

# TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

## ➤ Please remember in your prayers:

- Friends and family of Elder Dick Nielsen (Monte Vista), who passed away in February;
- Elder Mike Gilliland (Faith) on the death of his mother in February;
- Barry Munroe (father of the Rev. Brad Munroe, First, Pueblo), recovering from a heart attack;
- CLP Jim Boyd (San Pablo) on the death of his sister in February;
- Darrel Brown (husband of the Rev. Gwen Brown, Penrose) on the death of his mother in January.

## ➤ We celebrate with:

- Elder Duane Gould upon his retirement as the Presbytery's Stated Clerk after nearly 20 years. He will be greatly missed!
- The Community Presbyterian Church in Aguilar as they celebrate 100 years as a church, and honor CLP Samuel Madrid upon his retirement after 25 years as pastor on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Rev. Tom Trinidad as he begins serving Faith Presbyterian Church in Colo. Springs as Designated Pastor on June 1, 2008.

## ➤ Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers.

Requests for May through June 2008 are:

- May 4 – First Presbyterian Church, Salida
- May 11 – Mountain States Wee Kirk Conference
- May 18 – United Presbyterian Church, Canon City
- May 25 – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Colorado Springs
- June 1 – CEPAD, our mission partner in Nicaragua
- June 8 – Manna House, Penrose
- June 15 – La Puente Home, Alamosa
- June 22 – Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly
- June 29 – United Presbyterian Church, Trinidad

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

### Presbytery Calendar

(subject to changes/additions)

- May: 4 – Taize Worship Service, 7:00 p.m., First UMC/Pueblo  
6-8 – Wee Kirk Conference, Glorieta NM  
8-10 – Synod meeting, Denver  
13 – Commissioned Lay Pastor Coord. Committee, 10 a.m., First/Pueblo  
15 – Colorado Springs Cluster, 4 p.m., Covenant  
22 – Presbytery Design Team, 9:30 a.m., Presbytery Office  
26 – Memorial Day – Presbytery office closed  
29 – Growing Healthy Churches pastors, 9 a.m., Presbytery office
- June: 10 – Committee on Ministry, 11 a.m., First/Pueblo  
14 – Commissioned Lay Pastor training, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., First/Pueblo  
18 – Coordinating Council, 11:30 a.m., First/Pueblo  
19 – Growing Healthy Churches pastors, 9 a.m., Presbytery office  
21-28 – General Assembly, San Jose, CA

# Presbyterian Connections

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of Pueblo

Synod of the Rocky Mountains \* Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
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First Half of 2008



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

We have been amazingly blessed by the Holy Spirit as we have launched the Presbytery of Pueblo's "Growing Healthy Churches" (GHC) project! The courageous churches involved in the first year of this project are:

Mountain View Presbyterian, Colorado Springs;  
First Presbyterian, Pueblo;  
First Presbyterian, Salida; and  
Westminster Presbyterian, Pueblo.

We commend their Sessions and pastors for committing their time, energy, money, imagination and love to this new vision. And we thank the other 25 sister churches of this presbytery for your prayers, money and support of this new initiative.

**Our mission** is Christ's mission: to make new friends and followers of Jesus and to proclaim the "New Reality" to those who have not heard nor experienced firsthand  
the grace of God,

the love of Christ, and

the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Our primary measuring stick is not members, but worship attendance—those who have responded to our invitation, "Come and see!" Together the four churches averaged **147** in worship for **2007**. This **first quarter** of 2008 they have increased by **13%** in their total worship attendance.

The four pastors, Jeff Baxter, Brad Munroe, Mike Orrill, Adrian Washington, and two associate pastors, Hilary Downs and Suzanne D'Spain, have been meeting monthly since January for leadership training and spiritual nurture, reading a book each month. The presbytery invited the Rev. Dr. Paul Borden to lead our first "Lay Leadership Training Event" March 8<sup>th</sup> which was attended by 110 people interested in congregational renewal.

A critical component of the GHC strategy is a comprehensive week-end consultation with each of the four churches. The Salida congregation was the first one to experience this 3-day event with our Consultation Team, led by Dr. Borden, April 18-20. They are taking a month to pray, dialogue, and discern whether to accept the Consultation Team's five recommendations. **Your Salida sisters and brothers invite your prayers of solidarity as they seek God's will for their future.**

*continued*

*Weavings, continued*

Our Moderator, Melinda Orendorff, elder, Westminster Presbyterian, has invited the Rev. Dr. **Jack Haberer, editor of *PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK***, to bring us news of the “missional movement” in the Presbyterian Church (USA) July 12<sup>th</sup> at our Presbytery Meeting in Salida. The day before, **July 11<sup>th</sup>**, Friday, Dr. Haberer will lead a **Presbyterian Forum, 10:00-2:00, at Westminster Presbyterian, Pueblo**, on “**becoming a missional congregation.**” More information on this event will be forthcoming. Please continue to pray for God’s leading in this new project!

Peace and Joy,  
Gary Weaver  
Executive Presbyter

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## Top Ten List of Issues Before the 218 General Assembly (2008)

*Before each General Assembly, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly shares what he considers to be the top ten issues coming to the assembly, based primarily on overtures that have been submitted and his travels and conversations with Presbyterians across the church. Here is Clifton Kirkpatrick’s non-prioritized list for 2008.*

**A revised Form of Government** – The Form of Government Task Force was created by the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2006) to propose a revised polity that would be more flexible, foundational, and appropriate for a missional Reformed church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The task force is bringing a revised Form of Government for adoption by the assembly and recommendation to the presbyteries.

**Partnership in world mission** – The 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly called for a consultation between the General Assembly Council world mission program and a variety of mission initiators in the PC(USA). The fruits of that consultation will be before this assembly in a call for an “Expanding Partnership in God’s Mission” that involves a wide variety of groups working together for the renewal of PC(USA) world mission.

**PC(USA) ecumenical stance and covenants** – The 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will take action on a number of ecumenical items, including a proposed new policy on the ecumenical stance of the PC(USA) and covenant agreements with four different churches: the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, the Episcopal Church, the Catholic Church, and the Moravian Church.

**Peace, unity, and purity of the PC(USA)** – Several proposals concerning the peace, unity, and purity of the church will be before this year’s assembly, including fresh ways to use discernment in our life together, the reconsideration of some or all of the actions of the previous assembly in this area, and proposals to change the constitutional standards for ordination.

**The Belhar Confession** – This assembly will be asked to act on a proposal to take the first step toward adding the Belhar Confession to *The Book of Confessions*. This confession grows out of the experience of Christians in South Africa and is an affirmation of the biblical call to Christian unity and racial reconciliation.

**Middle East concerns** – Before this General Assembly will be a variety of overtures and advocacy committee proposals to strengthen the PC(USA)’s witness to peace with justice in relation to both Israel/Palestine and Iraq.

**Elections** – A Moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008) will be elected to a two-year term, and a new Stated Clerk of the General Assembly will be elected to a four-year term.

**Ordination exams** – The findings of the self-study of the Presbyteries Cooperative Committee on Examinations will be before this assembly. The study identifies a number of concerns related to ordination exams and the preparation for ordained ministry and calls for a study to identify new directions both for the ordination exams and the partnership between presbyteries, seminaries, and the General Assembly.

**Domestic social justice concerns** – This assembly will address a large number of social justice concerns, including the adoption of a new Social Creed, as well as the adoption of major policy papers on serious mental illness, energy and global warming, pay equity for women, homelessness, and electoral reform.

**A church for future generations** – One assembly committee will do generative thinking as it focuses on the church’s ministry to and with youth to ensure a church for future generations.

*Please keep our commissioners to General Assembly in your prayers: The Rev. Cathy Eskew (Covenant), The Rev. David Freehling (Canon City), Elder Ron Anderson (First, Pueblo), Elder David Kuebbeler (La Junta), and Youth Advisory Delegate Brian Bivin (First, Colo. Springs). The Assembly will meet from June 21-28, 2008 in San Jose, Calif.*

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## AID TO MYANMAR

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is issuing a special appeal through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in an effort to support recovery efforts as a result of the cyclone that has devastated Myanmar. PDA has committed \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds to provide emergency assistance to survivors of Myanmar.

Congregations are encouraged to use the bulletin inserts and postcards available at: <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/asia/myanmarburma-index.htm>.

Gifts for this disaster can be designated to **DR000145 –Myanmar/Burma**.

Our church’s generous gifts will help us stand with our brothers and sisters in long term recovery efforts as their broken lives and communities begin to heal. Gifts can be made through your churches’ normal giving channels. Gifts by credit card can be made online at <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/asia/myanmarburma-index.htm> or by calling PresbyTel at (800) 872-3283.

Checks payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can also be mailed directly:  
(from individuals) (from churches)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Central Receiving Services Individual Remittance Processing DR000145 P.O. Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700	Or	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Central Receiving Services Church Remittance Processing DR000145 P.O. Box 643678 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3678
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Please be in prayer for those most vulnerable and so adversely affected by this catastrophe.