

# Presbyterian Connections

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of Pueblo

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

The Tower of Babel and the Day of Pentecost are two powerful parables for the church. The Genesis story is about a time when “the whole earth had one language and the same words.” Everyone spoke the same language and so probably had the same beliefs, same values, same aspirations. At least enough so that they could agree on an ambitious project of building a tower to the heavens. They were willing to work together to get to God. Were they working to be like God, to know what God knows? Were they striving for absolute certitude, for the words of heaven divinely dictated so that their words would be God’s words? Don’t we sometimes in our church similarly strive to speak for God, to assume that our descriptions of God and God’s saving grace are the truth, the only truth, and nothing but the truth? Don’t we want to speak the same language, have the same interpretation of scripture, confess the same faith, subscribe to the same theology? What’s wrong with that? Why wouldn’t God want us to have “one language...the same words” to describe what we believe? Why can’t we become the unified church of the same words?

On the day of Pentecost, “they” (who we assume to be the disciples) “were all together in one place.” Luke-Acts doesn’t tell us why they were all in one place or what they were doing there. We are not told they were working on some ambitious project but we might assume they had come together to pray, to worship. If so, they were different from the believers in the Genesis story. They were not working to get to God. They were worshiping to get to God. And their worship was

blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Their unity was not in the same words but rather the presence of the Word in the Spirit. They were a church unified not by the same words but by the same Word. Might this be instructive for our church at this time? Have we been working to find the right words to reach unity and thus been frustrated year after year when we are “all together in one place” (i.e. General Assembly)? Whereas, we actually only experience unity when we come together to worship. We find our unity, our connection, our commonality, our communion in the one Word—the presence of that Word in our worship.

In the Genesis story, God confused their words by scattering them over the world with different languages. They could no longer worship their words, rely absolutely on their words, believe they had gotten it right for all time. They discovered that when they spoke different languages they were no longer unified.

On the Day of Pentecost, God also empowered the disciples to speak in different languages, yet they were understood by those who spoke those languages. They were unified in their message. It was a message about the Word, one Word. The Word is Love. Only Love can unify. Only Love can be understood in a thousand tongues. Only Love can be present in true worship and bring us “all together in one place.”

Peace and Joy,  
Gary Weaver  
Executive Presbyter

## TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- We pray for the **Rev. Gary Gardner** (Trinidad) upon the death of his wife, **Phyllis**, in March.
- We also pray for the **Revs. Quinn and Nancy Fox** (First, Colorado Springs) upon the death of Quinn's mother.
- We ask for God's healing for:
  - The **Rev. John Snyder** (Hon. Retired), following a heart attack and stent placement earlier this month;
  - The **Rev. Phil Ramer** (Hon. Retired), who was hospitalized for treatment of blood clots; and
  - **CLP Derek Hutchison** (pastor, Las Animas), following surgery to place a shunt to drain a cyst on his brain stem.
- We pray for **Sherry Plowman**, wife of the **Rev. Brian Caselles** (pastor, Del Norte), who has been restricted to bed rest with her pregnancy.
- We welcome the **Rev. MJ Romano** as she is called to be pastor at the La Junta church.
- We also welcome the **Rev. Brian Reeves**, who has accepted a call as pastor at the La Jara church beginning June 1.
- We celebrate with the **Rev. Maurie Campbell** as he retires from the army reserve and begins a new job as Director of Religious Education for the army in Weurzburg, Germany.

## Summer Camp Wish List

For craft projects at the Summer Camp (June 14-19) the following items are needed:

- ✓ **Small cardboard jewelry boxes**
- ✓ **spray paint in bright colors**
  - ✓ **buttons**
  - ✓ **shells**
- ✓ **costume jewelry**
  - ✓ **beads**
- ✓ **...anything Hawaiian-themed!**

If you or your church can donate any of these items to the summer camp program, please bring them to the Presbytery office before June 12 or send them to camp with someone who's going.

## Presbytery Meeting Highlights

The Presbytery met on Saturday, April 24, 2004 at First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo. A worship service was held, with Rev. Gary Gardner giving the sermon.

The business portion of the meeting included the following:

- Motions were passed to approve the La Junta church's terms of call for Rev. MJ Romano and to elect an Administrative Commission to install her;
- Elder Phyllis Riesner and MWS Dale Powell were elected to fill vacancies in the Committee on Ministry and the Mission & Interpretation committee, respectively;
- The Youth Advisory Delegate elected to represent the presbytery at the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly this year is Rebecca Burroughs, member of Covenant church in Colorado Springs;
- The motion (tabled at the March 24 meeting) to dissolve the pastoral relationship between MWS Hyung Tae Lim and the congregation of Korean United Presbyterian Church was defeated, and the Administrative Commission elected at the Feb. 4 meeting was given authority to call a congregational meeting at KUPC to discuss and possibly act upon their recommendations;
- Elder Duane Gould, Stated Clerk, reported on the Changes in Calls of Installed Pastors, and the 2003 Year-end financial reports were approved;
- Terms of Call for MWS Brian Reeves at the La Jara church were approved, and an Administrative Commission was elected for his installation on June 20;
- The presbytery approved and endorsed the La Jara church's application for 2 restricted fund grants from General Assembly.
- Rev. Gary Weaver, Presbytery Executive, reported on his activities since the Feb. 4 meeting, and spelled out the plans for his upcoming sabbatical, from July 8 to October 8, 2004.

Following lunch a workshop entitled, "The Presbytery is Connected, but How & Why?" was presented by MWS Gwen Brown and other members of the Congregational Services Committee (CSC). Following an overview of the new presbytery structure and the function of the CSC, participants were divided into smaller groups according to the four cluster (geographic) areas, to discuss and list the pros and cons of different aspects of what the presbytery does for the different churches, as well as ways it could better serve and inform the congregations.

The next presbytery meeting will be Wednesday, July 21. It will begin at Faith church in Colorado Springs, then travel to Grace Community Church, the new church development in Falcon, for lunch followed by a workshop with Rev. Bruce Ford, Presbytery Executive of Wyoming Presbytery, on "Small Church Opportunities and Challenges."

## NEW RESOURCES

### Available in our Presbytery Resource Center

#### **Forming Ministries with Families: A Planning Guide for Congregations**

This is a guide designed to help churches in planning their ministries with the families of other congregations in their community. Six sessions are included to aid congregations in evaluating, visioning, planning, defining, and redefining these important ministries. Included are stories of Presbyterian congregations, studies of biblical families, and helpful resource pages such as a planning grid, resource list, and commissioning service.

#### **Teaching Children Worship in the Sanctuary**

by Joyce McKichan Walker and Carol Wehrheim

This resource is useful in helping a congregation engage children in intentional learning about worship while in the context of the worship service. Using 14 elements of worship, it provides suggested children's times, worship exploration lessons for younger children, and activity pages to be used by older children during worship itself.

#### **Islam and Christianity**

*Real Faith Real Life Young Adult Series*

This 6-week study compares and contrasts the view of Scripture held by Islamic and Christian traditions. It explores Islam's use of both the Bible and the Koran, helping participants to discover how Islam views the Koran and how it views the Bible. It also comments on the similarities and differences.

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For these and more titles, contact Marti Sutterlin at the Presbytery office: 719-542-1013 or 800-662-1013 or e-mail to [jsutterlin1@juno.com](mailto:jsutterlin1@juno.com).

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

### **"GOD CALLS US: AROUND THE WORLD IN 5 DAYS"**

Vacation Bible School looks at the Wonderful World of Mission

- ❖ 5 Days
- ❖ 5 Countries
- ❖ 5 Bible Stories
- ❖ 5 Mission Letters
- ❖ 1 Week of Faith-Filled Fun

Explore the world of Presbyterian Mission in 5 countries with this Vacation Bible School Program – Learners ages 4 to 10 will visit the Philippines, Guatemala, Malawi, Pakistan, and Peru through crafts, music snacks, and games.\*\*\*

Preschool through Grade 5 children hear Bible stories about God's call to us and mission letters that describe how Presbyterians are responding to that call in partnerships around the world.

**A Director's Guide** provides planning pages for leaders as well as each day's activities for the "Boarding Area," "Take-Off and Flight Time," "Mission Stations," and "Flight Home."

**The Resource Pack**, reproducible pages, and everything needed for a creative, educational week are included in one binder.

A copy of this resource is available at the Presbytery Resource Center. If you would like to order your own copy of **"God Calls Us: Around the World in 5 Days,"** call 1-800-524-2612 and ask for your introductory packet. Or, go to [www.pcusa.org/curriculum/vbs](http://www.pcusa.org/curriculum/vbs).

#### **AND**

\*\*\*Remember that our Presbytery has now established an **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP** with **NICARAGUA!** You may want to substitute **Nicaragua** into your lesson plans instead of another country as there are numerous people in Pueblo Presbytery who would enjoy sharing information, resources, display items, or pictures from our trips to Nicaragua with you.\*\*\*

# DECADE OF THE CHILD

## Remaining Faithful: Children, God's Gift; Christ's Call

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

We are shaped by the responsibility we take for children in the sacrament of Baptism and the welcome we extend to children and youth through the Lord's Supper.

"A nation that does not stand up for its children does not stand for anything..." Marian Wright Edelman

"We don't believe that Jesus intended for us to love only our own children and be indifferent to the needs of other children." Eileen Lindner

**During the *Decade of the Child* Presbyterians are called:**

**TO LIFT UP THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN**  
*and be challenged to advocate on their behalf*

**TO CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF CHILDREN**  
*and let them know that these gifts are of value to the life of the whole community*

**TO WELCOME AND EMBRACE CHILDREN**  
*following the example of Jesus*

**The challenge remains to continue initiatives and ministries that benefit children in the church, community, nation and world:**

- In Presbyterian Congregations the pastoral needs of children were discussed frequently by only one third of sessions. (Presbyterian Panel 02/02)
- 28% of members, 25% of elders, and 28% of pastors believe that their congregation is doing a good job of helping needy children in their community. (Presbyterian Panel 02/02)
- A child living in a wealthy U.S. family is on average better off financially than the typical wealthy child in any other country. At the same time, the average child in a low-income U.S. family is worse off than the average poor child in 15 other industrialized countries. (National Center for Children in Poverty)
- Worldwide, 3.2 million children are living with HIV/AIDS. (Children's Defense Fund)

## Presbytery Bulk Order Form

for ordering the following items at cost:

2004-2005 Presbyterian Planning Calendar.....deadline: May 10, 2004..... \$6.00 ea. x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2005 Mission Yearbook of Prayer & Study.....deadline: July 21, 2004..... \$5.00 ea. x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2005 Children's Mission Yearbook .....deadline: July 21, 2004..... \$4.40 ea. x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name/Church** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

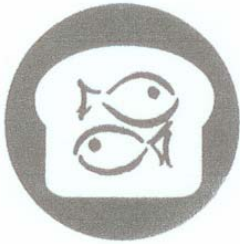
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form to: Presbytery of Pueblo**  
 803 W. 4th St., Ste. H  
 Pueblo, CO 81003

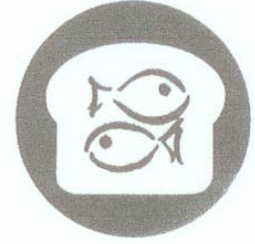
-or-

*These items are offered at the same cost as to the presbytery, as a more convenient and perhaps more economical option than purchasing them directly from Presbyterian Distribution Services.*

**Contact the Presbytery office at (719) 542-1013 or (800) 662-1013, or e-mail to [pueblopty@aol.com](mailto:pueblopty@aol.com) to place an order. You will receive a bill shortly thereafter.**



***Bread for the World***  
*Seeking Justice, Ending Hunger*  
 50 F Street NW, Suite 500  
 Washington, SC 20001  
[www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)  
 (800) 82-BREAD



### ***Bread for the World Campaign***

The **2004 Offering of Letters** asks Congress to fund the Millennium Challenge Account and the AIDS Emergency Relief Plan at the promised levels, “without cutting existing effective poverty-focused development assistance programs.”

Your congregation can order an Offering of Letters kit for \$7.00 by contacting:

**Bread for the World**, 50 F St. NW, Ste. 500, Washington, DC 20001 / USA

**Phone: 202-639-9400 or 800-82-BREAD or FAX: 202-639-9401** or go to

[www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

## **Presbytery Calendar of Events**

For information on any of these events, contact the Presbytery office.  
(\* - indicates information can be found in this newsletter)

- 5/4 – New Church Development, Westminster, 1:30 pm
- 5/5 – San Luis Valley Pastors lunch, San Pablo, noon
- 5/6 – Commiss. Lay Pastors Coord. Committee, 1<sup>st</sup>/Pueblo, 10 am
- 5/6 – GA Commissioners orientation, 1<sup>st</sup>/Pueblo, 5 pm
- 5/7 – Retired Pastors, Spouses, Survivors lunch, Westminster, 12
- 5/9 – Taize worship service, Ascension Episcopal, 7 pm
- 5/11-5/13 – Mt. States Wee Kirk, Glorieta, NM
- 5/18 – Budget & Finance Committee, 1<sup>st</sup>/Pueblo, 9 am
- 5/19 – Evangelism & Church Dev., 1<sup>st</sup>/Pueblo, 9 am
- 5/27 – Arkansas Valley pastors lunch, 12:30 pm
- 5/31 – Memorial Day: Presbytery office closed
- 6/1 – Worship committee, 1<sup>st</sup>/Pueblo, 1:30 pm
- 6/2 – Mission & Interpretation committee, Westminster, 11 am
- 6/9 – Congregational Services/Council, La Renaissance, 11 am
- 6/12 – Commiss. Lay Pastor training, 9 am – 3:30 pm
- 6/13 – Taize worship, Center for Inner Peace, Pueblo, 7 pm
- 6/14-6/19 – Summer Camp, Westcliffe, Colo.
- 6/22 – Committee on Ministry, 1<sup>st</sup>/Pueblo, 1pm
- 6/26-7/3 – 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Richmond, VA
- 7/5 – Independence Day observed: Presbytery office closed
- 7/7 – Spirituality Group, Sandy Lester's, 10am
- 7/8 – Christian Education, 1<sup>st</sup>/Pueblo, 1 pm
- 7/8 – Gary Weaver begins 3-month Sabbatical
- 7/15-7/17 – Synod Mission Budget Consultation
- 7/20 – Preparation for Ministry, 1<sup>st</sup>/ Pueblo, 1 pm
- 7/21 – Presbytery meeting, Faith/Colo. Springs

Be sure to contact the presbytery office if you are interested in receiving one of 10 scholarships available to attend the Western National Leadership Training Event, October 6-8, 2004, in Jackson, Wyoming.