

The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

CONNECTIONS Newsletter



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POINTS TO PONDER...

CHANGE !!!

My father used to say, “nothing ever stays the same”. Early on, I’m sure that I really didn’t understand how profoundly true that is. I’m not sure, I don’t remember if he said it as an affirmation or a lament. The dictionary uses words like *alteration* and *transformation* to define change, both of which are rather technical or academic words. That is, neutral, objective, non-personal. But the topic of change is rarely approached in non-personal terms. “All change is painful”, someone has said. That’s the personal, subjective side of change.

My interest in the topic stems most recently from my attendance at a conference with other presbytery exec types and General Assembly folk in Minneapolis (the site of next year’s 219th G.A. meeting). From my perspective at least, the unofficial theme of that gathering might have been entitled, “How many ways are there to say CHANGE?!”.

There were discussions and presentations that dealt with major proposed changes in the Book of Order that will be coming to G.A. in July, and a lot of conversation about the changing role of presbyteries, of synods, of the national offices – some prompted by financial shortfalls, but much of it related to the changing “culture” of the 21st century in which our ministry and witness must now unfolding. Meanwhile, our Moderator, the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow spent a lot of time talking about the importance of the *social media* (blogs, facebook, twitter, etc), our need to take it seriously and learn how to use it in the church. That’s a change I have yet to catch up with.

Of course it’s true, literally, that nothing ever stays the same, even though we sometimes seem to spend a lot of time and energy pretending that things don’t change, or shouldn’t. As leaders in the church, we know change must happen. We also know that all music in the church was once new. But we also know that resistance to change is a universal human trait. Therefore, to set some folk apart as *those people who are resisting change* is artificial, and often self-serving. When we reach out in the name of change to initiate a new hymn, or a new hymnal; a new approach to Bible study, or a new way to do Christian education; a new plan for a stewardship campaign, a different format for a presbytery meeting, or a new way to think about new church development, we need to first think about some things.

We need to think about the people who are going to be affected, especially those who are most likely to be discomforted. Have we reached out to honestly explain a rationale for the change, and have we listened for their response? Have we made an attempt to include them in the decision for the change? Have we made an honest attempt to personally understand the discomfort some may be anticipating? Have we been respectful of the old way? Can we resist being contemptuous about “the way we’ve always done it”?

Change is a fact of life, even in the life of the church, even the Presbyterian Church. And yes, if “the way we’ve always done it” is no longer attracting new faces, then that way will die with us, and that will be that. But we are the people of the Way, which rises above any particular way we might have to do it. And that is the Way of love. Therefore, **how** we make changes can be even more important than the actual changes we make.

- David A Walker—Presbytery Executive, Stated Clerk



The Christmas Joy Offering is usually received the Sunday before Christmas. Resources are mailed to each congregation in early September. Free promotional materials are available through PDS by calling 800-524-2612 or online at www.pcusa.org/marketplace.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina’s **Equipping the Saints**

Workshops Promoting Christian Education and Stewardship
With Special emphasis on Stewardship
February 13, 2010
Highland Presbyterian Church
111 Highland Ave, Fayetteville, NC 28305

Keynote Topic: “Stewardship is not a Season: God’s Call & Christian Living” presented by **Rev. Tim Beach-Verhey**, pastor at Faison Presbyterian Church

Schedule:

8:45—9:15am—Registration/Coffee/Resource Center/Displays
9:15—10:00 am—Opening & Keynote
10:15—11:30am—Session #1 Workshops
11:45—1:00pm—Session #2 Workshops

Find workshop offerings and registration form online at
www.presbycc.org.



Support for New Hispanic Ministry—

Six local English-speaking congregations, one Spanish-speaking worship group, and other supporters of local Hispanic/Latino Ministry met in a special bilingual worship service on August 30, 2009, at Jonesboro Presbyterian Church in Sanford.

The ground-breaking service included the signing of a document called “*Together in Mission: A Covenant among Sanford-area Presbyterian Churches with the Rev. Miguel Aragón.*”

Area pastors helped lead worship, and the Rev. Aragón preached a sermon entitled “One More for Christ,” which was translated into English by Julie Olive Hughes, a member of one of the supporting churches and former Wycliff Bible translator. The Spanish-speaking group, called “Centro Familiar Cristiano de Sanford” (CFCS) presented special music, and the congregation sang hymns in both English and Spanish.

Moved by the cacophony of voices praying the Lord’s Prayer in two languages at the same time, one worshiper said, “This must be what heaven sounds like!”

The covenant-signing service formalized the efforts of several congregations who began the Sanford-Area Presbyterian Hispanic Ministry as a local mission initiative last March. Six churches have entered the covenant of support; other congregations and individuals in the area also encourage this new mission endeavor. And Presbytery’s New Church Formation Committee is looking at the group’s effort as an emerging model of new church development.

For more information about Sanford’s new Hispanic Ministry, please contact Rev. Keith Miller (jboropastor@windstream.net), Rev. Miguel Aragón (m.aragon70@yahoo.com), or Rev. Kathryn Dudley (pastorkdudley@windstream.net).

**Presbytery's Annual Committee Orientation & Training -
Calling all Presbytery Committee Members
to attend**

**The annual committee orientation & training event
January 23, 2010
at Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church.**
Registration—9:00am
Morning Worship—9:15am
Ending at 3:00pm

This year all committee members are invited and urged to attend. The primary focus will be training committees to work effectively and efficiently in the mission and ministry of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. Time will be allotted for each committee to have an organizational meeting. The training event will end with a celebration of what we are doing in our Presbytery.



**Presbytery and Friends of
Kirkwood
Lease Signing
November 4, 2009**

Pictured are David Walker, Presbytery Executive/Stated Clerk; Council Chairperson, Julie Stocks and Pate Southerland, representing Friends of Kirkwood, Inc. at the lease signing held at the Presbytery office in Elizabethtown, NC.

Please be aware that as of January 1, 2010, The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and our office in Elizabethtown, NC will no longer be able to make reservations, negotiate fees, insure commitments, or set policies for Camp Kirkwood. The Presbytery has approved a lease for this facility to *Friends of Camp Kirkwood, Inc.* who will have in place a working agreement with the Wilmington Family Y.M.C.A. We anticipate that the Y.M.C.A. will handle reservations, programming, and the financial operation of the camp. With the combination of the commitment of Friends of Camp Kirkwood to Christian camping and outdoor ministries and the expertise and like commitment of the Y.M.C.A., Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center will be in good hands just as your group will be during your stay. We hope this change in management will not impact any future use by your group.

If you wish to make a reservation at Camp Kirkwood for the year 2010, please contact Lynn Sheppard at the Wilmington Family Y.M.C.A. at (910) 251-9622 ext. 223. We really appreciate your business in the past, and we hope you will continue to enjoy the facilities at Camp Kirkwood in the future.

Presbytery Plans for January 2010 Mexico Partnership Trip—

Eighteen people representing eleven congregations and the presbytery office will travel to Comcalco, Tabasco, Mexico during the week of January 25—February 1 to work with our partners on the construction of the first building of a proposed health clinic. This partnership group will be commissioned at the December 3, 2009 Presbytery meeting.



A special offering will be taken during the December presbytery meeting that will be used to buy building materials for the foundation of the first building in the health clinic complex. The offering goal is \$7500, which is one-half of the estimated cost of the foundation.

**WALLACE CHURCH CELEBRATES
125TH ANNIVERSARY**

On Sunday, November 8, 2009, the Wallace Presbyterian Church celebrated its 125th anniversary. On November 8, 1884, the Presbytery of Wilmington organized the Duplin Roads Presbyterian Church at the request of the Rockfish Presbyterian Church. Twenty-four elders, deacons, and members became the charter members of the Wallace Presbyterian Church. The church has stood on the corner of W. Main and S. Raleigh Streets since 1884.

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The anniversary celebration included children and youth re-enacting an historical play first performed at the centennial celebration in 1984. Sounds of a bagpiper piped members and visitors into the worship service which was led by former ministers, with Rev. Jim Atwood preaching. The choir sang an anthem by Pepper Choplin, "Love of the Lord," with text based on Romans 8:35-39. The song was commissioned for this special service. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

Following worship, members and guests enjoyed a delicious and bountiful covered dish luncheon. A video presentation of photographs prepared by a church member was shown in the sanctuary following lunch. A cornerstone ceremony concluded the day's activities. Members and guests gathered on the corner of W. Main and S. Raleigh Streets to observe the opening of the cornerstone, the reading of items placed in the stone at the centennial celebration in 1984, and the placement of contemporary materials to be read at the 150th anniversary celebration in 2034.

West Community News:

In recent months the West Community of Presbytery has come together for officer training at two locations, a picnic for pastors with children at home, the installation of pastors into Raeford PC, Ebenezer PC, Community PC, Shiloh-Bethel PCs; while still other pastors have retired, interims and supply pastors have begun serving.

Members of the community have also hosted presbytery meeting, enjoyed a free dinner for pastors at LobSteer Inn, formally launched the Sanford Hispanic Ministry - *Centro Familiar Cristiano de Sanford* - "Christian Family Center of Sanford", held hymn sings and revivals, heard Roger Nishioka speak at Laurinburg Church, hosted guest speakers including missionaries, peacemakers and the president of Union-PSCE, participated in CROP Hunger Walks and other fund raisers. Several churches have held Fall ingatherings, homecomings, or plate sales to raise funds for the church and missions. The Presbytery's Youth Council kick-off event was in the West, too.

Ministers and CLPs are gathering regularly fellowship over lunch and breakfast or to discuss the lectionary – always welcoming others to join with them. We continue in prayer to lift up some pastors facing medical challenges. The Pastors-to-Pastors stand ready to help ministers as needed; they are Bob Urie, Doug Hix and Henrietta Carmichael.

For information on future happenings in the western third of the Presbytery, please contact Laura Lupton at LauraLupton@presbycc.org or 910-818-9938. This area includes the churches of Harnett, Lee, Moore, Hoke and Scotland Counties.

Stewardship MATTERS...

A church or religious organization must use Form 1099-Misc if it pays an unincorporated individual or entity \$600 or more in any calendar year for one of the following payments: gross rents, commissions, fees, or other compensation paid to non-employees; prizes and awards; or other fixed and determinable income. This form should be given to each payee by January 31 and a copy filed with the IRS by the end of February, along with a transmittal form 1096. Please read the IRS publications for more specific information as to who should receive a 1099 or a W-2, although 1099's would frequently be given to supply ministers, contractors, etc.

Ministers, in almost all cases, are employees, not subject to withholding, for income tax purposes and should be given a W-2 by January 31; however, ministers are self-employed for social security purposes. A W-2 should be given to individuals by January 31 and a copy of the W-2 along with Form W-3 should be sent to the Social Security Administration by the last day of February.

Parsonage Values or Housing Allowances are subject to special taxation rules.

Two very good resources easily available are (1) IRS Publication 1828 "Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations" which can be downloaded at www.irs.gov and which contains a list of additional IRS publications that can be very helpful in dealing with church and religious issues, and (2) the Board of Pensions website at www.pension.org.

Ministerial taxes can be rather complicated so please contact an accountant or tax consultant with any questions.
- Gayle Boykin, Presbytery Treasurer, Business Manager



PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer appears on CNN

By Linda B. Valentine, Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council

A national television audience learned this week what many of us have known for a long time—our Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program changes lives. One of our recently returned YAVs, Shelvis Smith-Mather, shared his inspiring story during a CNN interview on Dec. 8. He told CNN that his faith was strengthened by seeing the African church at work in the face of poverty, conflict and other pressing problems. "It's important to know that in the midst of the tragedy there's a whole lot of hope," he said. "There are a number of people who are doing amazing works for God there and engaging in these issues, and that's encouraging."

View the interview of Shelvis' work in Kenya at www.pcusa.org/yav/.

Special Project to aide Foster Children—

Presbytery's Southeast Regional Leadership Council is sponsoring a *mission project* during Advent and Christmas to benefit foster care children. There is a need for even the most basic of needs for this group of kids. Many of the children come into Foster Care with only than what they have on. It starts with things like diapers, underwear, basic clothing We do have some very dedicated and loving foster care homes in the region that are doing an amazing job. In New Hanover County alone there is an average of 400 children in foster care at any given time.

We urge all churches in Pender, Brunswick and New Hanover County to make this opportunity available to your church members to make them aware of the needs of these children, and to encourage them to purchase several items while doing their Christmas shopping to drop them off at your church. Please designate a person in your congregation to head up this mission project and have them drop these collected materials to in Pender County to Potts Memorial Presbyterian Church near Penderlea, the contact person is Ann Cottle at 910-285-3490, In New Hanover County to Saint Andrews Covenant Presbyterian Church on Market Street. In New Hanover you can contact John Birkenhuer of St. Andrews Covenant at 910-762-9693 x 210 and in Brunswick County contact We need a coordinator for Brunswick County.

I know you may already have a charity you are supporting for the Christmas Season but would you please share this with the Committees that would have oversight over these programs in your church to see if we can gain agreement that this is something that your church could support and be part of.

John Birkenhuer



Presbytery Pastor Receives 2009 Albert Schweitzer Award—

The University of North Carolina Wilmington has named the **Rev. Don Skinner, founder and executive director of the Phoenix Employment Ministry**, its 2009 Albert Schweitzer Honors Scholar. The award is given annually by the UNCW Honors Scholars Program and Randall Library to someone in the area who exemplifies the attributes or interests of Nobel Peace Prize recipient Albert Schweitzer. The award is chosen by students and faculty in the Honors Program based on his or her contributions.

For almost a quarter of a century, Don has worked in the Cape Fear region to prepare those who are homeless or nearly homeless to find work. After becoming pastor of Pike Rocky-Point Presbyterian Church in 1986, Skinner was drawn to the Good Shepherd Center, the area's preeminent agency for sheltering and feeding the homeless. He became the job director there in 1992. When that position was eliminated in 2002 during an economic downturn, he was inspired by his own unemployment to create an agency to help others. That vision became the Phoenix Employment Ministry located in Wilmington, NC.

It's time to get your
2010 Children's Mission Yearbook! Contact the Presbytery office or order from PDS— 800-524-2612. Item # 978-1-57153-098-1



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Dec. 10—Send quarterly Mission Pledge to Joyce Winkler, PO Box 8291, Ocean Isle, NC 28469

Dec. 10—Send Thank Offering to Joyce Winkler

Jan.—Order materials for **Birthday Offering** Find "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" worship resources in the Nov/Dec '09 *Horizons* magazine.

Order PW and PC(USA) Leadership Resources— By calling PDS at 800-524-2612 or visit www.pcusa.org/marketplace

- *How to Write Church History*—(PWR-02-105)
- *Together in Service Guide*—(PWR-07-431)
- *2010 Children's Mission Yearbook*— Item # 978-1-57153-098-1

Presbyterian Youth Triennium— Purdue University July 20-24, 2010

Scholarships Available!!

Have some youth interested in the 2010 Presbytery Youth Triennium? It's not to late to get your applications in!! Check out the information at presbycc.org/youth or contact Jennifer Maffia at jennifermaffia@presbycc.org , 1-800-277-7479.

The 2009 Senior High Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Kirkwood was a great success. Special thanks to Jon Lloyd of First Presbyterian Church, Lumberton for Keynoting such wonderful messages. All 93 participants connected with each other and God as we talked about Love!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Upcoming 2010 Presbytery Youth Events

- **January 16, 2010**—*Youth Quake*—1:00—4:00 PM

Cost: Free

Come join us at First Presbyterian Church in Dunn for an Ice Cream Social!!

- **March 13-14, 2010**—**Middle School Retreat**—Camp Kirkwood Cost:\$40

Theme: Jesus and the Chocolate Factory!! Join us for some scrumptious fun!

Keynote Speaker: Lyndsey McCall

-**June 12-19, 2010** **Montreat Youth Conference**

Cost \$400 per participant

Information and applications are available on line or contact Jennifer Maffia

- **July 20-24**—**Presbyterian Triennium Youth Conference**

Cost \$600 per participant

Scholarships available!! Contact Jennifer Maffia for Information

Come Join Our Presbytery Youth Council Team!!

Do you or any of your youth have time and talent to offer to God and the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina? The Presbytery Youth Council is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 year. Applications can be found and filled out on line at www.presbycc.org or contact Jennifer Maffia for more information. Applications will be taken through January!!

Facebook & Presbyterians...



We have a Presbytery of Coastal Carolina group in Facebook! Just search for "Presbytery of Coastal Carolina" in www.Facebook.com. Membership in Facebook is free. The Presbytery Youth Council has a page too, search for "Coastal Carolina Presbytery Youth Council". Several Churches have fan pages too such as Old Laurel Hill PC, Trinity Presbyterian in Laurinburg, Pollocksville and many others. Nationally you can find pages managed by the national office (Search for "Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)", Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Outlook, Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song and many more. If you are on Twitter, you can follow the news headlines of the Presbyterian Church USA at www.twitter.com/Presbyterian Simply providing more ways to connect and stay informed about the happenings in your denomination.



APCE Annual Event January 27-30, 2010

Nashville, Tennessee

Early Bird Registration continues through November 30th. Take advantage of this discount period, which saves you \$50. Check it out on the web – www.apcenet.org or refer to your registration book, page 54.

Won't you join with other Christian educators in Nashville for great presentations, worship, seminars, PYWA events, workshops, AMY GRANT, and incredible music? Nashville is Music City, USA! It is sure to be fun, educational and inspiring?

- *Susan Perrod*, AE Chair 2010

