

TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- We rejoice in the Sept. 11 birth of **Caleigh Elaine Thurston**, new granddaughter of **Elder Janet Thurston** (Member, Westminster and Presbytery Office Administrator).
- We pray for the **Rev. Cristabelle Russell** (Co-Pastor, Alamosa Presbyterian Church) upon the loss of her father, **Eladio Mosende** on Nov. 13.
- Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for December 2005 through February 2006 are:
 - Dec. 4 – Ecumenical Church of Pueblo West
 - Dec. 11 – First Presbyterian Church in La Junta
 - Dec. 18 – Presbytery's Christian Education Committee
 - Dec. 25 – Community Presbyterian Church in Rocky Ford
 - Jan. 1 – San Pablo Presbyterian Church
 - Jan. 8 – United Presbyterian Church in Antonito
 - Jan. 15 – Presbytery's Committee on Ministry
 - Jan. 22 – Community Presbyterian Church in Aguilar
 - Jan. 29 – First Presbyterian Church in Las Animas
 - Feb. 5 – Presbytery's Mission & Interpretation Committee
 - Feb. 12 – Ivywild Community Church in Colorado Springs
 - Feb. 19 – Mountain States Wee Kirk
 - Feb. 26 – the Rev. Karla Koll, missionary & teacher, Guatemala(The Prayer Calendar can also be accessed online at our website at <http://www.pueblopresbytery.org/prayercalendar.htm>)

The "CONNECTIONS" Schedule of Publication

Rather than mailing our newsletter every other month to the churches, we will be mailing it out every quarter in this more compact size. By being more concise and arriving less frequently, we hope this "bulletin insert" will be more widely disseminated to the congregation. We will mail 12 original copies to every church (unless more or less are requested) to give to the Session and/or Deacons, plus a black-on-white, copy-ready original to be duplicated. The publication schedule is as follows: November, 2005; **February, May, August, November**, 2006. Please submit articles to the presbytery the month prior to our publication month.

This and previous issues of the "Connections" newsletter can also be downloaded from our website at:
<http://www.pueblopresbytery.org/pby-news.htm>

Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas
and a very Happy New Year
~from the staff of your Presbytery

Presbyterian Connections

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of Pueblo
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Fourth Quarter, 2005

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

So, have you noticed that we've made a few changes in the Presbytery of Pueblo newsletter? For one thing, we've changed the format from the 11x17 size with multiple inserts to one 8.5x11 (bulletin format) with four panels to contain all the news worthy of printing by a presbytery! Therefore, our hope is that this more efficient size can become a bulletin insert on a Sunday morning resulting in more pew Presbyterians becoming better informed about the resources, events and issues of our presbytery. However, it depends on whether the local church staff is willing to duplicate and insert this copy in a Sunday bulletin or a monthly church newsletter.

We really DO want to be a "connectional church," a Presbyterian partnership, a community of churches working together, praying together, sharing together, and learning together from each other. How often have we heard from one of our church members, "Just what IS the presbytery and what does it do?" Most of our members simply have no exposure to the wider church and so have no idea how a presbytery functions and for what purpose.

Our hope is that this quarterly "love letter" from the presbytery to the pew, will begin to establish a flow of conversation about mutual concerns and interests as we, together, seek the will of God.

Peace & Joy,
Gary R. Weaver,
Executive Presbyter

At the Resource Center:

- **NEW We Believe** and **Bible Quest** curriculum for winter 2005-2006
 - **Advent** study and worship resources, such as:
 - Awake to Joy: Family Prayers for Each Day of Advent*, by Mark Neilsen, a booklet of reflections and prayers for each day of Advent;
 - Celebrating the Advent-Christmas Season*, by Anne Neufeld Rupp, enhances the curriculum being used;
 - A Clear View of Jesus' Birth*, by Kenneth Bailey, a 4-part video series;
 - Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah* (Kerygma), CD and books used to explore the scriptural texts of *Handel's Messiah*, includes musical commentary.
- More Advent, Christmas and Epiphany resources are available.** Call the Presbytery office or go online at www.pueblpresbytery.org, click on Resource Center, and download the entire center's catalog of available books, videos and curriculum.

Presbytery Calendar

(subject to changes/additions)

December:

- 1 – “Blue Tigers” task force, 10 am, First (Pueblo)
- 1 – Pueblo/Canon City cluster lunch, noon, DC's (Pueblo)
- 3 – Faith Reflection group, 9:30 am, (call office for location)
- 4 – Pueblo Taize Service, 7:00 pm, Center for Inner Peace
- 9 – Evangelism/Church Dev., 11:30 am, Macaroni Grill (Colo.Springs)
- 23-26 – Presbytery office closed for Christmas
- 30 – Presbytery office closed for New Year's holiday

January:

- 4 – Congregational Services Committee, 8:30 am, First (Pueblo) AND 11:00 am, La Renaissance
- 7 – Faith Reflection group, 9:30 am, (call office for location)
- 10 – Christian Education committee, 4:00 pm, First (Pueblo)
- 11 – Presbytery Worship planning, 10:00 am, First (Pueblo)
- 12 – CLP Coordinating Committee, 10:00 am, First (Pueblo)
- 17 – Committee on Ministry, 11:30 am, First (Pueblo)
- 19 – Spirituality Group, 10:00 am, (call office for location)
- 31 – Preparation for Ministry, 1:00 pm, First (Pueblo)

February:

- 1 – Presbytery Meeting, 9:00 am, Westminster (Pueblo)
- 4 – CLP Training Event, 9:00 am, First (Pueblo)

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

At the Stated Meeting on October 14-15 2005, the Presbytery met at Mt. St. Francis Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bailey was the guest speaker during the afternoon of the 14th, where he gave a presentation titled, “A Banquet of Death vs. A Banquet of Life.”

After enjoying refreshments and fellowship, the Presbytery held a service of worship, led by the Rev. Gary Weaver, Executive Presbyter. Communion was served and the Necrology Report was read, giving prayer and thanks for those elders who passed away in 2004.

Gary Weaver was the Keynote Speaker for the meeting, and his theme was, “Cultivating Courageous Communities of Faith” during sessions in the evening of the 14th and the morning of the 15th.

The business portion of the meeting took place during the morning of Saturday, Oct. 15 and included the following:

- Three new Inquirers for Ministry were accepted: Scott VanderWal, Amber Odvody and Anne Reed (all from First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs)
- The Nominations Committee presented names of those who had agreed to serve on the various committees within the Presbytery, and those people were elected to their new terms.
- The dates for the Presbytery's Stated Meetings during 2006 were approved: February 1 (Westminster, Pueblo); April 22 (First, Pueblo); July 19 (Alamosa); and October 13-14 (Mt. St. Francis)
- An Administrative Commission was elected to install the Rev. Ki Ho Choi as Pastor of the Korean First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs on November 13
- A service of installation of the new officers of the Presbytery was held, installing CLP Elder Barbara Gilliland as the Moderator, the Rev. Gary Gardner as Moderator-Elect, and the Rev. Cathy Eskew as Council Moderator.



The next meeting of the Presbytery on February 1, 2006 will feature the Rev. Dr. Jim Singleton (Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs) as he leads an afternoon workshop on “Becoming a Missional Church.” All church members and ministers are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Don't forget to have your youth (and the young-at-heart) participate in the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING on February 5, 2006. For more information, contact the Presbytery office or go to www.souperbowl.org.