



In The Know

A Weekly Communication of Providence Presbytery

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

March 2, 2009

Volume 5, Number 8

Lenten Reflections

Fast from judging others; feast on the presence of God within each person.

Fast from focusing on differences; feast on the unity of all life.

Fast from apparent darkness and gloom; feast on the reality of light and enthusiasm.

Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the brilliance of Resurrection!

Anonymous: Reprinted from a Newsletter of a Catholic Retreat House

Our Prayers are with You...

Please keep Edgar McCall, pastor at Doby's Bridge, and his wife, Dawn, in your prayers. Dawn's brother, Logan Setzer, died suddenly last week at 48 years of age.

Could I have that toothbrush?

Every time Providence Presbytery's Medical Mission goes down to Honduras we are overwhelmed by the need for basic items. The Medical Mission team is asking Churches, Women's Groups, Sunday School Classes, Youth Groups and other organizations to collect the following small items for the Central American Medical Mission trip to Honduras: •New, unused washcloths, • children/adult eyeglasses (USED or new--all kinds), • New toothbrushes, • Travel-sized tubes of toothpaste, • Small bars of soap, • Travel-size Shampoos, • Travel-size Lotions. Hotel or spa sizes of soaps, shampoo and bath gel are perfectly fine. Our goal is to prepare at least 800 hygiene kits for distribution. The deadline for this drive is April 6, 2009. Items can be delivered at any time to the Presbytery Office in Rock Hill or contact [Fred Powell](#) for pick up at your church.

Second Harvest Partners Announces 2009 Schedule

Wanting to help alleviate hunger locally? You are welcome to volunteer at any of the [nine Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantries](#) scheduled for 2009. Join us and help distribute food to local people who meet USDA guidelines. The next Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for April 30 at Mount Zion Baptist Church in McConnells. *(Please note the corrected location.)* Volunteers are asked to arrive around 10AM.

Youth Mission Retreat—Has your Church Registered?

Don't let your church miss the [Youth Mission Retreat](#) at Bethelwoods March 13 and 14. All youth in grades 6 through 12 and their adult advisors are invited to this weekend of fun, fellowship and service. Hear great music from Prosperity Road, get to know other youth from other churches through games

and mixers, eat great food, and learn more about serving others as Christ served us. Each participant will receive a t-shirt with their \$25 registration fee. This exciting youth event is underwritten by Bethelwoods and the Education and Equipping Ministry Teams of Providence Presbytery in order to keep the cost low. Youth should register with their youth leaders. Youth leaders register for your whole group. This is the [Final Week to Register!](#)

You can Work in the Mission Field without Climbing Mountains or Going Overseas!

Join the Providence Presbytery Global Village Mission Team! We will accomplish several rural and urban projects in central Massachusetts. We will be doing manual labor at the Heifer International Farm in Massachusetts while learning about Heifer's method of ending global hunger and poverty. We will also be working for AIDS Project-Worcester, as well as offering worship and hospitality for the homeless in inner-city Worcester, Mass. The registration deadline for this trip has been extended to March 30. Information may be viewed [online](#) or can be picked up in your church office. Mission Partners will depart July 5 and return July 13, 2009. The cost for this Mission week is shared between the individual, his/her congregation and the Presbytery itself, with each entity contributing \$300 and includes all expenses except incidentals. (Churches, please copy for bulletins)

For Lay Persons Only...Wanting to Increase Your Effectiveness in Ministry?

Register today for the Spring '09 Lay School of Theology to be held at White Oak Conference Center March 20-22. This program is designed for Lay persons who wish to participate in an in-depth study of the Bible, Theology, or Church History; be trained as a Commissioned Lay Pastor; better prepare themselves to teach the Bible or Church School; serve as Directors of Christian Education; or be certified by the Association of Presbyterian Administrators. If you fit any of these criteria, register today for Lay School of Theology. The cost is \$112 per person, double occupancy or \$140 per person, single occupancy in motel-type rooms. This will include two nights' lodging and five meals. Information is available at www.providencepres.org under Quick Links.

Scholarship for Leader Training

Don't forget! Education and Equipping Ministry Team has funds available to help members of Providence Presbytery who would like to attend workshops, seminars or classes to help in their ministry at their home churches or within the presbytery. The application is available on the Presbytery website's Education page. [Click here.](#)

Graduating Seniors may Apply for Queen Miller Scholarship

2009 Graduating Seniors with a 3.0 GPA or higher who are members of one of the racial-ethnic churches in Providence Presbytery are invited to apply for the Queen Miller Scholarship. Students must submit the application and write a 250 word essay by April 15, 2009 to be considered for the 2009 scholarship. Find the application online at www.providencepres.org/queenmiller.pdf.

Around the Presbytery

First Presbyterian Church will have their annual Kirkin of the Tartan service on April 26, 2009, at 11:00 AM. Put on your Scottish plaids and come join us at 700 North Main St. Lancaster SC.

Choirs may Apply to provide Worship Music at Montreat this Summer

PC is coordinating Music for the Summer Worship Series at Montreat in 2009. Choirs are invited to apply to provide music for the worship services. The application and more information about the program are available [online](#).

Need a Mountaintop Experience? Montreat Announces 2009 Conference Schedule

Are you a pastor, educator, or lay leader? Montreat wants you to know we're here to serve you. We offer a variety of conferences and retreats for church professionals and lay leaders. Whether you are in

need of rest and renewal or continuing education, Montreat has something for YOU. [Consider the following events as you are making plans for 2009.](#)

First-ever Event Serves Creative Young Adult/Collegiate Ministries

More than 100 Presbyterians involved in collegiate ministries are gathering in Austin, Texas at Austin Presbyterian Seminary on May 27-30 for the first YAM-Jam. For more information or to register, check out the conference website at

<http://www.pachem.org/YAMJamConference/tabid/40218/Default.aspx>. Remember our Education and Equipping ministry team has [scholarships](#) available for education events such as this.

Big Tent Event is Conference Buffet!

The big Presbyterian family reunion combining ten partner conferences, worship and celebrations under one Big Tent is scheduled for June 11-13 in Atlanta. Big Tent Conference was always about the excitement and faithfulness of being together but the recent turn in the economy has highlighted the Big Tent as good stewardship for the church and for the participants. Instead of ten separate conferences, participants can register for one conference (or no conference at all) but still move between events in other conferences, sharing the excitement. With just one trip we can be fed by the variety of ministries of the church while engaging in our own particular passions and calls. Think of it as an all you can eat buffet. A full listing of workshops and conference activities can be found at www.pcusa.org/bigtent. Early registration has been extended to March 30, to enable more people to share in the reduced registration fee and build momentum.

Job Opportunities

Faith Presbytery Church is offering a paid summer internship in Youth and Outreach. Interested folks must (1) have a strong faith in God (2), be college-aged or older, (3) have experience and passion for working with youth and for sharing God's love in the community (4) be a self-motivator who just can't wait to work with others in initiating projects from the ground level and to seeing them through. The internship is for 10 weeks in the summer, though, if the way be clear, we would love to have someone begin working several hours a week in the spring and to continue to work with our youth in the fall. Interested folks are asked to contact Rev. David Bender at (803) 548-8810 and DMBender33@aol.com. Job description is available [online](#).

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

This Week in Providence Presbytery

- 3/3 Campaign Committee—6:30PM (Bethelwoods)
- 3/7 TTT goes to Riverdance—10:30AM (Meet at Bethelwoods)
- 3/8 Daylight Savings Time—Spring Forward!

Next Week

- 3/9-10 Leader of Leaders on the Future of Christian Education
- 3/12 Presbytery Meeting—10AM (Lancaster First) *Please park in front parking lot.*
- 3/13 Presbytery Office Closed
- 3/13-14 Youth Mission Retreat (Bethelwoods)
- 3/15 Campaign Sunday

Mark your Calendar!

- 3/17 Third Tuesday Together —10:30AM (Bethelwoods)
- 3/19 Educator Gathering—10-noon (Presbytery office)
- 3/20 Kid's Night Out—5:30-10:30PM (Bethelwoods)
- 3/20-21 Lay School of Theology (White Oak Conference Center)

- 3/29 Spring Hymn Sing with Tom Horton—3-5PM (First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster)
- 3/31 Metrolina Educator Connection w/Karen Tye--1-4PM (Bethelwoods)
- 4/4 PW Spring Gathering (Beth Shiloh)
- 4/18-19 Racial Ethnic Weekend (Hermon) (Worship 3PM on 19th)
- 4/23 Leading Healthy Change-Providence Leadership Seminar 2-9:45AM-4PM
(Bethelwoods)
- 5/3 Vision Infuzion-Providence Leadership Seminar 3-2:30PM-5:30PM (Unity)
- 5/9 Bethelwoods Open House—10AM-2PM

Please submit articles for “In the Know” to Jill Wilson by Friday at 5PM, noting the dates you wish your article to be published on the Subject line.



In The Know

A Weekly Communication of Providence Presbytery

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

March 16, 2009

Volume 5, Number 10

“When you have come to the edge of all light that you know And are about to drop off into the darkness of the unknown, Faith is knowing one of two things will happen: There will be something solid to stand on or you will be taught to fly”

[Patrick Overton](#)

Thank You Providence Presbytery Churches

The General Assembly has reported to us that 97% of Providence Presbytery churches provided their statistical information by the deadline! Way to Go!

THANKS A MILLION!

The Capital Campaign Committee of Providence Presbytery is pleased to announce that we have surpassed our initial goal of \$1,094,000! Thanks to the efforts and contributions of all of our churches, 91 individuals or families, three grants, donations at two music programs, and special offerings, together we have raised \$1,101,783.10!!! Thanks be to God! [Read more online.](#)

Spring Hymn Sing on March 29

Don't miss this [encore presentation](#) by Tom Horton on March 29th at Lancaster First from 3-5PM. We will sing the old songs and hear their stories. This is a great opportunity for family entertainment and worship experiences. An offering will be taken to benefit Faith New Church Development. The Hymn Sing is sponsored by the Capital Campaign committee.

The Old Fogies Come to Third Tuesday Together Tomorrow

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with TTT! On Tuesday March 17th at 10:30AM, the Third Tuesday Together group will meet at Bethelwoods in Horton Lodge and enjoy the music of Chip Grant and the Old Fogies. The group will perform some old time and bluegrass music and is sure to have you tapping your toes in no time at all! Together we will share in fun and fellowship as well as a delicious meal. Cost for the event is \$8.00 for lunch. To reserve your spot please call the Bethelwoods office at 803.366.3722. We hope to see you there!

Kids Night Out: It's a Celebration!

The next Kids' Night Out is happening this coming Friday, March 20th at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. Parents can register their children to spend an evening at Bethelwoods from 5:30pm-10:30pm with the comfort of knowing that their children are in a safe, supervised Christian environment. The evening is filled with fun games, songs, crafts and other specialized activities as well as a delicious dinner! This month we will celebrate **everyone's** birthday at once with a spectacular party that is not to be missed! Cost for the event is \$20.00 per child and discounts are available for families. To register, please contact Bethelwoods at 803-366-3722 or kerin@bethelwoods.org. We hope to see you there!

Don't Miss Karen Tye!

If you are involved in education in any form in your church, you don't want to miss this great workshop. Lead by Dr. Karen Tye, Professor Emerita of Christian Education at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, the workshop entitled “Christian Education-Back to the Basics” will help attendees name and reflect on important aspects of the church's educational ministry and

explore together the building of a vital and dynamic educational ministry for the current and future church. The [Metrolina Educator Connection](#) will be held March 31st, 1-4PM at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. Cost is \$17.50. [Register Online](#).

Presbytery Safe Place Policy Approved

At last week's presbytery meeting the new "Safe Place" policy was approved. This policy lays out procedures for when children are included in presbytery-wide events. The plan specifically covers childcare offered at presbytery meetings and workshops. For all events, reservations must be made for childcare 7 days prior to scheduled events. If no reservations are made 7 days prior, no childcare will be offered at the event. For questions about the presbytery's Safe Place policy, contact [Kathryn McGregor](#).

Scholarship for Leader Training

Don't forget! Education and Equipping Ministry Team has funds available to help members of Providence Presbytery who would like to attend workshops, seminars or classes to help in their ministry at their home churches or within the presbytery. The Leadership Development Scholarship Application is available on the Presbytery website's Education page. [Click here](#).

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Board of Advisors Reminder

Presbyterian Communities Board of Advisors meeting will be held at the Columbia Presbyterian Community Center on Thursday, March 26th. Registration begins at 10:30AM. Please send a representative to the Board of Advisors meeting from your church so your church will have an update from this ministry and will have the Mother's Day offering materials.

One Great Hour of Sharing Marks 60th anniversary

Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow has put a challenge before our churches to double their offering this year in light of the 60th anniversary of the One Great Hour of Sharing. Now, more than ever, those who are most vulnerable in our communities and around the world are counting on us to help them make a difference in their lives. To find out more, visit the One Great Hour of Sharing Web site www.pcusa.org/oghs. Tools that will help you promote the offering, including ads for newsletters, a moving video you can embed in your Web site, minutes for mission, and more are available at www.pcusa.org/oghs/promote.htm. If you have not received your offering materials, contact [Alan Krome](#).

Register Today for Montreat Spring Conferences

The beauty of Montreat Conference Center during the spring is legendary. And now is the perfect time to reserve your place right in the middle of it. Let us recommend our springtime favorites: [The Spring Spiritual Formation Retreat](#) - Growing in Discernment: Attuning Our Spiritual Senses, April 16-19, with Marjorie Thompson.; [Arts & Sabbath](#): The Montreat Artists Series, April 19-23. Choose a course in drawing with Ellen Phillips or pottery with Martha Nelson.; [Associate Pastors Conference](#): Unique Call, Common Ministry, April 20-23, with Vice-Moderator Byron Wade, Eric Wall, Debra Weir, and Kathy Dawson.; [Solo Pastor to Multi-Staff Pastor](#), April 26-May 1, for pastors transitioning into or needing leadership guidance in a multi-staff congregation, with Harris Schultz and Deborah Fortel.

Bread for the World Gathering 2009 Scheduled for June 14-16

Gathering 2009 will be held at American University in Washington, D.C. June 14-16, with exciting speakers, practical workshops, and inspiring worship. Celebrate Bread for the World's 35th anniversary with a festive dinner on June 15 and conclude with visits to congressional representatives on June 16. Visit www.bread.org/gathering2009 to learn more. Early-bird registration—before April 30—is just \$162 (excluding housing). [Register today!](#)

Board of Pensions Update

The Board of the Board recently met and wants to assure you that BOP benefits are secure. Retirees will continue to receive their pension checks just as they have in the past. As expected, there will be no Good Experience Apportionment this year. However, the Medical plan is not expected to have an increase next year.

Around the Presbytery

First Presbyterian Church will have their annual Kirkin of the Tartan service on April 26, 2009, at 11:00 AM. Put on your Scottish plaids and come join us at 700 North Main St. Lancaster SC.

Job Opportunity

Faith Presbyterian Church is offering a paid summer internship in Youth and Outreach. Interested folks must (1) have a strong faith in God (2), be college-aged or older, (3) have experience and passion for working with youth and for sharing God's love in the community (4) be a self-motivator who just can't wait to work with others in initiating projects from the ground level and to seeing them through. The internship is for 10 weeks in the summer, though, if the way be clear, we would love to have someone begin working several hours a week in the spring and to continue to work with our youth in the fall. Interested folks are asked to contact Rev. David Bender at (803) 548-8810 and DMBender33@aol.com. Job description is available [online](#).

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

This Week in Providence Presbytery

- 3/16 Hunger Action Team—5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
- 3/17 Third Tuesday Together —10:30AM (Bethelwoods)
- 3/19 Educator Gathering—10-noon (Presbytery office)
- 3/20 Kid's Night Out—5:30-10:30PM (Bethelwoods)
- 3/20-21 Lay School of Theology (White Oak Conference Center)

Next Week

- 3/23 PW Coordinating Team—6PM (Presbytery Office)
- 3/24 CAT Meeting—10AM-Noon (Presbytery Office)
- 3/28 Prayer Fellowship--9:15AM (Presbytery Office)
- 3/29 [Spring Hymn Sing](#) with Tom Horton—3-5PM (First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster)

Mark your Calendar!

- 3/31 [Metrolina Educator Connection w/Karen Tye](#)--1-4PM (Bethelwoods)
- 4/4 PW Spring Gathering (Beth Shiloh)
- 4/18-19 Racial Ethnic Weekend (Hermon) (Worship 3PM on 19th)
- 4/23 [Leading Healthy Change-Providence Leadership Seminar](#) 2-9:45AM-4PM (Bethelwoods)
- 5/3 [Vision Infuzion-Providence Leadership Seminar](#) 3-2:30PM-5:30PM (Unity)
- 5/9 Bethelwoods Open House—10AM-2PM

Please submit articles for "In the Know" to Jill Wilson by Friday at 5PM, noting the dates you wish your article to be published on the Subject line.



In The Know

A Weekly Communication of Providence Presbytery

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

March 23, 2009

Volume 5, Number 11

“When life changes rain down upon us like stars falling from the sky, we can focus on what is faithful and everlasting as well as what is rapidly changing and uncertain, knowing that God embraces both change and stability.”

Bruce G. Epperley , Katherine Gould Epperley
In Alban Institute Article, [Navigating the Seasons of Ministry](#)

Presbytery In Brief Available Online

Want to know the details about the Presbytery Meeting held March 12th at Lancaster First Pres? Read Executive Presbyter, Mark Verdery's summary of the day's events. [Click here](#) or find it on our home page at www.providencepres.org.

Did You Know?

The Congregational Development and Evangelism Ministry Team supports our congregations by providing resources for training church leaders. The ministry also encourages congregations to partner to create effective ministry opportunities in their communities. Currently this ministry team provides designated funds for evangelism training, and the Leadership Development Collaborative. We invite you to learn more about how your contributions support this important ministry of our church. Call Dot Killian at (803) 517-7870 or contact Dot at dot@providencepres.org

Pastors: The Metrolina Educator Gathering Is For You Too!

Join educators and pastors to discuss how everything we do in the church is Christian Education, March 31 from 12:00 - 4:00 at Bethelwoods. Karen Tye, pastor emeritus of Eden Seminary will be here to challenge us all to go "back to the basics" as we look at what we teach in our preaching, in our hospitality, and in all of the other ministries of the church. Don't miss this great continuing education event right in our own backyard. TODAY is the last day to register by emailing Kathryn McGregor at kmgregor@providencepres.org or register and pay online at www.providencepres.org. The cost is \$17.50 and includes lunch.

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Board of Advisors Reminder

Presbyterian Communities Board of Advisors meeting will be held at the Columbia Presbyterian Community Center on Thursday, March 26th. Registration begins at 10:30AM. Please send a representative to the Board of Advisors meeting from your church so your church will have an update from this ministry and will have the Mother's Day offering materials.

Spring Hymn Sing on March 29

Spring Hymn Sing is next Sunday night from 3-5pm. This [encore presentation](#) by Tom Horton is sure to entertain and inspire you. Sing the old songs and hear their stories. An offering will be taken to benefit Faith New Church Development. The Hymn Sing is sponsored by the Capital Campaign committee.

Has your Book club or Sunday School class read The Shack?

The Thoughtful Christian has a one-session study on [The Shack](#). An additional study focusing on why this book resonates with so many Christians, entitled “The Theology of The Shack”, by author Jana

Riess, will be available April 22. Check out these and many other offerings for adult and youth studies from www.thethoughtfulchristian.org.

Board of Pensions Spring Bulletin available Online

See the Board of Pensions Spring Bulletin detailing the discussions in the recent Board of the Board meeting [online](#).

Mark your Calendars!

Presbyterian College's Youth Day '09 is scheduled for November 21, 2009. [Find out more online](#).

Around the Presbytery

4/4/09--Hermon Presbyterian Church will be showcasing their newest choir, the Kids for Christ choir (KFC) on Saturday, April 4th at 5pm. As an added bonus, there will be spaghetti dinners available for sale between 4 and 6 pm. Each dinner includes spaghetti, sauce (with or without meatballs), salad, bread and dessert. Adult plates are only \$5 and child plates are \$3. You are invited to stop by for a wonderful performance accompanied by an exquisite meal!

4/26/09--First Presbyterian Church-Lancaster will have their annual Kirkin of the Tartan service on April 26, 2009, at 11:00 AM. Put on your Scottish plaids and come join us at 700 North Main St. Lancaster SC.

Job Opportunity

Faith Presbyterian Church is offering a paid summer internship in Youth and Outreach. Interested folks must (1) have a strong faith in God (2), be college-aged or older, (3) have experience and passion for working with youth and for sharing God's love in the community (4) be a self-motivator who just can't wait to work with others in initiating projects from the ground level and to seeing them through. The internship is for 10 weeks in the summer, though, if the way be clear, we would love to have someone begin working several hours a week in the spring and to continue to work with our youth in the fall. Interested folks are asked to contact Rev. David Bender at (803) 548-8810 and DMBender33@aol.com. Job description is available [online](#).

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

This Week in Providence Presbytery

- 3/23 PW Coordinating Team--6PM (Presbytery Office)
- 3/24 CAT Meeting--10AM-Noon (Presbytery Office)
- 3/28 Prayer Fellowship--9:15AM (Presbytery Office)
- 3/29 [Spring Hymn Sing](#) with Tom Horton--3-5PM (First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster)

Next Week

- 3/31 [Metrolina Educator Connection w/Karen Tye](#)--1-4PM (Bethelwoods)
- 4/2 Committee on Ministry --5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
- 4/4 PW Spring Gathering (Beth Shiloh)
- 4/5 Palm Sunday

Mark your Calendar!

- 4/18-19 Racial Ethnic Weekend (Hermon) (Worship 3PM on 19th)
- 4/21 Third Tuesday Together --10:30AM (Bethelwoods)
- 4/22 Administrative Professionals Luncheon-Noon (Oakland Ave. Pres.)
- 4/23 [Leading Healthy Change-Providence Leadership Seminar](#) 2-9:45AM-4PM (Bethelwoods)
- 4/30 Third Tuesday Together goes to Park Seed and Garden Co. 10AM (Bethelwoods)
- 5/3 [Vision Infuzion-Providence Leadership Seminar](#) 3-2:30PM-5:30PM (Unity)
- 5/9 Bethelwoods Open House--10AM-2PM

Please submit articles for "In the Know" to Jill Wilson by Friday at 5PM, noting the dates you wish your article to be published on the Subject line.