

# 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.

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February 1, 2010

Volume 6, Number 5

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*“Port au Prince has been deeply wounded. The whole country will be deeply affected. I have no answers for any of these problems. Just the reminder that I felt, again, this morning while reading the **Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study**, that our God is a God of hope, that despair has already been defeated, and [that] now is the time to face what has happened and to act, act out of that hope and not out of despair. I don't have any idea what that will mean. But our God is up to the task. Pray for us, that we will also be up to the task.”* [>>Read More from PC\(USA\) mission co-worker to Haiti, Mark Hare](#)

## **Calvin for Today Lunch and Learn TOMORROW**

*Don't forget to bring a bag lunch* and come to hear Rev. Janet Alford present this discussion of John Calvin and the continued relevance of Reformed Tradition in modern society at the 2010 Ministers and Educators Forum, Tuesday, February 2, 11-1:30PM at the Presbytery Office. [More information available online.](#)

## **Second Harvest Partners develops Partnership with DSS**

People in need will be helped more than ever before at the 2010 Second Harvest Partners Mobile Food Pantries. [Because of a partnership with South Carolina's Department of Social Services](#), a representative will be available to help recipients with DSS related needs, such as applying for food stamps. This is a result of a commitment by the group to meeting long term needs of the poor in the area. SHP volunteers recently attended a “Poverty Simulation” held during the presbytery's E3 Training event to help volunteers understand many of the hidden challenges of the poor.

## **Do you want to Go to Montreat Youth Conference?**

*First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster*, is taking a group to the **Montreat Youth Conference**, week 3, July 11-17. We have rented a house and **have room for 4 more youth**. Please contact Susan Owens, 803-283-3505, if you are interested. Cost for the conference is approximately \$400.00. The youth conference is for youth who have completed eighth grade through graduated seniors.

## **Discipleship Development Coaching for Pastors**

Learn powerful tools to enable you to lead your congregants toward fulfilling their call to discipleship. Join fellow pastors for this one-day workshop on February 23. The event will be held at Purity Presbyterian 9:30am-3:30pm. Don't miss this great continuing education opportunity held right here in your presbytery! [Find out More!](#)

## **Don't Miss this Year's Youth Mission Retreat**

*“Put on Your Travelin' Shoes!”*: March 26-27--Bethelwoods. The 2010 Youth Mission Retreat will remind youth that Jesus called his disciples out of their comfort zones into a life of service just as he calls us today. Youth Groups are encouraged to join **with their churches** to win the **Mission**

**Heavyweight Championship.** Local mission organizations will offer opportunities for service. If your youth group hasn't signed up yet, get our [online brochure and registration form](#) and sign up today. Have more questions? Contact [Kathryn McGregor](#) at the Presbytery Office (803-328-6269).

**Presbyterian Youth Triennium grades 9-12: Registration **Deadline THIS WEEK****

Space is Limited! Get your forms in THIS WEEK! **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** will be held at Purdue University July 20-24, 2010 and is for youth currently in grades 9-12. [Applications](#) are due THIS WEEK and do include some essay questions. This trip is for high school youth who have demonstrated leadership qualities in their local church. The Education and Equipping Ministry Team will choose 15 youth from among the applicants to attend as Providence Presbytery's delegation. Once again, presbytery will provide adult chaperones and will pay transportation costs. Contact Kathryn McGregor @ 800-922-1609, ext. 6 or [kmcgregor@providencepres.org](mailto:kmcgregor@providencepres.org) for more information.

**Providence Presbytery Churches Urged to Stand in the GAP**

Many churches and individuals are longing to rush in to save the day in Haiti, yet the relief needs are complex and long term, and help of many different kinds will be needed at different stages. Right now the churches of Chester, Kershaw, Lancaster, Union and York counties are asked to stand in the G.A.P (Give—Act—Pray) **Give**--to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which will provide on the ground help today as well as re-building assistance in the years to come; **Act**—Bring hygiene kit supplies and join us on March 4th in making hygiene kits to be distributed by relief workers in Haiti; **Pray**—for our Haitian Brothers and Sisters. Share this with your Congregation; [download the bulletin insert](#). See the [Video Message](#) from Randy Ackey, Coordinator for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), regarding present and future programming to help the people of Haiti.

**Interfaith Peace-Builders Report -- Israel/Palestine: Opportunities and Obstacles**

The Carolina Peace Resource Center's David Matos traveled last summer to Israel and Palestine on a two-week Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation. There, he witnessed the occupation first-hand and met with both Israeli and Palestinian peace groups. He will share his experience, explain the obstacles to peace and discuss what we can do to help bring about a lasting and just peace. The event takes place at **Winthrop University - Barnes Recital Hall; Thursday, February 11, at 7:00 PM.** *This event is co-sponsored by Presbyterian Campus Ministry and The Global Mission Committee. Contact John O'Kain [jokain@oapc.net](mailto:jokain@oapc.net) or Helen Guinness [hbguinness@comporium.net](mailto:hbguinness@comporium.net)*

**Have you checked out The Presbyterian Leader website?**

One of the exciting resources on this website is a new eight-session study catechism titled "Foundations of Faith" written by Michael D. Bush and Zeta T. Lamberson. The Study Catechism was approved for use as a teaching tool for the church at the 210th General Assembly in June 1998. It provides commentary in question-and-answer form on the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. The Study Catechism provides us with a distinctively Reformed and Presbyterian understanding of the Christian faith. Foundations of Faith works with the section of the Study Catechism of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that covers the Apostles' Creed. The course is divided into eight sessions designed to last seventy-five to ninety minutes each. In addition to the lesson plans, the teacher's guide includes theological background material, Scripture references, resources for further study, and the catechism questions and answers. The accompanying student guides provides participants with the catechism questions and answers, Scripture references, background material, and guidance and space for journaling. Check out this and more at [www.thepresbyterianleader.com](http://www.thepresbyterianleader.com).

**Thornwell Offers a Safe Place for Children**

Thornwell Home for Children is a unique ministry that we Presbyterians share, we are pleased to provide you with this [snapshot of our stewardship of the redemptive and healing work](#) that we do together in our Synod. Always we are grateful for your faithful prayers and generous gifts that make it all possible. This report is offered by Charles Elliott, Asst. Vice President for Development & Church Relations.

### ***Positions Available***

#### **Part-time Choir Director Needed**

Are you interested in directing our dedicated choir? Douglas Presbyterian in Lancaster, SC is seeking a part-time choir director for our adult choir. If you are interested in this position, please call 803-283-8327 and leave a message. We look forward to hearing from you!

#### **Part-time Chaplain Needed**

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](http://www.preshomesc.org). Please send your PIF/resume to the administrator at Florence, Mr. Walter Hickman, [whickman@preshomesc.org](mailto:whickman@preshomesc.org). Deadline for submissions is February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Educational Opportunities***

**Conference on Reformed Theology and Ethics** to be held at Davidson College, February 22-24, 2010. This wonderful (and inexpensive) continuing education opportunity is entitled "The Lord's Prayer in Theology and Ethics." The keynote speaker is David Bartlett, Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary and co-editor, with Barbara Brown Taylor, of *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary*. Concurrent seminars will discuss the relevance of the Lord's Supper for various aspects of preaching and pastoral care. For more information or to register, please visit Davidson College's Religion Department website <http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x3733.xml>

#### **Teachers...Leaders...Pastors...Educators...Don't miss this exciting event!**

Anyone interested in how we learn will benefit from this event! Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders, Pastors and Educators... come to the Metrolina Educator Connection 3/11/2010 from 11-3pm at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. Hear educator and author, Barbara Bruce speak about brain research and how it is impacting teaching styles in the current Christian Education environment. Cost for the event is \$20. Pre-register by March 4<sup>th</sup> and lunch will be included. Lunch will not be available for walk-ins. [Sign up online.](#)

#### **2010 Associate Pastors Conference at Montreat**

Themed "The Gift That Is Within You," this April 12-15 conference, is designed to assist and encourage associate pastors, offering daily worship, Bible study, workshops, and spiritual direction. Join your peers for a time of practical skill-building, inspiration, and fellowship! To learn more and register, visit <http://www.montreat.org/371>.

#### **2010 Arts & Sabbath: The Montreat Artists Series, April 18-22 – Pottery or Photography**

Choose one of these art forms to study for the entire week, receiving intensive artistic experience under the expert guidance of a skilled artist. Balance learning with Sabbath time, in group worship and individually, for reflection, practice, and the simple enjoyment of applying what you have learned. Part of a continuing series of workshops led by noted regional artists, the spring Arts & Sabbath Week at Montreat Conference Center is open to anyone interested in one of the areas being offered, regardless of experience. To learn more and register, visit <http://www.montreat.org/375>.

## Do you have questions about writing?

Do you want to turn your ideas into marketable articles or books? Do you wonder about the best way to develop a freelance writing career? Do you desire to impact the world with your words? If so, plan to attend the Presbyterian Writers Conference scheduled for April 28-29. Our faculty is prepared to help you. [More information available online.](#) This event is sponsored by the Presbyterian Writers Guild, and will be held April 28-29<sup>th</sup> at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, TN

## New Ways for New Days

The Association of Smaller Congregations of the Synod of South Atlantic PC(USA) invites you to attend the 23rd Annual Conference, themed “New Ways for New Days.-- Equipping, Educating, and Empowering smaller congregations in new times.” The conference will be held May 3-5, 2010-- Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. For details about speakers and workshops, [see the brochure online.](#)

## Around the Presbytery...

**First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster** will have our annual Kirkin service on Sunday April 11, 2010, at 11:00 AM. Music will be furnished by 2 pipers and 1 drummer, along with our organist. We will have a catered meal following the service, and tickets must be purchased in advance by calling the Church office at 803-283-3329. The cost will be \$ 6 per person.

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

### 2010 Presbytery Meeting Schedule

<b>3/18</b>	<b>Presbytery Meeting 10AM (Van Wyck)</b>
5/23	Presbytery Meeting 2:30PM (Tirzah-Lancaster)
8/15	Called Presbytery Meeting at Clinton College (Hosted by Hermon)
10/17	Presbytery Meeting—2:30PM (Grace-Lancaster)

### This Week in Providence Presbytery

2/1	Hunger Action Team—6:30pm (Presbytery Office)
2/2	<a href="#">Calvin for Today: Minister and Educator Forum</a> –11AM-1:30 (Presbytery Office)
2/3	Youth Mission Retreat Planning Meeting—10am (Presbytery Office)
2/4	EEMT Meeting—9:30am (Presbytery Office)
2/5-6	Bethelwoods Ministry Team Retreat—5pm (Bethelwoods)

### Coming Next Week

2/8	Gulf Coast Mission Trip Training—6-8PM (Presbytery Office)
2/11	Committee on Ministry—5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
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Please submit articles to [jill@providencepres.org](mailto:jill@providencepres.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.

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“Clergy and laity are two words that should never escape the lips of Presbyterians.”

Rev. Joe Small, Director of the Office of Theology Worship and Education

[Read the entire article](#)

## Looking for a new spiritual practice during Lent?

Providence Presbytery invites those interested in Centering Prayer to attend a workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2010 at Plantation Estates in Matthews, NC. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Registration forms for the March 6 event are found at

[www.cpcharlotte.org/events.php](http://www.cpcharlotte.org/events.php). The cost to attend is \$30. **The registration deadline is February 26.** For those interested, Rev. Annette Bedford will facilitate six 90-minute follow-up sessions to further explore the practice of Centering Prayer in a small-group format. These sessions will be offered at Grace (Y) Church on Sundays, March 21, 28; April 11, 18, 25 and May 2. Attendance at the March 6 workshop is required in order to participate in the six follow-up sessions. After completing the sessions, those attending will then be invited to start small prayer groups of their own, to meet regularly at times convenient to the members. For more information, contact Rev. Annette Bedford at 704-364-8069, [abedford@carolina.rr.com](mailto:abedford@carolina.rr.com); or Rev. Janet Gessner Alford at 803-548-1638, [jga@comporium.net](mailto:jga@comporium.net). ***See more online.***

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*“Put on Your Travelin’ Shoes!”*: March 26-27--Bethelwoods. The 2010 Youth Mission Retreat will remind youth that Jesus called his disciples out of their comfort zones into a life of service just as he calls us today. Youth Groups are encouraged to join **with their churches** to win the **Mission Heavyweight Championship**. Local mission organizations will offer opportunities for service. If your youth group hasn't signed up yet, get our [online brochure and registration form](#) and sign up today. Have more questions? Contact [Kathryn McGregor](#) at the Presbytery Office (803-328-6269).

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### **Need Help Planning a Retreat?**

[The Thoughtful Christian](#) is launching an entirely new set of resources including comprehensive retreat guides and FREE retreat essays. Skilled retreat leader, Nancy Ferguson, answers your questions about planning and leading retreats in the free retreat essays and provides five retreat designs. To begin planning your first Thoughtful Retreat, click on the new "Retreats" tab on the home page.

### **ymlive is BACK!**

Presbyterian Youth groups all over the world are getting their creative juices flowing to share their interpretation of John 7:38 on [www.ymlive.org](http://www.ymlive.org). The video challenge invites youth to compete for one of two \$25,000 endowments to benefit youth ministry in your church. The John 7:38 verse coincides with the theme for this year's General Assembly. All PC(USA) Youth are encouraged to join the community and submit a video. Sign up at [ymlive.org](http://ymlive.org). The Video Challenge is sponsored by the Presbyterian Foundation Group.

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#### **Attend the Size Transition Concepts Workshop**

Clergy, church staff and lay leaders gain clarity and direction when they attend the Size Transition Concepts Workshop at Forest Lakes Presbyterian Church in Columbia on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-3:20. Participants will make sense of their real life experience when they learn the nine factors to address in moving to the next church size, identify what can sabotage movement, learn practices for normalizing change; and many other concepts. For more information or to [register, check out the brochure online.](#)

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### **Cooperative Ministry (clustering) Workshop to be offered in June**

*LINKING FOR MINISTRY* is an event for smaller membership congregations interested in learning about cooperative ministry (clustering) for the purpose of ministry and mission. This 3-day conference is designed to excite, encourage and empower small churches towards new possibilities and opportunities through joint mission and ministry. Learn more about how "clustering" can revitalize the small church, enlarge its vision and expand its capacity for worship, work and witness. June 2-4, 2010, Thornwell Home Campus, Clinton, SC 29325. For more information or to register, go to [www.trinity-presbytery.org](http://www.trinity-presbytery.org) and look under Events.

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**Bethesda Presbyterian** will be unveiling its Historical SC State Highway Marker as part of its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Homecoming in May. If you would like to make a donation toward the marker, please send checks payable to Dr. Robert H. Walker, designated for Historical Marker. Checks may be mailed to Dr. Walker at 5690 Williamson Road, Rock Hill 29730. Those donating \$30 will receive an unsigned Genie Marshall Wilder Bethesda Watercolor print. Those donating \$40 will receive a signed print. \$25 donations will receive a Settlemyre Sketch.

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### Coming Next Week

2/15	Glocal Committee Meeting—5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
2/16	Third Tuesday Together—10:30AM-1PM (Bethelwoods)
2/16	Administrative Ministry Team—5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
2/17	Ash Wednesday
2/17	Resource Center Preschool Bookmobile —11AM (Allison Creek)
2/18	Educator Gathering—11:30AM-1:30PM (Presbytery Office)
2/18	Glocal Committee Islam Relations Working Group—3-5PM (Presbytery Office)
2/18	Presbytery Council—5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
2/21	Self-Development of the People

### Mark your Calendar

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February 15, 2010

Volume 6, Number 7

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“I know that the Bible is a special kind of book, but I find it as seductive as any other. If I am not careful, I can begin to mistake the words on the page for the realities they describe. I can begin to love the dried ink marks on the page more than I love the encounters that gave rise to them.”

[Barbara Brown Taylor](#)

## **“Humor in Healing” is topic for Chaplain Grand Round Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for “Humor and Healing,” the Chaplain Grand Round to be held at CMC’s Main Auditorium on Feb. 18 from noon to 1PM. David Johnson, Assistant Director of the Department of Pastoral Care and Education will lead the discussion. Anyone is invited to this FREE seminar. You may bring a lunch if you wish.

## **Order ECO-PALMS for Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday falls on March 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Your congregation’s commitment to purchase eco-palms plays an important role in protecting forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in harvesting communities. Order your eco-palms now: [www.ecopalms.org](http://www.ecopalms.org). Check orders must be received by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Credit Card order deadline is March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Don’t Miss the Cokesbury Charlotte VBS Preview!**

“Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!” is Cokesbury’s VBS Curriculum this year. Come to the VBS Preview at [Cokesbury Bookstore in Charlotte](#) Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30AM-1:30PM to view the curriculum, ask questions and receive a 20% discount for all orders on the 24<sup>th</sup>. [More curriculum information is available online.](#)

## **Looking for a new spiritual practice during Lent?**

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### **Positions Available**

#### **Director of Congregational Life Needed**

Davidson College Presbyterian (Davidson, NC) has an opening for a full-time non-ordained Director of Congregational Life. If you think you might be interested, [click here for more information](#).

#### **Part-time Choir Director Needed**

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### **Educational Opportunities**

#### **Presbyterian World Mission Offers Listen UP! WEBINAR again on Feb. 22**

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#### **Attend the Size Transition Concepts Workshop**

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

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10/17	Presbytery Meeting—2:30PM (Grace-Lancaster)

### **This Week in Providence Presbytery**

2/15	Glocal Committee Meeting—5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
2/16	Third Tuesday Together—10:30AM-1PM (Bethelwoods)
2/16	Administrative Ministry Team—5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
2/17	Ash Wednesday
2/17	Resource Center Preschool Bookmobile —11AM (Allison Creek)
2/18	Educator Gathering—11:30AM-1:30PM (Presbytery Office)
2/18	Glocal Committee Islam Relations Working Group—3-5PM (Presbytery Office)
2/18	Presbytery Council—5:30PM (Presbytery Office)
2/21	Self-Development of the People

### **Coming Next Week**

- 2/22 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team—6PM (Grace-Lancaster)
- 2/23 Discipleship Development Coaching—9:30AM-3:30PM (Presbytery Office)
- 2/25 TTT Trip to Aviation Museum—11AM (Bethelwoods)
- 2/26-28 Southern Annual Recreation Workshops—9AM (Bethelwoods)
- 2/28 Racial/Ethnic Committee Meeting—1:30PM(Presbytery Office)

### **Mark your Calendar**

- 3/1-2 Leader of Leaders with Bruce Reyes-Chow
- 3/4 Haiti Hygiene Kit Prep at Presbytery Office
- 3/11 Metrolina Educator Connection (Bethelwoods)
- 3/26-27 Youth Mission Retreat (Bethelwoods)
- 4/10 [Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering](#)—9AM (First Presbyterian, York)
- 4/17-18 Racial/Ethnic Weekend

**Please submit articles to [jill@providencepres.org](mailto:jill@providencepres.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.**

# 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.

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February 22, 2010

Volume 6, Number 8

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“We are His portion and He is our prize;  
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes.  
If grace is an ocean, we’re all sinking.  
So Heaven meets earth like a sloppy wet kiss,  
and the heart turns violently inside of my chest,  
I don’t have time to maintain this regrets,  
when I think about, the way He loves us”

[John Mark McMillan](#): The Song Inside the Sounds of Breaking Down: [How he Loves Us](#)

## **Looking for NEW WAYS TO FUND YOUR CHURCH'S MINISTRIES?**

Attend this ONE-DAY WORKSHOP teaching *grant writing* and *benefits of establishing a separate non-profit for your church*. The workshop will be held on APRIL 13, 2010 - 9 AM - 4 PM at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University 6 E. Lancaster Avenue -- Wynnewood, PA 19096 ([directions](#)). Cost for the event is \$50 FOR FULL DAY (both sessions, lunch included) \$35 FOR HALF-DAY (one session, lunch included). Register online at <http://www.alban.org/newways.asp> or call 1-800-486-1318, x247. This event is sponsored by The Alban Institute in Affiliation with Nueva Esperanza and Word & Deed Network. Please remember that the Education and Equipping Ministry Team has scholarships available for this workshop and others.

## **Wanting to help Haitian earthquake victims but not sure how?**

Collect the following items for making Hygiene Kits and bring to the Presbytery Office in Rock Hill on Thursday, MARCH 4 at 6:30 pm: hand towels (16"x28" size only), washcloths, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers (no metal files or emery boards), wrapped toothbrushes (no toothpaste), wrapped bath size bars of soap, Band-Aids, and boxes of one-gallon plastic bags. A bulletin insert is [available online](#) if you would like to let your church community know about this event and how to find out from PDA how our contributions are being used and what we accomplishing together. While some Presbyterian Women groups are collecting donations, any group is invited to join us in collecting supplies and preparing the kits.

## **Lay School of Theology Coming Up**

Lay School of Theology, our South Carolina Presbyterians' learning opportunity for lay pastors, elders, deacons and others interested in learning more about reformed theology. The Spring 2010 Session is coming up March 19-21 at White Oak Conference Center. Registration deadline is March 5th. [To register or find out more click here.](#)

## **Do you know Youth who want to go to Montreat Youth Conference this summer?**

*First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster* is taking a group to the Montreat Youth Conference, week 3, July 11-17. They have rented a house and **have room for 4 more youth**. Please contact Susan Owens, [ssowens823@yahoo.com](mailto:ssowens823@yahoo.com) or 803-283-3505, if you are interested. Cost for the conference is

approximately \$400.00. The youth conference is for youth who have completed eighth grade through graduated seniors.

### **ymiLIVE is BACK!**

Presbyterian youth groups across the country are invited to participate in an on-line *Youth Video Challenge* as part of **ymiLIVE** (Youth Mission Initiate LIVE, pronounced why-em-eye LIVE). Youth groups will compete to win one of two \$25,000 endowment funds established by the Presbyterian Foundation to benefit their church youth ministry programs. Get your youth involved today!

<http://www.ymilive.org/> or become a fan on [FACEBOOK](#) search for ymilive.

### **Order ECO-PALMS for Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday falls on March 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Your congregation's commitment to purchase eco-palms plays an important role in protecting forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in harvesting communities. Order your eco-palms now: [www.ecopalms.org](http://www.ecopalms.org). Check orders must be received by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Credit Card order deadline is March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Cokesbury Charlotte VBS Preview is THIS WEEK!**

"Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!" is Cokesbury's VBS Curriculum this year. Come to the VBS Preview at [Cokesbury Bookstore in Charlotte](#) Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30AM-1:30PM to view the curriculum, ask questions and receive a 20% discount for all orders on the 24<sup>th</sup>. [More curriculum information is available online.](#)

### **Deadline to Register for the Centering Prayer Workshop is FRIDAY (2/26)!**

Providence Presbytery invites those interested in Centering Prayer to attend a workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2010 at Plantation Estates in Matthews, NC. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Registration forms for the March 6 event are found at

[www.cpcharlotte.org/events.php](http://www.cpcharlotte.org/events.php). The cost to attend is \$30. **The registration deadline is**

**February 26.** For those interested, Rev. Annette Bedford will facilitate six 90-minute follow-up sessions to further explore the practice of Centering Prayer in a small-group format. These sessions will be offered at Grace (Y) Church on Sundays, March 21, 28; April 11, 18, 25 and May 2. Attendance at the March 6 workshop is required in order to participate in the six follow-up sessions. After completing the sessions, those attending will then be invited to start small prayer groups of their own, to meet regularly at times convenient to the members. For more information, contact Rev. Annette Bedford at 704-364-8069, [abedford@carolina.rr.com](mailto:abedford@carolina.rr.com); or Rev. Janet Gessner Alford at 803-548-1638, [jga@comporium.net](mailto:jga@comporium.net). [See more online.](#)

### **YOUTH MISSION RETREAT! Register by SUNDAY (2/28) and Get a Great T-Shirt**

"Put on Your Travelin' Shoes!": March 26-27--Bethelwoods. The 2010 Youth Mission Retreat will remind youth that Jesus called his disciples out of their comfort zones into a life of service just as he calls us today. If your youth group hasn't signed up yet, get our [online brochure and registration form](#) and sign up today. Have more questions? Contact [Kathryn McGregor](#) at the Presbytery Office (803-328-6269). *Sorry, youth groups registering after 2/28 will not receive the custom designed Travelin' Shoes TShirt.*

### **Hunger among School Children one focus of Youth Mission Retreat!**

Youth Groups are encouraged to join **with their churches** to win the **Mission Heavyweight Championship**. We will be supporting BACK the PACK, a program organized to fight local hunger among Rock Hill school children. While school free and reduced lunch programs address hunger issues during the school year, school breaks create a financial challenge for families most at risk. A recent Bread for the World article refers to the widespread need for school break food programs. [Read how one South Carolina woman discussed hunger among school children with USDA Secretary Vilsack.](#)

**[Thornwell Home for Children February Newsletter is available online.](#)**

### ***Positions Available***

**Director of Youth and Children's Ministries Needed:** Bethesda Presbyterian Church in York is seeking a full time Director of Youth and Children's Ministries. Our goal is the development of children and youth who are disciples of Jesus Christ. Primary duties include oversight of a comprehensive and expanding ministry for children and youth (pre-school – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) and providing leadership to volunteers involved in this ministry. Qualifications, a job description, and an application are available at [www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org) or by calling 803-328-1360. Application deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Director of Congregational Life Needed:** Davidson College Presbyterian (Davidson, NC) has an opening for a full-time non-ordained Director of Congregational Life. If you think you might be interested, [click here for more information.](#)

**Part-time Choir Director Needed:** Are you interested in directing our dedicated choir? Douglas Presbyterian in Lancaster, SC is seeking a part-time choir director for our adult choir. If you are interested in this position, please call 803-283-8327 and leave a message. We look forward to hearing from you!

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