

Presbyterian Connections

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of Pueblo

Synod of the Rocky Mountains * Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
803 W. 4th St., Ste. H, Pueblo, CO 81003 * Phone (719)542-1013/(800)662-1013 * FAX (719)545-7956
Website: www.PuebloPresbytery.org * E-mail: pueblopbj@qwest.net
First Quarter, 2007



**The Presbytery of Pueblo believes we are called
as the body of Christ to...
Learn to live together,
Live to love each other,
Love to serve God and neighbors.**



WEAVINGS

As the New Orleans sun seeped through the muggy morning air of the Parkway Presbyterian Church, the Pueblo Presbytery's eight-person mission team woke to their first day of work. We were to report to a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) construction supervisor at 8:30 a.m. sharp at his office in the Gentilly Presbyterian Church some half-hour away. We followed him to the refurbished home of Charles and Winnie Wilmore who greeted us with open arms and grateful hugs.

They had moved into this house east of the lower Ninth Ward just three weeks before Katrina struck and their house sustained two feet of flooding. As the house was being gutted a termite infestation was discovered on a corner of the house. Previous teams had restrung the wiring, installed new water lines, tacked and taped sheet rock to the walls and painted all but the utility room. PDA was hoping we could finish out the utility room, including the installation of a water heater, washer and dryer. Also, the bathroom fixtures needed installing along with a toilet, and the shower stall needed tiling.

We managed to make the finishing touches on the utility room, install the toilet, tile and grout the shower stall, build a rail divider between the living room and dining room, do an overall clean-up and reinstall an outside door and storm door. However, the Wilmores were not yet able to move out of their F.E.M.A. trailer in their front yard and into their home. It needs another week's worth of an eager mission team to make it ready.

Though we were somewhat disappointed we couldn't finish the job for them we were reminded of Paul's comment to the Corinthian church:

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. (1Cor. 3:6-9)

What made this week special was not our modest contribution of work but working alongside our two partners in mission from C.E.P.A.D. in Nicaragua: Eduardo and Isidra.

We are, indeed, a "connectional church" building on the work of others and working together for the glory of God. We are interdependent on the grace and generosity of each other: the loan of the van from First Presbyterian Church, Pueblo; the free overnight lodging at the Oakcliff Presbyterian Church in Dallas en route to and from New Orleans; the free lodging and hospitality of the congregation of Parkway Presbyterian Church in Metairie, Louisiana; the translation skill of Kathryn Castro in our group meetings with our Nicaraguan guests; and, of course, the generosity of your gifts that made this mission trip possible.

We were grateful and proud to represent the Presbytery of Pueblo!

Peace & Joy,
Gary Weaver

TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

➤ ***Please remember in your prayers:***

- Elder Bruce Eskew (Covenant) and family upon the death of his father, **William Eskew**, on March 17;
- The Rev. **David Freehling** (pastor, Canon City) and his family upon the death of his mother, **Lucille Freehling**, in April;
- The Rev.s **Cris and Harold Russell** (Alamosa) upon the death of Cris' sister, **Marie Ann Mosende**, in the Philippines in March;
- **Lois Larkin**, family, and friends, upon the death of the **Rev. Jim Larkin** (former Associate Pastor at First, Colorado Springs, Honorably Retired), on March 13;
- **Elder Janet Thurston** (member, Westminster and Presbytery Office Administrator) and family upon the death of her mother, **Elder Margaret Abbott**, on March 31;
- Family and friends of **Elder Tom Roper** (Faith), who died May 10;
- Those who have health concerns:
 - **Elder Joan Dimmitt** (Westminster), recovering from back surgery
 - the **Rev. Bob Mitchell** (Interim pastor, Westminster), undergoing treatment for prostate cancer

➤ ***Welcome:***

- The Rev. **Michelle Todd** and the Rev. **Kate Holbrook**, who were received by the Presbytery at the Feb. 7 meeting.
- The Rev. **Art Bell**, serving as Interim Pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church.

➤ Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for July, 2007 through September, 2007 are:

- June 3 – CEPAD, our mission partners in Nicaragua;
- June 10 – the New Church Development Committee;
- June 17 – La Puente Home in Alamosa;
- June 24 – Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly;
- July 1 – Korean First Presbyterian Church in Colo. Springs;
- July 8 – the Church in Society Committee;
- July 15 – First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs;
- July 22 – the Committee on Ministry;
- July 29 – United Presbyterian Church in Trinidad;
- August 5 – First Presbyterian Church in Lamar;
- August 12 – Congregational Services Committee;
- August 19 – Gateway Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs;
- August 26 – Westside Cares in Colorado Springs;
- Sept. 2 – First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo;
- Sept. 9 – Presbytery's Coordinating Council;
- Sept. 16 – Korean United Presbyterian Church in Colo. Springs;
- Sept. 23 – the Nominating Committee;
- Sept. 30 – Pioneer United Church in Del Norte.

(The Prayer Calendar can also be accessed online at our website at <http://www.pueblopresbytery.org/prayercalendar.htm>)

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT STAFF RECENTLY?

The **Administrative Personnel Association (APA)** is the PC(USA) professional association for administrative support staff in churches, governing bodies, and related institutions, and is made up of **secretaries, administrative assistants and office managers across the country who feel called by God to serve the church**. APA offers opportunities of networking, education, support and growth for its members.

The **Rocky Mountain Region of the APA** is holding its **annual conference** this **Sept. 27-30** in Loveland, Colo. Some of the courses offered will be *Conflict Management, Legal Matters, Spiritual Growth & Discipline, and Office Administration*. **Please consider sending your support staff person(s) to this event: the more they know, the better for you!** Call Janet at the Presbytery office for information/registration.

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

The Presbytery of Pueblo met for a Stated Meeting on April 21, 2007 at First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo. After refreshments and fellowship, the meeting was called to order by Moderator Rev. Gary Gardner (Trinidad). A service of worship was held, led by Rev. Dale Powell, Rev. Gardner, Elder CLP Nancy Smith and organist Neal Osborn (both members at First Church).

Following the worship service, the business portion of the meeting took place, including:

- Proposed amendments to the Constitution of the PC(USA) were voted on;
- New By-Laws were approved;
- Elections of Rev. Gwen Brown as Commissioner to Synod, Rev. Jeff Baxter (Mt. View) and Elder Nancy Ascherman (Rocky Ford) to COM, and Elder Bill Burkhardt (Westminster) to the Budget Committee;
- Executive Presbyter Rev. Gary Weaver reported on his activities, and the need for funds to enable church transformation through the new "Growing Healthy Churches" mission strategy;
- An Administrative Commission was elected to install Rev. Pat Jeffrey as Pastor of Grace Community Church on June 3;
- An Administrative Commission was elected to provide guidance to the Pueblo Hispanic Ministry Initiative.
- Two Mission Liaisons from PC(USA) spoke of their ministry in Central Asia;
- Representatives from the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Foundation gave brief presentations.

Following lunch, the four geographical clusters met separately to discuss the future of working together in a covenantal community of pastors and elders.

The next Presbytery meeting will be July 18, 2007 at First Presbyterian Church in La Junta.

Presbytery Calendar

(subject to changes/additions)

- June:** 3 – Taizé worship service, 7 pm, Holy Family Catholic Church, Pueblo
12 – Committee on Ministry, 11 am, First/Pueblo
13 – Nominating Committee, 9 am, Presbytery office
20 – Congregational Services/Council, 11 am, La Renaissance/Pueblo
27 – Worship Committee, 9:30 am, Presbytery office
- July:** 4 – Independence Day: Presbytery office closed
17 – Preparation for Ministry, 10 am, First/Pueblo
18 – Presbytery meeting, First/La Junta
21 – San Luis Valley Cluster, 10 am, Alamosa
- August:** 15 – Church in Society, 1:30 pm, call Presbytery for location
22 – Mission & Interpretation Committee, 11 am, Westminster/Pueblo
29 – Nominating Committee, 9 am, Presbytery office
- Sept.:** 3 – Labor Day: Presbytery office closed
9 – Taize Worship Service, 7 pm, First United Methodist/Pueblo
11 – Committee on Ministry, 11:30 am, First/Pueblo
14 – Retired Ministers & Spouses lunch
19 – Congregational Services/Council, 11 am, La Renaissance/Pueblo
25 – Commissioned Lay Pastor Coord. Committee, 10 am, First/Pueblo
-

BULK ORDER

The Presbytery will be placing a bulk order for the **2008 Mission Yearbook of Worship and Study** at the end of July. Cost is \$8.50 each, but if more orders are placed than in the past few years, the price will be significantly less! These books are valuable resources for daily meditations, information about mission workers, and insights into the joys and concerns of Presbyterians around the world. Contact Janet at (719) 542-1013 or (800) 662-1013, or email to pueblobpy@qwest.net.

NEW IN THE RESOURCE CENTER:

Speaking to Silence: New Rites for Christian Worship and Healing, by Janet S. Peterman, presents a variety of healing and comforting rituals that can be used in situations that are likely to be encountered in congregations but yet are not typically addressed in standard liturgies. For pastors and lay leaders.

The Parables for Today, by Alyce M. McKenzie, makes the familiar parables come alive with new meaning and relevance, providing an easy entrance to this major form of Jesus' teaching. For personal and group study.

Mandate to Difference: An Invitation to the Contemporary Church, by Walter Brueggemann, is a collection of essays that call the church to courageously defy political polarization, consumerism, and militarism.

Other new resources:

Faith & Film: A Guidebook for Leaders, by Edward N. McNulty

Anger: Discovering Your Spiritual Ally, by Andrew D. Lester

A Geography of God: Exploring the Christian Journey, by Michael Lindvall

Great Themes of the Bible, by W. Eugene March

What do our Neighbors Believe? Questions and answers on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, by H. Greenstein, K. Hotz, J. Kaltner

The Gospel According to Science Fiction: From the Twilight Zone to the Final Frontier, by Gabriel McKee