and master storyteller, will perform Saturday, July 18, 8:30pm, and his concert is a special gift from the Montreat Conference Center President's Council to the whole community. Please join us for a great evening of entertainment. For more information, contact pollyc@montreat.org. For a current list of all of the events at Montreat this summer, visit www.Montreat.org. When you plan your visit, don't forget your home in the mountains...South Carolina Home at Montreat! www.schomemontreat.org

The Challenge of World Mission - Partnership

This year's World Mission Challenge will focus on partnership - and it will put that idea into action in a new way. As they travel from presbytery to presbytery Sept. 25-Oct. 18, some mission co-workers will be accompanied by International Peacemakers from the same country. **Our Presbytery will host Dr. Ingrid Reneau (Missionary) and Rev. Orozu Lokine Daky (Peacemaker) October 8-11.** Please contact [Dot Killian](#) for more information on the World Mission Challenge visit to our presbytery. To learn more, [view the complete Presbyterian News Service article](#).

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July 20, 2009

Volume 5, Number 28

"The capacity for hope is the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination and the energy to get started."

[Norman Cousins](#)

Join the Common Ground Youth Program

Several youth leaders, pastors, and Bethelwoods staff representatives have been meeting to plan monthly youth events at Bethelwoods. This youth ministry is to be called "Common Ground" and will ordinarily gather on the 1st Sundays of the month at 5:30 pm. Our next planning meeting will be Wednesday, August 12th at 5:30 pm at Bethelwoods with supper provided. Contact Sam McGregor at pastor@allisoncreekchurch.com or Jan Tuthill at jantuthill@hotmail.com for more information.

Local Response to Economic Crisis

Tirzah Presbyterian (Y) will be hosting a special event called "Hope in the Midst of Crisis." It includes a panel discussion, a mission fair, and a brief worship service designed to raise awareness of how the economic crisis is affecting people in our communities and how the church and local outreach agencies are being called to respond. The event will be from 3:00-5:00 pm on Sunday, August 23. All churches in Providence Presbytery are invited to attend. Please call Jim Moss at 981-3764 for more information.

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News from Tito in Guatemala

Thank you for all your prayers and support. Without you we would not be able to do what we do! In this last month we have had 4 visiting teams and served over 1,400 Guatemalans with medical, dental and optical assistance at our free clinics. Many of our patients walked away with medicine that will greatly improve their health, many received glasses that improved their vision and changed their livelihoods, and many received professional dental care for the first time. And most importantly, they were all served with the tender Love of Christ! [Read more online.](#)

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How Calvinist ARE you?

In this month of John Calvin celebrations, it's interesting to see how this 16th century reformer's ideas affect our 21st century attitudes and lifestyle. Here is a thought-provoking questionnaire to share with your church family and friends. Accompanying each of the questions is an explanation how Calvin and his followers might answer. [See the bulletin insert.](#)

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“It is more important than ever that we know and share our tradition. The risen Christ is actually present in the telling of the Christian story. It is essential that we tell the story—not talk about the story, not give directives based on the story, not modify or abridge the story—but tell the story. We need to tell the story with our words, through our relationships, and in our actions, and to trust its power as a vehicle of Christ's presence.”

Cassandra D. Carkuff Williams in “Teaching the Tradition”

[Read the entire article.](#)

No “In the Know” Next Week--We will not be publishing “In the Know” next week. We will resume our normal publication schedule on Monday, August 10.

Meet the Author-- of the 2009 Presbyterian Women's study of the book of Joshua.

Dr. Mary Mikhael, President of the Near East School of Theology, will introduce her book, [Joshua—a Journey of Faith](#), at Covenant Presbyterian Church fellowship hall on Thursday, August 6 at Noon. This opportunity will be of particular interest to circle members, Bible study leaders, educators and clergy. Box lunches will be available for \$5.00 (if ordered), or you may bring your own bag lunch. Please reserve for lunch by email at: bkurz@comporium.net, or call the Presbytery Office, 803-328-6269 by Friday, July 31.

Don't Miss the Music for Humanity Concert at Winthrop

Tickets are now available for the 2nd annual Music for Humanity benefit concert on September 5th at 7PM at Barnes Recital Hall, Winthrop University. [This year's show](#) will feature an evening of eclectic music and humor featuring various professional performers, all of whom have donated their time and services. The proceeds will be divided evenly between Habitat for Humanity of York County and Music for Humanity. Tickets are \$12 and are available by emailing Penny Sheppard at habiatom@comporium.net or by calling 803-328-1728. They can also be picked up at Habitat's ReStore located at 825 N Anderson Road, Rock Hill.

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<http://www.providencepres.org/Communications/forms/leadership%20scholarship.pdf>

Visit Montreat in October

Is your church considering a church gathering? Book your fall weekend retreat now! Space is still available for the prime weekends of October 9-11 and October 30-November 1, as well as for additional weekends in November and December. For more information or to book your retreat, contact Helen Sheorn at helens@montreat.org or call 800.572.2257, ext. 314. Don't forget to contact Your Home in the Mountains, South Carolina Home at Montreat, at www.schomemontreat.org to reserve your room for your stay--(800) 669-7460 (SC/NC only) or email huck@schomemontreat.org,

Opportunities to Serve

Pianist Needed: Doby's Bridge Presbyterian Church for choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and worship on Sunday mornings. Contact Edgar McCall at 803-547-5240 or email at edgar@dobysbridge.org.

Presbyterian Communities Seeking Chaplain, Florence: www.preshomesc.org
Send resume or PIF to whickman@preshomesc.org. Deadline 8/28/09.

Check out the events below on the [Presbytery Calendar](#)--for event details, click on the event!

This Week in Providence Presbytery

7/30 [Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantry](#) (Unity Presbyterian, Fort Mill)
8/2 Hunger Action Team-6:30 (Presbytery Office)

Coming in the Next Two Weeks

8/3 Nominations Committee-6:30 (Presbytery Office)
8/10 NCD Committee at Faith NCD-6:30 (Faith NCD)
8/12 Educator Luncheon-1PM (The Station, Rock Hill)
8/12 Common Ground Cooperative Youth Program Planning Meeting-5:30(Bethelwoods)

Mark your Calendar!

8/25 [Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantry](#) (Oakdale Presbyterian, Clover)
9/10 [Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantry](#) (Mt. Zion Baptist, McConnells)
9/15 Older Adult of the Year Luncheon-10:30AM (Bethelwoods)
9/17 [Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantry](#) (Flint Hill Baptist, Rock Hill)
9/26 Fruitful Churches Workshop 9:30-1PM (Grace-Lancaster)
9/27 Youth Rally and first Youth Worship Event (Bethelwoods)
10/1 [Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantry](#) (Union Baptist, Rock Hill)
10/27 [Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantry](#) (Unity Presbyterian, Fort Mill)
11/5 [Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantry](#) (Hermon Presbyterian, Rock Hill)

We will not be publishing ITK next week. The next issue will be published on Monday, August 10.

Please submit articles to jill@providencypress.org with In the Know and the date you would like your article to run in the subject line by Friday at 5 PM for the following Monday's issue.