

TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- **Please remember in your prayers:**
 - the **Rev. Gary Gardner** (pastor, Trinidad) in the death of his mother;
 - the **Rev. May Hertel** (Chaplain, Pikes Peak Hospice), recovering from back surgery;
 - **Elder Tom Roper** (member, Faith church), recovering from surgery for melanoma;
 - the **Rev. Pat Jeffrey** (pastor, Grace Community Church), recovering from hip surgery;
 - the **Rev. Cliff Anderson** (Chaplain, Young Life), receiving treatment for multiple myeloma cancer;
 - **Nina Powell** (wife of the Rev. Dale Powell, Monte Vista), having shoulder surgery on Sept. 7.
 - the **Rev. Pat Pabst** (Honorably Retired, Del Norte), recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- **Welcome:**
 - the **Rev. Gretchen Bretz** as Interim Pastor of Monument Community Presbyterian Church;
 - the **Rev. Dr. George Lashley**, new Pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, starting in November;
 - the **Rev. Hilary Downs**, Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Salida.
- Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for September through December, 2006 are:
 - Sept. 3 – Presbytery's Council and Management Committee
 - Sept. 10 – Korean United Presbyterian Church, Colo. Springs
 - Sept. 17 – Presbytery's Nominating Committee
 - Sept. 24 – Pioneer United Church, Del Norte
 - Oct. 1 – Monument Community Presbyterian Church
 - Oct. 8 – Dale House, Colorado Springs
 - Oct. 15 – Grace Community Church, Falcon
 - Oct. 22 – Presbytery's Committee on Representation
 - Oct. 29 – Mountain View Presbyterian Church, Colo. Springs
 - Nov. 5 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pueblo
 - Nov. 12 – Grainery Ministries, Salida
 - Nov. 19 – Kirkwood Memorial Presbyterian Church, Penrose
 - Nov. 26 – Faith Presbyterian Church, Colo. Springs
 - Dec. 3 – Ecumenical Church of Pueblo West
 - Dec. 10 – First Presbyterian Church, La Junta
 - Dec. 17 – Presbytery's Christian Education Committee
 - Dec. 24 – Community Presbyterian Church, Rocky Ford
 - Dec. 31 – Presbytery's Evangelism & Church Development Committee

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

Presbyterian Connections

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of Pueblo

Synod of the Rocky Mountains * Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Third Quarter, 2006



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

In my own spiritual journey, trust has been the biggest struggle. I “believe” in God, which is to say I believe God exists and that, in the words of the psalmist, God’s “steadfast love endures forever.” But do I really trust God? Do I trust God with my life...and with my death? Do I trust God with my future...and my finances? Do I risk living by faith or by my own cautious calculations? A recent example of my attempt to go beyond my rational expectations to a faith leap was the arrival of the Rev. Dr. Humberto Castro in our presbytery over a year ago. You see, since I arrived in this presbytery ten years ago, I’ve been praying for a Spanish-speaking pastor to lead us into ministry with our great Hispanic population in Pueblo. I couldn’t believe our presbytery wasn’t doing Hispanic ministry with the heavy populations of Latino folks in our communities, but I was clear in my own mind that we Anglo pastors were not the ones to do it. We needed someone who knew the culture, the values, the spirituality, the language of Latino/Hispanic people. To have someone like that who also had successfully started Hispanic congregations previously move to Pueblo West without a “call,” was beyond my expectations or imaginings. So, I came to the conviction that this was of God. With that conviction I prevailed upon the New Church Development Committee to risk investing “seed-money” to launch this ministry in Pueblo with Dr. Castro’s leadership and the partnership of First Presbyterian and Westminster churches. With this support, we were able to apply and receive a \$5,000 grant from General Assembly for this start-up year. Realizing that after July of this year we would exhaust those funds, I seized upon the idea of our presbytery’s 125th anniversary to launch a \$125,000 Anniversary Mission Fund which included support for the Pueblo Hispanic Ministry Initiative. I was pleased that the presbytery overwhelmingly approved of this campaign in April but I knew it would be difficult to implement this campaign in the churches. Still, I maintained the “trust” that we would find the funds to keep this ministry going, a ministry which had grown to some 50-60 folks.

Then, to my wonderment, the announcement was made at General Assembly in June that a Mr. Stan Anderson was making a \$150 million gift to the missions of the presbyteries, with each presbytery eligible for a grant up to one million dollars! The only provision is that the million be matched by a 10% gift to Presbyterian missions and a 1% gift to the Theological

Education Fund...or \$110,000. I almost wept when I realized that our \$125,000 campaign would be almost the exact amount we'd need to receive the one million dollar gift! "How good it is," I thought to myself, "to trust in the Lord!"

It was later that the *Denver Post* published an exposé on Mr. Anderson's financial problems and raised serious doubts that he would be able to deliver on his promise to the Presbyterian Church. So, once again, my trust in God was being challenged. But this time, this time I decided to heed the counsel of the "teacher" in Ecclesiastes and "cast my bread upon the waters," to risk believing that Mr. Anderson WILL come through with his gift by the end of the year. So, we need to stay the course and invite people in the presbytery to give generously to the \$125,000 Anniversary Mission Fund. This time I'm going to take a risk and trust God and trust you to respond from your heart and your treasure in support of this important ministry.

Peace and Joy,
Gary Weaver,
Executive Presbyter

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

At the Stated Meeting on July 19, 2006, the Presbytery met at Alamosa Presbyterian Church. After enjoying refreshments and fellowship, a service of worship was held, led by MWS Cris Russell (Alamosa) and CLP Jim Boyd (San Pablo), with music provided by Alamosa members Nancy Seefeldt, Tara Stradley and Megan Opperman.

Included in the business portion of the meeting:

- Presbytery joyfully voted to constitute its New Church Development, Grace Community Church, as its 29th church. The church will have a chartering service on Sept. 24.
- Members of the Faith Reflection Group reported on their meetings over the past year, and recommended that more groups form to discuss pertinent issues of our denomination and faith.
- Recommendations for the restructure of the Presbytery were received from the Mission Study Task Force: the Presbytery will vote on these recommendations at the October meeting.
- The 2007 Budget was approved, keeping the Presbytery Per Capita at \$14.75.
- Seminary student Summer Jackson was examined by Presbytery and was moved from Inquirer to Candidate status.
- A report on the Pueblo Hispanic Ministry was given, outlining the successes and concerns of the ministry. Funding for this ministry is almost depleted: offerings would be accepted in order to keep it going, and part of the Presbytery's 125th Anniversary Mission Fund is designated for this.
- Presbyterian Women of Pueblo Presbytery will have their Fall Retreat Sept. 22-23 in Canon City.

Following lunch, the Presbytery's General Assembly Commissioners, MWS Quinn Fox and Debbie Buckman, reported on their participation and view of the 216th G.A., its decisions, and how it affects the local churches.

Presbytery Calendar

(subject to changes/additions)

- Sept.** 4 – Labor Day, Presbytery office closed
6 – Pueblo/Canon City cluster lunch, noon, DC's on B Street/Pueblo
7-9 – Synod meeting, Denver
10 – Taize worship service, 7 pm, 1st UMC/Pueblo
12 – Committee on Ministry, 11:30 am, Presbytery office
13 – Evangelism & Church Dev., 11 am, First/Colo. Springs
13 – New Church Development, 1 pm, First/Colo. Springs
14 – Christian Education, noon, First/Colo. Springs
20 – Council meeting, 10 am, First/Pueblo
20 – Congregational Services, 11 am, La Renaissance/Pueblo
21 – Worship Committee, 9 am, Presbytery office
21 – Colo. Springs cluster lunch, 11:30 am, Rock Bottom Brewery
22 – Mediation Team, 10 am, Presbytery office
22-23 – Presbyterian Women's Fall Retreat, Canon City
25 – Associate Pastor MWS Hilary Downs installed, 4 pm, Salida
27 – Spirituality Group, 10 am, location TBD
28 – Commissioned Lay Pastor Coordinating Committee, 10 am, First/Pueblo
- Oct.** 1 – Taize worship service, 7 pm, First/Pueblo
4-6 – Western National Leadership Training event, Jackson, WY
13 – Preparation for Ministry, 11 am, Mt. St. Francis/Colo. Springs
13-14 – Presbytery Meeting, Mt. St. Francis/Colo. Springs
14 – Church in Society, 1 pm, Mt. St. Francis/Colo. Springs
14-15 – Middle School Retreat, Hermit Basin/Westcliffe
28 – Commissioned Lay Pastor Training Event, First/Pueblo
- Nov.** 1 – Mission & Interpretation, 11 am, Westminster
5 – Taize worship service, 7 pm, Ascension Episcopal/Pueblo
8-10 – Synod Staff meeting
10-12 – High School Retreat, Hermit Basin/Westcliffe
23-24 – Thanksgiving holiday, Presbytery office closed
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Peacemaking Offering Resources

Remember, the Peacemaking Offering is usually received on World Communion Sunday, this October 1.

The Resource Center has many books, studies, and articles on Peacemaking available for you to check out for sermon aids, classes and small groups, and personal use. Stop in, call (719) 542-1013 or (800) 662-1013, or email Janet at pueblophy@qwest.net.