



# The Presbyterian SUN

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

SYNOD OF THE SUN  
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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

- **Next Steps:** Presbytery representatives consider implications, interpretation and implementation based on General Assembly actions, Dallas, Aug. 16-18
- **Presbyterian Communicators Network**, meeting postponed, early 2007
- **Asian Coordinating Council**, Sept 8-9, Dallas
- **SUN deadline**, Sept. 15
- **African American Council**, Sept. 15-17, Okla. City
- **Hispanic American Ministries Council**, Sept. 22-23, Austin
- **Hispanic Womens Conference**, Oct. 6-8, Mo-Ranch
- **Joint Ethnic Council**, Oct. 26, Irving, TX
- **Synod Meeting**, Oct. 27, Irving, TX

FOR DETAILS: Click "Events" on synodsun.com

## HURRICANE RECOVERY

### Great Need Continues Please Send Prayers, Donations & Volunteers

Gulf Coast Volunteer Villages:  
1-866-732-6121

[www.pcusa.org/katrina](http://www.pcusa.org/katrina)

South Louisiana Presbytery:  
1-877-366-7675 (all areas)  
[www.pslrecovery.org](http://www.pslrecovery.org)

New Orleans, St. Charles Ave. PC: Download "RHINO BROCHURE" online. Call if you do not have Internet.  
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[www.scapc.org](http://www.scapc.org)



SUN photo by Shane Whisler

South Louisiana's new general presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Alan Cutter greets the Rev. Glen Bays of Cimarron Presbytery following the Synod of the Sun Luncheon during General Assembly in Birmingham, AL.

## 'Gumbo Chef' Found

### Northern pastor speaks language of trauma recovery in South Louisiana

by Shane Whisler

BATON ROUGE — Six months ago, with a classified ad, the Presbytery of South Louisiana sought a general presbyter who, like a "Gumbo Chef," might marry the rich, diverse flavors of their culture and theology in a unique situation.

That understatement was spiced up with a bold promise that God's blessings and opportunities await such a person.

The Rev. Dr. Alan D. Cutter entered the kitchen on July 1 eager to see God's blessings and opportunities continue to unfold for the region, and es-

pecially for the Reformed witness that the Presbyterian Church (USA) can offer. Cutter is charged with the administrative and spiritual nurture of a presbytery where half of the congregations suffered devastation or damage from two hurricanes and a flood nearly a year ago.

No one escaped the trauma of needing help, giving help or both. Hope glimmers with each new prayer, volunteer or dollar offered toward recovery. Cutter says thank you and please keep them all coming.

So what kind of person



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would answer the call to such a place and time?

We found out during an interview with Alan Cutter an hour after his first meeting with the presbytery's administrative commission for disaster recovery.

Continued on Page 2

## General Assembly News - Page 8

### PC(USA) officials join New Orleans recovery



Joan Gray

Danny Bolin  
Executive Committee members of the General Assembly Council spent the first day of their annual retreat gutting a home in New Orleans on July 25.

"I've seen some of the saddest sights in my life," said the Rev. Joan Gray, moderator of the 217th General Assembly. "I've felt a great deal of hope for our church because of all the people that are coming together to do something positive in God's name."



Joan Gray prying up floor boards.

Deborah Corrao  
"You understand the dynamics in a whole new way," said the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the PC (USA). "It's not only fixing up houses — it's fixing up lives."

Visit [synodsun.com](http://synodsun.com) to see photos and full story by work site coordinator Deborah Corrao for the Presbyterian Volunteer Village in Luling, LA.



Photos courtesy Louis Gold (pictured above, far right) and Carol Amlin.

### Synod Youth Workshop

University of Tulsa  
July 2006



Meredith Hudgens & Bob Barraza.



Above: Jake Laufer (Grace PC - Midland, TX) and Russ Lackey (First Central PC - Abilene, TX) painting the chapel of a juvenile detention center. Service projects are a key component of the week. KOTV News in Tulsa featured some of our 350 Presbyterians from eight presbyteries working across the city.

### What mom said...

Words can't adequately express my thanks to you for the way you touched Ben's and so many other's lives. I have an extremely high standard for

serve and the Synod experience met and exceeded my expectations. Please accept my sincerest gratitude.

— Betsy Reymond  
Mother of planning team member  
Covenant PC - Sherman, TX



Packing boxes at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, from left: Callie West (Covenant PC - Carrollton, TX), Nathan Juica (FPC - Mabank, TX) and Aubree D'Alfonso (Covenant PC - Carrollton, TX).

See more and send  
in your own photos  
and experiences to  
the news site:

[sun.synodsun.com](http://sun.synodsun.com)

# Behavior of General Assembly committee inspires hope and loving actions to keep PC(USA) connected

## My View in Birmingham

I witnessed the Presbyterian Church at its best during my service as committee assistant for the General Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues.

This committee's business included more than 40 overtures. Most of them focused on the Middle East, our relations with Israel and Palestine, and the last assembly's actions regarding divestments. The Stated Clerk ranked that collection of overtures second on the list of hot topics before the Assembly.

As committee assistant, I watched 62 commissioners pray, listen, share and work diligently to bring recommendations that would honor our historical commitments to peace and also address the concerns and pain Presbyterians and Jews have experienced in the last two years.

Their recommendations were healing and helpful. The Assembly powerfully affirmed this with 97% of the votes. However, the most stirring aspect was the way committee members arrived at their recommendations. Commissioners and observers represented very divergent views.

These dedicated men and women



Photo by Joseph Williams

Judy Fletcher transcribes notes on investment issues derived from the work of General Assembly Peacemaking Committee members.

dealt with their differences with honesty, integrity and grace. They modeled what the Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity asks the whole church to do. I saw people change because of the atmosphere of love and trust. Those vital traits are deeply needed in our beloved church.

Participants were moved and sur-

prised by the open and fair process which was a top priority of the committee's moderator and vice moderator. Some commissioners said they had been told the process would not be open and balanced. Others heard that serving on "that committee" meant three days of yelling at each other.

Prejudices were just that. In fact, one pastor said his faith had been restored. For the record, my comment on this

experience is that it was truly inspiring to see a group of people act like the people of God they are.

## Reflecting on PC(USA)

While I number among those who agree with most of this assembly's actions, I am aware that some of our brothers and sisters left Birmingham disappointed, hurt and an-

For the  
**Record**

by Judy Record Fletcher  
Synod Executive



gry. These feelings are shared by many Presbyterians who didn't attend the assembly. Some are carefully weighing their feelings and potential actions.

## My word to all of us in this synod:

1. I hope we will all stay in our Presbyterian family.
2. I hope we will all LEAN IN WITH LOVE, listen to each other in our differences and pray for each other.
3. I hope we will not talk of schism or brokenness or crisis. Rather I would have us agree that this is a **fragile time** for all. We must pay particular attention to how we treat each other in this time.
4. My hope is that we will repeat the actions of the Peacemaking Committee over and over as we discuss our differences honestly in the context of love.

Please commit now to do specific things to add to the health of our denomination. We have so many vibrant churches and ministries in this synod. Hold them up. Be a part of their good news stories. Speak the truth in love.

Focus on our call to share the love of God, the peace of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit with

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all those we meet. We can do all this and more, dear friends, through that One who strengthens and upholds us.

*Shalom/Salaam,*  
*Judy*

## 'Gumbo Chef'

Continued from Page 1

"I have a very strong sense that this is where God wants me to be at this particular time," Cutter said.

The faithful Presbyterians of South Louisiana found their "Gumbo Chef" in an unlikely place — 1,400 miles up the road in Duluth, Minnesota. However, his experience and spirit was a lot closer to the situation than most folks could have imagined.

Before answering the ad, he had asked his wife Ann what she thought.

He recalled her words, 'You've been preparing your whole life for something like that. Apply.'

Faith and life have prepared him well. However, applying for an "executive-kind of position" was not something he had imagined.

"So it is with a great deal of amazement and not a little bit of trepidation that I..." He hesitates, but smiles, "That I am here."

With an open palm he gestures to the conference tables where the monthly recovery meeting was held. The new office building in Baton Rouge wasn't yet finished when he first had an inkling that he might someday visit the region hit by what he calls a "triple blow."

**Note: Full version of this article is online at [synodsun.com](http://synodsun.com).**

The Presbyterian SUN

## Send your news and photos

Please send your first-hand accounts of events or ministries to enlighten and inspire others. Example: If you attended the Multicultural Youth Conference held at Mo-Ranch in July, pictured right, Please tell us about it.



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Fall Worship Conference!*

**"The Sermon in the Text,  
the Text in the Sermon"**

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& Patrick Wilson*

Attendees will consider the relationship between text and sermon, think along with the Apostle Paul about the task of preaching, and explore upcoming lectionary texts.

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*scendents inspired a living vision of stewardship.*

*Since my ordination, I've made many donations towards seminary scholarships. — Edward, M.Div. '95*

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# Presbytery of Arkansas



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Deadline for next issue is September 26, 2006

PHOTOGRAPHS submitted should be either on disk or sent via the internet as a .jpg file. Thank you.

Check out the website: [www.presbyteryofarkansas.org](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org)



## Presbytery Resource Center

Phone 501.663.2424 - Fax 501.224.2429  
email [niannt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:niannt@sbcglobal.net)

~ Looking for curriculum for children, youth or adult classes for fall? We can help with print, video, DVD, CD-ROM samples to preview as well as curricula in all media for loan to your small group.

~ One popular series worth investigating is J. Ellsworth Kalas' "... from the Back Side" studies which enter Bible stories through a unique starting point, a creative re-telling, a new "lens," or the eyes of a minor character. Choose from **Parables from the Back Side** (Acc.#DVD8838) (DVD, leader's guide and two books) or his books **More Parables from the Back Side** (Acc.#8821), **The Ten Commandments from the Back Side** (Acc.#BK8822) or **New Testament Stories from the Back Side** (Acc.#8839).

## HAPPENINGS

- Aug. 9 Comm. on Clusters, First, Conway, 10 a.m.
- Aug. 10 Comm. on Mission, First, Conway, 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 10 Deadline to request docket time & display table for September Presbytery Meeting**
- Aug. 12 Comm. on Congregational Care & Development, First, Dardanelle
- Aug. 14 Deadline for packet materials for September Presbytery Meeting**
- Aug. 19 Comm. on Administration, Budget Hearing, First, Conway, 9 a.m.
- Aug. 19 Youth Council Orientation, Ferncliff
- Aug. 19 Workshop for Adult Leaders of Youth, Ferncliff
- Aug. 26 Comm. on Administration, Final Budget Meeting, Presbytery Office, 10 a.m.
- Aug. 26 Comm. on Preparation for Ministry, Second, Little Rock, 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 27 Installation of Rev. Georgia Senor, First, Huntsville, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 4 Presbytery Office closed in observance of Labor Day
- Sept. 5 Comm. on Ministry, First, Conway, 10 a.m.
- Sept. 6 Banner Deadline**
- Sept. 9 Ferncliff Board Meeting
- Sept. 11-12 101st Stated Presbytery Meeting, First, Fort Smith**
- Sept. 15-17 CLP Module #5, First, Dardanelle
- Sept. 17 Installation of Rev. Bill Bailey, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, 4 p.m.
- Sept. 22-24 Junior High Youthquake, Ferncliff
- Sept. 23 Comm. on Nominations, First, Conway
- Sept. 28- Administrative Personnel Association, Oct. 1 Doubletree Hotel, Little Rock
- Oct. 3 Comm. on Ministry, First, Conway, 10 a.m.
- Oct. 5 General Council, Second, Little Rock
- Oct. 6 Installation of Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol, Univ. of the Ozarks, Clarksville, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 7 "The Whole Adult" Education Forum, First, Morrilton

## Smiths Selected 'Superlative Seniors' by Presbyterian Magazine

Elders Ted and Janie Smith, members of Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, have been selected as "Superlative Seniors" by Presbyterians Today magazine. They, along with other outstanding retirees from across the PC(USA), will be highlighted in the October issue.

Active members of the Kirk since 1992, Janie excelled there in choir and Presbyterian Women while Ted enjoyed the men's association and the memorial committee. But they didn't stop there! Ted served on the presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture and is the current registrar for the Commissioned Lay Pastor training program.

When Janie was elected to the Board of Trustees of Ferncliff Camp near Little Rock, they found their "mission field." Janie served as camp nurse, board president and, according to Ted, as "a stabilizing influence" for staff, counselors and campers. "Grandpa Ted," as he is known, has painted signs, built lifeguard chairs, bunks and cubbies for new cabins, filled in as a chaplain, and this July went with Janie and camp counselors to Ferncliff's Camp Noah for hurricane survivors on the Gulf Coast to prepare meals and give other support.



*Janie and Ted Smith in their "mission field" at Ferncliff Camp believe seniors "are very giving in serving, using the wisdom gained through living through the Depression and prosperity."*

The Smiths are great examples, along with other members of the Kirk and many Presbyterian congregations, of the gracious gift of time, wisdom and energy by mature retirees to the church and its agencies. Congratulations, Janie and Ted.

## New Parliamentarian is Northwest Arkansas Pastor

Rev. Clare Martin Kelley of Holiday Island, pastor of the Northwest Arkansas Larger Parish of First, Eureka Springs, and Holiday Island Presbyterian, was elected Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas on June 3. A native of Alabama, she succeeds Rev. Cathy Ulrich of Fort Smith who was Stated Clerk for seven and one-half years. Kelley graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1991 and then served five years as pastor of First, Walnut



*Stated Clerk  
Rev. Clare Kelley*

Ridge, and seven and one-half years as pastor of Highland, Hot Springs, before taking her current call two and one-half years ago.

She is the proud mother of David Steadham and grandmother of Luc, two and one-half, and Xander, 13 months, of Fort Smith.

Kelley may be reached by phone at 479.253.5066 or by email at [revclare@cox.net](mailto:revclare@cox.net). Her mailing address is P.O. Box 3231, Holiday Island, AR 72631.

## Unique Church Outreach to Community Youth

When churches reach out to the surrounding community, it is often through programs and agencies which assist indigent adults. First, Rogers, took a different approach.



The idea of using church property for a practice ball field for children and youth of the community was a collaborative effort of church elder David Gates, who died last year, and church member Scott Washburn, along with other members. Funding for the complex just east of the church which includes two baseball diamonds and a soccer field was provided by the Washburn family.

On May 28 a ground-breaking ceremony was held to begin the project. Partners are the Washburn and Gates families, City of Rogers Parks & Recreation Commission, CEI Engineering and First Presbyterian. Upon completion the city will have use of the Presbyterian Practice Fields six days per week and will maintain the grass and landscape. Shared space provisions give the Rogers church access to the fields on Sundays if desired.

## Save the Dates this Fall . . .

**Pre-Presbytery Workshops (concurrent)  
Monday, September 11, 12 noon - 1:30 p.m.  
First Presbyterian, Fort Smith**

- ~ Rotation Workshop for Children's Sunday School
- ~ "The Thoughtful Christian" online curriculum from the PC(USA) for adult classes
- ~ Using/Loving the new Sing the Faith Hymnal
- ~ Spirituality Center, a place of guided contemplation

**'The Whole Adult' Christian Education Forum  
Saturday, October 7 ~ First Presbyterian, Morrilton**  
*Watch for registration details in August.*

Rev. Ted Foote, Jr., co-author of the popular and widely used book **Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt**, will present the plenary "We Can Do More Than Say, 'Take Two Bible Pills and Call Me in the Next Decade'" and lead a workshop along with the following:

- Rev. Steve Hancock ~ "Reformed Spirituality for Laypeople"
- Rev. David Dyer ~ "History of the Christian Church"
- Revs. Kris Crawford & Stan Larson ~ "Healthy Congregations"
- Rev. Robert Hadley ~ "Beyond Sunday Morning: Alternative Settings for Adult Education"
- Rev. Bill Branch ~ "Spirituality for Church Officers and Boards"



# Presbytery of Cimarron

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

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## Ponca City to Policka

From left to right: Caila Scott, Newkirk; Ann Salmons and Valerie Smith, Ponca; Lindsay Goad, Ralston; Alex Smith, Kerry Ebbert (Team Leader), Bill Salmons, Kati Salmons and Jacque Salmons, Ponca, and Joy & Larry Glass, Alva. Not pictured: Kim Shafer, Woodward and Chip Whipple, Ponca. (Photos by Tom Schacher)

**This 1st Pres Ponca group taught the third Bible and English camp in Policka, Czech Republic from July 20 to August 2.**



Kati Salmons

## To Teach in Policka 1 Year

The English-speaking Bible Camp in Policka (pronounced Po LITCH ka) always has more applicants than can be housed. So the first 100 applicants between ages 7 and 16 are accepted.

Something new this year is that one member of the Oklahoma team-Kati Salmons-will remain in Policka, teaching English, for the next 12 months.

During her year in Policka, housing and board will be provided. However, she still needs teaching supplies. Any person who would like to help Kati in her volunteer ministry may write the editor of this page for more information about her qualifications and her estimated expenses for the year.

## Around Cimarron

Emerson Morales-Ortega and Kristi Van Nostran, International Peacemakers, are coming to the far west of Cimarron Presbytery. They are expected to attend the Presbytery meeting in Guymon on October 9-10. They also hope to visit churches and schools in the Panhandle and southern Kansas before departing on October 13th.



Morales-Ortega is from Guatemala. Van Nostran is from Vancouver, WA. Both are members of The Reconciliation and Mission Exchange Program of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Central American volunteers in this program spend eight months with congregations.

American volunteers serve with partner organizations in Central America or Mexico.

The Rev. Dale Goldsmith, PhD, of Goodwell, invited them for the Committee on Justice and Reconciliation.

## New in the Resource Center

By Carolyn Caldwell

**NOOMA DVD Series** by Rob Bell. Short films (10 to 14 minutes) which, like parables, use the experiences of our lives to teach about the fullness of life through Jesus. Tackles issues like forgiveness, discipleship, voices that influence us, and unconditional love. The study guides encourage discussion with questions and biblical references. Wonderful resource for youth or adult group study. 2005 Zondervan.

**Velvet Elvis:** Repainting the Christian Faith by Rob Bell. The author presents Christian faith tradition as filled with change, growth, and transformation. He invites readers to ask what it means to be Christian in this place and at this time. 194 pages. 2005 Zondervan.

**The Return of the Prodigal Son:** A Story of Homecoming by Henry J.M. Nouwen. Inspired by Rembrandt's "The Return of the Prodigal Son," Nouwen probes the parable through the themes of homecoming and reconciliation. Includes discussion guide. 1992 Doubleday.

**Walking the Bible:** A Photographic Journey by Bruce Feiler. A voyage through the sites of some of the Bible's most memorable events. Beautiful pictures. An excellent resource for history and Bible study.

**Parenting Your Teenager** DVD study. Marriage & family therapists Les and Leslie Parrott lead a six-week Bible study in parenting teenagers. Topics include identity, turmoil, rebellion, legacy and discipling. Includes leader's guide and participant's book.

**The Shalom of God** in the Midst of Empire: A Peacemaking Bible study on Isaiah by Rebecca Gaudino. A six-session study from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program 2006.

**Book of Uncommon Worship:** Contemplative and Celebratory Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry by Steven Case. Prayers, devotions litanies and worship services



Cleaning up after Katrina were, left to right, front: Jenna Campbell, Kelli Schlais, Sarah DeYong and Aislinn Mowrer. Back row: Tim Krehbiel, Brian Coulter and Tim Schlais.

## Out of Chaos, Hope

By Carolyn Caldwell

Twenty-one Stillwater Presbyterians spent a week in June cleaning up after Hurricane Katrina. They stayed at First Union Presbyterian Church in Luling, LA. There they joined volunteers from five other states in a village maintained by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Team member Cynthia Shawley looked at the crumbled homes, rotting debris, uprooted trees, rusting cars, and deserted streets, then said, "It looks as if it happened yesterday."

Kelly Nipp, leader of work teams, walked into a home and said: "It looked as if the house had been picked up and shaken like a snow globe."

Jenna Campbell, Director of Youth and Family Ministry at 1st Church Stillwater, was overall leader of the multi-generational group. Carolyn and Larry Caldwell; Brian Coulter, Sarah DeYong, Maddison Hill, Dick Shawley, Carson and Sharla Kicenski; Tim, Tami and Brad Krehbiel; Sam McNickle, Aislinn Mowrer, Ashley Nipp, Tim and Kelli Schlais; Calli Stinchcomb, and Abby Stokes were other participants.

A highlight of the trip was presenting prayer shawls to homeowners they met. Mary Jane Phillips, a church member who remained in Stillwater, knitted the shawls while praying for the recipients.

### (Resource Center, cont.)

written in contemporary language. Includes Eucharist CD 128 pages.

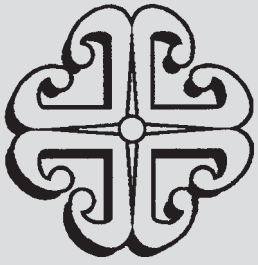
**Maintenance of Divine Worship** by Howard Rice, Jr. Part of a series on the Great Ends of the Church. 89 pages. 2006 Witherspoon Press.

**Family Ministry:** A Comprehensive Guide by Diana Garland. Excellent resource on the theory and practice of family life ministry. 627 pages. 1999 Intervarsity Press.

### 20/30 Bible Study for Young Adults:

Four studies for young adult groups; each includes study guide for 7-sessions. Topics include living with life's demands, making commitments that count, family, and biblical understanding of love. Abingdon Press.

To check out material from the Resource Center, contact Carolyn Caldwell, 524 S. Duncan, Stillwater, OK 74074: phone 405-372-5580; e-mail [carcaldwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carcaldwell@sbcglobal.net).



# Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

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## So What Happened at General Assembly?

There's been a lot of talk about the most recent General Assembly, held in Birmingham, Ala, June 15-22. Newspaper articles and other media have concentrated on what, if any, changes were made to the church's position on the ordination of gays and lesbians.

There were many other issues as well, however, and many of these will be discussed in a series of meetings within Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery during the month of August.

"We'll have four regional meetings to go over things that happened at G.A., to clarify some points and establish that nothing has changed," says EOP Stated Clerk **Dana Bailey**. "The constitution is still the constitution -- in fact, it probably has more teeth than it had before G.A."

The first meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at First Church, Owasso, the second for 2 p.m. Aug. 12 at First Church, McAlester. Meetings are also scheduled for First Church, Muskogee, and a Tulsa-area church to be announced. All meetings will take place in August. For updates, call the Presbytery at 582-3077.

"We're going to have a Tuesday night, a Wednesday night, a Saturday afternoon, and a Sunday afternoon," says Bailey. "We're scheduling different times so we can try to fit anybody's schedule."

She and EOP General Presbytery the **Rev. Dr. Greg Coulter** plan to be at each meeting.

"What we want to do is clarify what happened and answer people's questions," she adds. "We'll also try to have all three commissioners at each meeting."

The commissioners who  
The Presbyterian SUN

attended this General Assembly were the **Rev. Ann LaMar**, Pastor at St. Andrews Church in Tulsa, who was our Minister Commissioner; **Annette Haskins** of First Church, Tahlequah, our Elder Commissioner; and **Anna Stephens** of Southminster in Tulsa, our Youth Advisory Delegate.

"I thought this General Assembly was like many I've seen before, where good, committed Presbyterians come together and work their hardest to do the will of God," says LaMar. "I was vice-moderator of the Procedures Committee, which dealt with the closing of the Presbyterian Historical Society at Montreat, N.C., and we spent hours listening to presentations on all sides of the issue, and hours discussing how we could make it work. There were deeply held feelings on both sides of the issue. We worked hard in our committee, and the other committees worked hard as well."



**Anganile Neely**, an international student from Malawi, poses with the **Rev. Wanda Johnson**, H.R., and **Joanne Kirvin** from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery. Anganile, who worships at First Church, Miami, has been here since 2003. She is a nursing student at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and also works at the NEO cafeteria.

"Actually, I came away very encouraged about our denomination," says Haskins. "Even with the obvious differences that many people are going to have on issues -- the ones that are getting all the attention, and other ones as well -- I absolutely had the feeling that we were seeking God's will, listening to the different sides and trying to discern which way to go."

"Most people came to G.A. without a strong agenda, willing to listen and find the right answers to the issues we were facing," she adds. "So I came back encouraged about our denomination because of that."

As for the issue of gay ordination, which continues to be the source of much divisiveness, she says, "I don't think it's the end-of-the-world scenario that some people think it is. If it wasn't the current situation that everybody's talking about, it'd be something else. When this one gets resolved, there'll be another one. That's human nature."

## Malawi's General Secretary Plans Visit

The **Rev. H. Matiya Nkhoma**, General Secretary of Malawi's Synod of Livingstonia, is the scheduled guest at a reception on August 21 in Tulsa. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Reception Hall of the Bernsen Community Building.

Rev. Nkhoma will speak about the current conditions in his home country. Everyone is invited, but members of the congregations participating in the Twinning Project are especially encouraged to attend.

"About 35 of our congregations in EOP are twinned with a Presbytery or Synod department in Malawi, for information, aid, and support," said **Julie Burton**, EOP's Director of Congregational Resources. "The Twinning Project is a way to deepen our relationship with churches and Presbyteries in Malawi."

She added that the Presbytery is in the process of forming a delegation to go to Malawi in the fall to participate in two events: the bi-annual Synod of Livingstonia meeting in September, and the continuing education in-service training for Malawian Pastors in October and November. For more information on those trips, contact Burton at the Presbytery office, (918) 582-3077.

## Presbytids

\*The **Rev. Jan Ditmar** has been called as Pastor at First Church, Poteau.

\*The **Rev. Kimberly Merrill** has been called as Associate Pastor at First Church, Bartlesville.



# Grace Presbytery



## ACT 2006

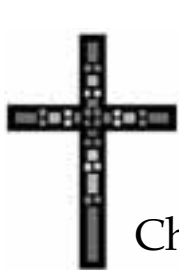
Activating Congregations for Transformation

**September 29 & 30**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Fort Worth, Texas**

**Register today online for ACT 2006!**

### The Magnetic Church Returns



We are very pleased to announce that Andrew Weeks, a gifted lay evangelist and humorous, inspiring speaker will present another Magnetic Church event this fall.

The dates for the workshop are November 17-18, 2006, at First Presbyterian Church of Garland.

To sign up for the conference, go to the link on the Presbytery website: [www.gracepresbytery.com](http://www.gracepresbytery.com).

Andy invites everyone, especially skeptics, to attend the opening evening session when he will focus on spiritual issues to help us to overcome the negative images of evangelism many of us have.

He will invite us into new creative ministries, not urge us to take on more tasks. He will challenge and encourage us to explore opportunities, leaving aside the old "shoulds, musts and oughts".

He will review the pitfalls, frustrations and misdirection he has seen, then offer new insights on how each one of us can move forward.

### 2007 Congregational Mission Initiatives Grant Applications are now available on the Grace Presbytery website

Do you have church members thinking about a new ministry within your congregation or community? Is your congregation ready to risk its energy and resources to try something new? Do you have a project in need of a little extra help with startup funding. If so, we encourage you to apply for a Congregational Mission Initiatives Grant for 2007. Please note the application due date of September 15, 2006.

### Congregationally-Based Campus Ministry Grants; Apply now; Download forms from the Grace Presbytery website

The intention of these grants is to encourage the congregations of Grace Presbytery to see neighboring institutions of higher education as their mission field, and an opportunity to create or further develop a ministry relationship with that institution.

The ministries that are created are intended to be ministries of the congregation. It is anticipated that the congregation will be responsible for the continued support of its ministry beyond the initial grant period.



# Indian Nations Presbytery

Deanna Piercy, Editor

www.okinp.org

## NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP

by Scott Spencer, United Campus Ministry Director, East Central University, Ada, OK

On the last day of a campus ministry trip to New Orleans, in May, team member Thomas Pack found himself in a part of that city where he had grown up. He was one of 21 students, from two Oklahoma colleges, who that day toured parts of St. Bernard Parish, wrecked by the 2005 hurricanes.

"Everything is pretty much gone," Pack said. "Everything from my house to my church to my pediatrician's office to Wal-Mart to our favorite restaurant are all totally gone. The buildings are there, but they have been utterly destroyed. It was quite sad to see." The political science major graduated from East Central University that same month.

The May 14-20 mission was led by United Methodist clergy Kristen L. Brown and Scott Spencer. Rev. Brown is director of Wesley Student Center, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford. Rev. Spencer is director of United Campus Ministry, ECU, Ada.

The two campus ministries joined efforts to organize the different aspects of the mission. Students toured the New Orleans area and joined in hurricane cleanup efforts.

Working through the Louisiana United Methodist Storm Recovery Center, the students divided into two teams and worked in both the Ninth Ward and Uptown sections of the city. Both teams spent three days working on homes, and students had opportunities to meet with the homeowners. In addition, they toured the French Quarter, the Ninth Ward, the St. Bernard Parish area, and parts of Uptown.

They listened to the firsthand stories of residents who lived through hurricanes Katrina and Rita and are in the process of rebuilding. Everywhere the groups visited, people seemed happy to meet with them and to share their stories, they reported.

"It was hard work; the working conditions were hard... Meeting Marion, the homeowner, made the hard work worth it all," said Christi Christensen, majoring in nursing at SWOSU and active at Wesley Student Center.

"Touring the lower Ninth Ward was hard and humbling. Hurricane damage is much different than tornado damage. It is challenging to put a perspective on what we saw," said Laurie Fanning, a pharmacy student and also active in the SWOSU campus ministry.

While in New Orleans, the students stayed at Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church. Grace Community Church (UMC) in Shreveport, La., housed them on their journey to and from New Orleans.

Pastor Ellen Alston met with the group before and after the trip to help students process the mission experience. She lives in Shreveport since being displaced from St. Bernard Parish by the storms.

### INP Stated Meeting:

September 8, 2006, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Federated Church in Weatherford.

### PUM School Supplies Needed!

\$25 sponsors one child for Back2School  
Call PUM at (405) 946-1556 for more information.

**Deadline for next issue:**  
**September 19, 2006**  
**E-mail the editor:**  
**dpiercy@adacomp.net**

## Second Sunday Jazz

"Second Sunday Jazz" is a worship service held on the second Sunday of the month at 5 pm in the parlor of Central Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City. It is an informal service of jazz music interspersed with scripture, reflection time and prayer. An offering is received to help pay the expenses for the service.

The music is led by a jazz combo, directed from the piano by Jan McDaniel, the organist/choir director at Central. Jan is Professor of Vocal Coaching at the Wanda L. Bass School of Music, Oklahoma City University. His contacts with students and faculty help put together the rest of the combo, which generally consists of trumpet, bass, drums and vocalist.

One of the features participants enjoy most is having a reading of scripture that interplays with music by the combo. After a reading from the New Revised Standard Version, there is a time of silent reflection. Then the passage is read again, using "The Message" by Eugene Peterson or another paraphrase, while the jazz combo responds with musical reflections on the words.

"The purpose of this service is to offer an additional opportunity to gather and worship God in a style different from our traditional Sunday morning one," said Rev. Janet Ruark, Pastor of Central. "It is also an offering to the community. As far as we know, we are the only church with a jazz-style worship service in the metro area, but it was chosen because that is a music style enjoyed by many of our members."

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

In March of 2006, the PDA plan for long-term strategic allocation of designated funds for US Hurricane Response (Katrina/Rita/Wilma) was adopted by the PDA Advisory Committee. These three hurricanes impacted an area roughly equivalent to Great Britain. Approximately 600,000 homes were destroyed and conservative estimates project that more than \$24 billion worth of private residential materials will be required to address the needs.

The advisory committee approved a seven year plan extending to 2013 which includes continuous operation of the six PDA Volunteer Villages, relief and rebuild funds for five presbyteries located in the heart of the storm-damaged areas, the setting aside of community based recovery funds, establishment of Young Adult Volunteer site in damaged area, and an unallocated reserve to address changing reality on the ground.

**FAQ:** Is there a reason only \$4 million of the \$20 million received has been expended?

Yes. The donation-to-expense timetable is purposely front-loaded to prevent PDA's long-term response from falling short as media headlines about the disaster fade.

## Korean New Church Development finds home at new Presbyterian Mission Center

Funds still needed to cover construction costs of building's interior

IRVING, TX — Good Shepard New Church Development needed a new home for worship and found it in the Presbyterian Mission Center.



The Rev. Sung Ho Son, shown here, is pastor of the Korean language congregation.

The Presbyterian Mission Center is an office building, with a chapel and meeting areas, owned by Grace Presbytery, Synod of the Sun's Presbyterian Foundation and Texas Presbyterian Foundation. The synod and presbytery offices are now located there as is Faith Hospice, Inc.— a non-profit, Presbyterian-related hospice operated by Grace Presbyterian Village. Texas Presbyterian Foundation staff will move in later.

"The building is beautiful and visitors and workers alike seem to be pleased

with the whole project," said Synod Executive Judy Fletcher. "One problem remains. We still need \$200,000 to cover the cost of the property and the build-out."

Presbyterians in this region have been "wonderfully generous" with donations for the building which was dedicated in April, said Fletcher.

"Readers may consider this an invitation to join in the support of this project," she said. "Or increase giving if you're already a part of this endeavor.

Learn more at [www.pmcenter.org](http://www.pmcenter.org).



## Presbyterian Women of Synod Celebrate, Share Honors at Churchwide Gathering

LOUISVILLE, KY — Rev. Judy Fletcher, Synod Executive, was one of four women honored by the 175 Presbyterian Women who attended the Synod of the Sun luncheon at the Churchwide Gathering July 9.

Also honored were the Rev. Cheri Harper, PW associate for synod support (national

staff); Karen Fritsch, past moderator of the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team; and Ann Ferguson, program director for Presbyterian Women. —Phyllis Roush, moderator



Photos by Kathy White

Jean Razer, right, of Holiday Island (AR) Church served as a hard-hatted usher "creating the universe from chaos" as part of the *Creation! Celebration!* theme of the 2006 PW Churchwide Gathering.



Ava Morton of Harrah, OK, assembles centerpieces for the Synod luncheon. The Presbyterian SUN



Soon Ja Kang, left, of Binerri Presbyterian in Richardson, Texas, is outgoing Asian-American Coordinator for Synod PW. Carol Wise, right, of Genesis Presbyterian in Austin, Texas, is Moderator of Mission Presbytery PW.

## The SUN CLASSIFIEDS

Please place display or classified ads with Beth Hernandez:  
866-381-7075 office@synodsun.com —Thank you!

### Position Open at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home, Monticello, Arkansas—

Full-time Director of Church Relations & Annual Giving to work out of Little Rock, Arkansas office. Will coordinate all aspects of fundraising among church constituency, have oral and written communication skills and excellent interpersonal skills. Some fund-raising experience preferred, PCUSA knowledge essential. Travel required. Send resume and salary requirements to Personnel, 1501 N. University, Suite 552, Little Rock, AR 72207. [www.veralloyd.org](http://www.veralloyd.org).

### Trinity Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, LA seeks Interim Pastor

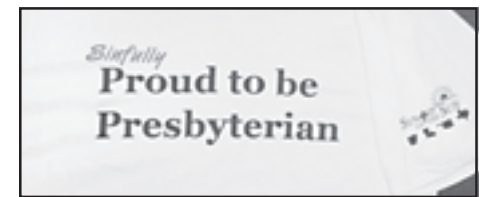
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, LA is seeking a unique individual to provide spiritual leadership for members of our dedicated Christian congregation. Lafayette is the fastest growing community in South Louisiana. Interested applicants can view our website at <http://members.cox.net/trinitylafayette/> for an overview of our church life. Personal contact can be made with the Interim Nominating Committee at [clerk.trinity@earthlink.com](mailto:clerk.trinity@earthlink.com) or by mail at 3001 Verot School Road, Lafayette, LA 70508, or by fax at 253-830-8145. CIF available at <http://clc.pcusa.org>

### Associate Pastor Dallas – Grace Presbytery

The 4,300-member Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas, has an opening for an Associate Pastor of Senior Adults and Congregational Care. Primary skill choices required are: Older adult ministry, pastoral care, administrative leadership and hospital and emergency visitation (shared responsibility). Desired skill choices are: Preaching, spiritual development, teaching, congregational fellowship, and leadership development. Five years or more of ordained experience required. We offer a competitive salary and benefits. If interested, please E-mail Stan McAnelly, Moderator of APNC at [smmca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smmca@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### Accounting Clerk Texas Presbyterian Foundation

Part-time accounting clerk position. For details please visit [www.TPF.org](http://www.TPF.org)



### Sinfully Proud T-shirts

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*Did you know Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services does not receive direct financial support from presbyteries, Synod of the Sun, or the General Assembly of PC(USA)?*

By the grace of God and the support of congregations like yours, we will serve more than 2,000 children and families this year. Please help us fulfill the mission we all share: providing a variety of Christ-centered services to children and families in need.

Ask your Mission Committee chair if your church supports Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services.



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes & Services

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



## Oklahoma Congregations Share National Award

by Shane Whisler

BIRMINGHAM — Two congregations in Oklahoma, who share the Rev. Barbara Hunt as pastor, collected a national award from Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) on July 18 at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PHEWA president, Rev. Bob Brashear of New York City, introduced a series of five presenters and four winners of awards in a variety of social justice ministries from Indian Nations Presbytery to Presbytery

of the Cascades.

The Oklahoma congregations are featured here.

First Presbyterian Church (74 members), Chickasha, OK; and Anadarko (OK) Presbyterian Church (25 members) received the Presbyterian Association for Community Transformation Award.

“When you make yourselves truly available and accessible to the will of God,” Hunt said. “You better buckle your seatbelts.”

She explained that community transformation occurs through new and relevant mission work by their congregations and partnering with other churches and local governments. The work ranges from encouraging city improvements for impoverished children, business support of local mission and feeding hundreds of school children through the summer when there are no subsidized lunches available at school.

Full article posted online at [synodsun.com](http://synodsun.com).



Photo by Joseph Williams.

Crystal Wyatt, Rev. Barbara Hunt and Peggy Cole.

## New Wineskins event convenes in Tulsa

by Toya Richards Hill, Presbyterian News Service

TULSA, OK — Amidst frustration and disdain for the current state of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the preached word of God found its place again and again during a four-day convocation of the New Wineskins, July 19-22.

From the broad pulpit of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, flanked by two large video projection screens and a massive cross behind it, various ministers of the Word and Sacrament did their best to motivate and empower those present.

“We are here out of a sense of crisis,” said the Rev. Jim Logan, co-founder of Jim Logan Evangelistic Ministry and overseer of Kingdom Fellowship Christian Center in Charlotte, NC. This initiative came about

from “something that has been building and brewing for years.”

“God’s word is true, no matter how uncomfortable it makes you feel.” Confessing Biblical truth is declaring faith in the fact of the word of God, Logan said.

That message, and others transmitted during the 2006 New Wineskins convocation July 19-22, resonated well with these PC(USA) members and ministers contemplating leaving the denomination they believe has tossed aside key tenets of the faith.

They’ve set up a strategy team to consider various options, including congregations actually pulling out, and will make more decisions during a February meeting in Orlando, FL. (read more: [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org))



### There Are Many Faces to Rehab



With more than 40 years of experience, Grace Presbyterian Village helps hundreds of people each year through physical, aquatic, occupational, and speech therapy in its Mizell Rehab and Aquatic Therapy Center. Whether you need in-patient or out-patient rehabilitation, our professional staff will provide the most complete therapy based on your needs and goals. Our ultimate priority is to help you recover so you can return home as quickly as possible.

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550 E. Ann Arbor  
Dallas, TX 75216



Photo by Danny Bolin  
**Linda Valentine and Joan Gray**

### New Director of General Assembly Council: Linda Bryant Valentine

Valentine, shown here listening as new PC(USA) Moderator Joan Gray (right) reads questions during her installation service at General Assembly. She succeeds John

Detterick to become the first woman to hold the position. Her experience includes serving as corporate lawyer and executive for multinational business and a non-profit agency.

### Why Stay in the PC(USA)?

*The Presbyterian OUTLOOK* posed this question to some of the best thinkers in the PC(USA). Representing a wide spectrum of the entire church, they reflected on the Bible and pondered theologically and prayed. And they wrote short essays that are at once inspirational and challenging.

Reprints of this 56-page issue are also available for sale:

(800) 446-6008

[www.pres-outlook.org](http://www.pres-outlook.org)

### Didn't find the news you expected or submitted here?

We're building a new web site for *The Presbyterian SUN*, so you might find it here...

[synodsun.com](http://synodsun.com)

(click *The Presbyterian SUN* icon)

Please visit and send us news, photos or address changes. View the links to your presbytery and presbytery page editors.

—SW

August • September 2006



# Mission Presbytery News

A Publication of Mission Presbytery, 7201 Broadway, Suite 303, San Antonio, Texas 78209 \* 210-826-3297 \* Send news items to Ron Jones, 118 Spring Ranch Road, Floresville, Texas 78114 - (830) 393-6212 - go2rj@yahoo.com - The Deadline for Oct. is Sept. 15

## S.A. Presbyterian Cluster Dedicates Habitat Home to Faith Lytle



Home owners Augustin and Delilah Orta with Bill Lytle

This spring the S.A. Presbyterian Cluster dedicated this year's home build to honor the memory of Faith Lytle.

Faith Lytle put Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio on the map. With Faith's help, HFHSA has always shown a special distinction from other Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the United States. We started construction of the first Habitat for Humanity house in the United States on a small parcel of land on Hidalgo Street on San Antonio's near west side

in 1976. We have grown to become one of the top ten largest producing Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the country, having built almost 430 homes in partnership with families in need. None of this would have been possible without the determination and vision of a very special woman.

Faith Lytle founded Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio in her kitchen with a group of committed friends in 1976. Faith passed away on April 29, 2005, after a recurrence of breast cancer. She was 82. Her husband, Bill Lytle, four children and other members of her family were at her side.

Faith's journey began on March 13, 1923 in Maplewood, N.J. where she spent her childhood. After graduating from Tusculum College in Greenville, Tenn. she attended Princeton Seminary where her friend, Bill Lytle was in his second year. Bill and Faith had met in Greenville, Tenn. the week she graduated from college. Married in 1947, she and Bill began their long and fruitful lives together as national missionaries in the Reserve and Corona, N.M. ranching communities until 1962. They spent another 11 years in rural mission church work in the mountain area around the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Ark. where Bill was a faculty member. For the past 32 years, they made San Antonio their home. Bill was pastor of the downtown Madison Square Presbyterian Church from 1973 to 1991.

They spent most summers at Chautauqua Lake, NY, which was one of Faith's favorite places. She and her family enjoyed many other vacation trips across the country – one of the most notable trips was to Koinoinia Farms in Americus, Ga. in 1970. It was at Koinoinia that Faith and Bill met Millard Fuller and witnessed the dream of Clarence Jordan and Millard Fuller to build housing cooperatively with families in need.

Faith's greatest love was her family. She and Bill had four children and nine grandchildren. Other passions included the arts, her pets, her English heritage, social issues and her spiritual journey. It was Faith's great interest in social issues and the people around her that really sparked her founding of Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio. A great letter writer, she kept in touch with Millard Fuller and told him of the great need for affordable housing in San Antonio and asked him how to start a housing program here.

With Millard's guidance she followed Habitat for Humanity's principles of building simple and decent houses, selling the houses at zero percent interest and no profit to a family in need willing to contribute a minimum of 300 hours of their own sweat equity. With her dedication, great persistence and love for the families, houses were built with families in need year after year. Faith kindled the original base of supporters by writing countless thank you letters and keeping people involved in the good work.

Faith served on both the local and international Habitat for Humanity board of directors throughout the years. However, her first love was for the Habitat families. Whenever you would see Faith at a Habitat event – she would have a huge smile on her face while talking to one of the Habitat families.

Faith truly considered every family a part of her life and prayed for all of God's blessings to be bestowed upon them. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is about putting one's faith into action. Nobody did this better than Faith. She will remain an inspiration to us all. We miss her dearly.

*Thanks to Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio's "Vision" for the bulk of the text.*

## Mission Presbytery Resource System "Check It Out!"

August means gearing up for another exciting Church School Year! Resource Centers can help, with information about curricula, teacher helps, ideas for church school classes, audio-visuals, craft ideas, activities, - the list goes on and on! Here are just a few of the great resources available for your use....

### Teacher Helps-

**7 Ways of Teaching the Bible to Adults.** Barbara Bruce. Abingdon Press.

**The Art of Teaching the Bible: A Practical Guide for Adults.** Christine E. Blair. Geneva Press.

**Teaching the Mystery of God to Children: A Book of Clues.** Judy Gattis Smith. CSS.

**32 Ways to Become a Great Sunday School Teacher.** Delia Halverson. Abingdon Press

**Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach.** Donald L. Griggs. Abingdon Press.

**Teaching Tips for Terrified Teachers.** Abingdon Press.

**Out of the Box: Helps for Children's Sunday School Teachers.** Abingdon Press.

### Classroom Helps –

**Games, Kids, and Christian Education.** Susan Lennartson. Augsburg Fortress.

**Art, Kids, and Christian Education.** Ardys Koskovich Sabin. Augsburg Fortress.

**Incredible Edible Bible Fun.** Nanette Goings. Group Publishing.

**Sunday School on a Shoe String.** Beth Parr and Sandy Svercek. Abingdon Press.

**Books of the Bible Games.** (Ages 7-12) LeeDell Stickler. Abingdon Press.

**Arrival Activities from A to Z.** Daphna Flegal. Abingdon Press.

### Curriculum Samples –

**We Believe: God's Word for God's People**

**The Present Word**

**Bible Quest**

**Seasons of the Spirit**

**Kerygma – Foundational and elective courses**

**Disciple Short Term Courses**

Be Sure to Check Out these New Resources!

### Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God.

Elizabeth Caldwell. Witherspoon Press. In this fourth addition to the Great Ends of the Church series, Elizabeth F. Caldwell fills out the contours of the particular mission form sketched by the second Great End. Each chapter focuses on biblical texts and a connection with either The Confession of 1967 or A Brief Statement of Faith. Each chapter identifies challenges this end often presents and shows that it is precisely in meeting these challenges and responding to its mission in the context of hope that faith is shaped.

### Living Faithfully in the Public Square.

Jim Watkins. Witherspoon Press. What is meant by "separation of church and state"? Why should Presbyterians be involved in the public square? In this newly updated edition of his study course, Jim Watkins provides questions, scriptural insights, information and resources for use in exploring your faith community's response to these and other pertinent questions.



SEPTEMBER 2006

# NEWS

## Presbytery of New Covenant

The Presbytery of New Covenant • 1110 Lovett Boulevard • Houston, Texas 77006-3824 • 713-526-2585 Phone • 713-528-8814 Fax

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### From out of Texas ... to Everywhere!

The Rev. Carroll L. Pickett, HR, has become a household word in circles around the world. His book, *Within These Walls: Memoirs of a Death House Chaplain*, may even appear at your neighborhood cinema as the basis for a movie!



Rev. Carroll Pickett

The book, published in America, England, and Germany for European distribution, is an account of Carroll's chaplaincy ministry to men who were on death row in the Texas prison system in Huntsville. Carroll shares his thoughts about capital punishment as he describes the dark world of prison society. Readers are taken along the journey he traveled from favoring the death penalty to opposing it.

The book has received many non-fiction book awards and become the subject of numerous articles and documentaries around the world. A four-month filming schedule has begun here for a British documentary. Carroll himself has appeared recently on ABC Nightline and ABC Weekend News, as well as a nighttime talk show in Austria. Negotiations are pending for a speaking tour in Germany and a TV movie.

Now, how's that for retirement!

## CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS PRESENTS CYNTHIA RIGBY ... AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

### Christian Connections offers a bounty of inspiration and practical help for all church leaders



Dr. Cynthia Rigby

Workshops, worship service and keynote presentations, centered around the theme, *Living into Our Hope*, await those who attend Christian Connections 2006 on Saturday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church. Insightful and engaging Dr. Cynthia Rigby, W.C. Brown professor of theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will be the

keynote speaker. She will explore our Reformed understanding of salvation in her keynote address, "Saving Grace," and in corporate worship. Says Dr. Rigby: "Presbyterians love to talk about how we are saved by grace alone. But what does it mean to live as those who are 'saved by grace'? Why is it that we resist the grace that surrounds us?" She will offer suggestions for how we can "practice" participating more fully in the grace of God.

Brochures and registration forms can be downloaded from the presbytery website [www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org) and will soon arrive at churches as well. Watch the presbytery website for an audio presentation on "Belief" that Dr. Rigby delivered at a national gathering of Presbyterian Church Educators. Once you hear her, you will want to make participation in this event a priority! Full event details appear in the conference brochure, but here's a sneak preview:

- Choose two of the 25 workshops offered in the areas of discipleship, teacher training, spirituality, family

ministry, and Bible and theology. In addition to local favorites, the faculty includes several leaders with national reputations for the excellence of their teaching and writing.

- Four courses, highlight a particularly Reformed understanding of our faith and its practice. What a great way for new and long-term members alike to gain a better understanding of our heritage!
  - Church school teachers can build on teaching skills in the workshops highlighting ministry with children, youth, and adults.
  - Choir members can take part in a choral music workshop and be a part of the conference choir for the closing worship service.
  - Personal spiritual growth can be enriched through classes on prayer and Bible study.
  - Learn from folks from other congregations as participants move about during the day.
  - Browse and shop at the Cokesbury bookstore and World Craft market.
- Plan now to attend Christian Connections and bring your friends!

### Volunteer Consultants sought to assist congregations

Do you have a gift for analysis and strategic planning? Do you have a passion for helping congregations grow toward becoming a more vital witness for Christ? Then you just might be one of the 12-20 servant leaders that we are looking for.

If the presbytery's vision, "growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples," is to have teeth, General Council believes that congregations must make three-year plans for intentional community engagement and disciple formation. Reliable, trained help is needed by congregations as they make these plans for discipleship and community engagement. To that end, presbytery will be training a consultant

team to assist congregations in this process.

Training will be provided with nationally known trainer and consultant, the Rev. Jill Hudson. She has served our denomination at local and regional levels and has written several books published by the Alban Institute. Coaches would be expected to attend the training with the Rev. Hudson January 23-25, 2007, and to commit to working with two to three congregations over a three-year period.

Interested parties should contact Mary Marcotte, Associate General Presbyter for Education and Leadership Development, at 713-526-2585 or [mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org) for more information and/or a form to apply for this consultation team.

### Churches join to offer sexuality seminar



ChristChurch Presbyterian (Bellaire) and St. John's Presbyterian (Houston) invite youth leaders from other churches to attend and have input in an upcoming planning meeting for a Youth Sexuality Seminar to be held in January. The seminar, "God's Gift of Sexuality," will be offered for youth in grades 6-12.

Interested youth leaders are asked to attend the next Planning Committee Meeting on Monday, September 18, at St. John's, 5020 W. Bellfort. Registration for youth will begin in October. Orientation for small group facilitators and parents will

begin in November. The seminar itself will be held January 12, 13, and 14 at ChristChurch, 5001 Bellaire Blvd. in Bellaire.

For more information, contact: Ashley Broadhurst, Christ Church, [abroadhurst@ccpres.org](mailto:abroadhurst@ccpres.org) or 713-667-6574 or 713-667-6575; or Janet Brown, St. John's, [jbrown@stjohnspresby.org](mailto:jbrown@stjohnspresby.org) or 713-723-6262.

### Still have questions about General Assembly?

The Presbytery of New Covenant's website has many links to sites that provide information on the many issues. Go to [www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org)



# Palo Duro Presbytery

Kathy Dane, editor

4820 W. 19th St., Lubbock, TX 79407

## From West Texas to Romania

By Julie Johnson

The adventure began months ago when my husband, Don McDonald (pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Canyon), and I began to talk about joining the mission work group from Palo Duro Presbytery going to Romania in the summer of 2006. I don't know why the time was right, but it was a fit for both of us. We were drawn - no compelled - to sign up for the trip. I knew that it would be a life-changing event for me, and it was.

Where does one begin to describe such events? All 11 of us were energized for the trip as we planned for months prior to our departure. Arriving at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, we finally were all together and set to begin our adventure. After about 18 hours of travel time, we arrived in Tulcea, Romania on the Danube. We stayed on a boat just two blocks from the Casa Noastra, the independent living house that NOROC provides for adolescent orphaned boys. Our work assignment for the trip was to build a carport, fencing and outdoor furniture at Casa Noastra.

Our work was full of surprises, had us hauling dirt by buckets and digging postholes by hand. The concrete was, of course, mixed by hand and had questionable ingredients. I do think it hardened properly though. We had numerous challenges as we attempted to build a structure from our 21st century, industrialized perspective. The work was physically demanding, and the hours were long. In spite of this, we fell in love with all those we met in our days in Tulcea.

The kids that worked with us were inspiring and truly reflections of The Holy. We



Palo Duro Presbytery mission work group in Romania

worked, played, ate and worshiped with them. We were continually confronted with the inequities of their social system, which did not seem to trouble them as much as it did us. "Orphan" in Romania seems to mean "second-class citizen." I was amazed at the stories of these children and the evidence of their resilience. The adolescents we were around demonstrated an incredible desire to achieve in spite of the overwhelming difficulties that they faced to get an education. Many of them are either in college or moving in that direction. It is an uphill battle for many, but they are determined. A major deterrent is money, since high school and college fees, including room and board, are generally paid by family. These young men and women have no family support, and so often do not have the opportunity to pursue education. The political climate in Romania is constantly in flux concerning the orphaned children. NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children) is intent on supporting the needs of these children in Tulcea County. Palo Duro Presbytery supports these efforts through many individuals, including a missionary from Abilene. NOROC also hires "Big-hearted Grannies," who are retired Romanians, to go to the orphanages and be with the younger children to encourage, stimulate and nurture them. They work on a daily basis with the children to foster healthy development.

There is always more need than time or money allows. These children are casualties of an oppressive, abusive history. Our efforts seem small in light of the enormous need, but each life that is touched is blessed. The work and the need continue as each child is encouraged to meet his or her potential. Each of us returned changed. The phrase, "the Christ in me greets the Christ in you" has never seemed so real to me.

## Memoir of Palo Duro Presbytery Summer Youth Camp 2006

By Rev. Janice Six

I've spent three weeks of during June with 142 children and teens plus 8 college students and 11 others who are best described as young at heart. Our time together at Buffalo Gap was a reunion for many who come year after year and a "welcome" for several who were first-timers.

As I recover from the heat, and tackle the mountain of requisition forms and reports associated with a camp season, I look back over the past few weeks with gratitude. Once again, God faithfully wove us together as family in a setting that lacks the comforts of home, yet offers in exchange, the beauty of creation. Worship at Trinity Tree is unrivaled. Watching little boys and girls chase lightning bugs, and older campers marvel at the canopy of stars that never shine as brightly in town as they do at Buffalo Gap, are some of the simple joys of serving through the camp ministry. I give



Worship at Trinity Tree

thanks for the opportunity to be so involved with the camping ministry of Palo Duro Presbytery and for the up-close view it offers of young adults, youth, and children as they grow more aware of the relationship to God and the gift of community extended through Jesus Christ.

As much as I enjoy watching the campers, I am blessed beyond measure by the college students and high school students who "run" the camp. I commented to one of our new "older adult" staff members this year that those of us who are older serve as the guard rails at camp. We hang along the edges and are there for safety and guidance, but it is the young counselors and Counselors-in-Training who run the camp. Watching them take charge, plan and lead activities and counsel homesick campers is awesome! Buffalo Gap Summer Camp is God's OJT for the next generation of leaders within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Obviously, God has other training grounds around the world, but I can vouch for what is taking place at Buffalo Gap each summer, and it is good ... very good!



Taking it easy in the shade!



# PRESBYTERY OF THE PINES



419 West Louisiana • Ruston, LA 71270 • Telephone (318) 255-6177

Nancy Bergeron, *Editor*

## Youth Attend Leadership Conference

Twenty-nine young people, and their sponsors from two Pines congregations attended the Tri-Regional Youth Leadership Development Conference hosted by the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (PCUSA) in July. Young people from Hollywood Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA (group pictured right) and Holmes Chapel Presbyterian Church, Monticello, AR spent four days on the campus of Touglao College, Tougaloo, Mississippi in an uplifting experience of Christian fellowship, worship, education, and leadership development.



**Hollywood Church delegation included left to right (back row): Rev. David Jones, Sha Terrica Leary, Allison Mitchell, Alexis Kochinsky, Raven White, Monisha Mack, Carlton Jenkins, Cecil Clinton, Roman Mack. (center row) Laptorscha Richardson, Tarynn Tigue, Courtney Dillard, Evan Mack, Ella Bradford, Janice Henderson. (front row) Sarah Jones, Takila Rugley, Carol Mitchell, Keyuna Tasby, Andre Love, Frank Tasby. (not pictured) Christina Jones and Calvin McCain.**

The conference offered opportunities to learn about their Presbyterian heritage, motivation to serve God, and develop friendships through Christian networks, as well as providing a platform of self-expression and exhibiting their own God-given talents.

## Commissioned Lay Pastor Classes Begin this Fall

Classes for Commissioned Lay Pastors and Certified Pulpit Supplies are scheduled to begin this fall according to Rev. Dianne Brown, co-

ordinator. A newly designed intensive program will allow applicants to complete their studies in one year. Three candidates are enrolled for the fall classes. Instructors are Rev. Allison Moody, Rev. Dianne Brown, Mrs. Edith Hill and Revs. Dan and Kathleen Hignight.

## Synod Associate Keynote Speaker at School of the Pines



The Rev. Lemuel García-Arroyo, will give the keynote address at the opening session of School of the Pines, August 12th at First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, LA. In addition, he will present a basic introduction to multicultural ministries in the Presbyterian Church during a morning workshop session.

A fourth generation Presbyterian and a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Lemuel became ordained in 1996 at the Presbyterian Pan American School (one of the seven racial ethnic schools of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) in Kingsville, Texas where he served as chaplain and Bible instructor.

He currently serves as the Associate Executive for Multicultural Ministries of the Synod of the Sun. He is also a member of the Hispanic Advisory Committee to the office of Hispanic Congregational Enhancement and a former member of the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC) of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

From his formative years in Mexico, his experience in seminary, and his ministry at both the Pan American School and the Synod of the Sun he has developed a strong commitment to continue learning from and sharing the stories of faith, traditions and cultures that the various members of the body of Christ bring to the household of God.

His vision for the church is that we may truly become one in Christ even as we celebrate and rejoice in our great diversity which is God's blessing to all peoples.

## Carthage Church Celebrates 100 Years

Sunday, September 3rd, members and friends of Carthage Presbyterian Church are invited to join in commemorating their centennial. There will be worship at 9:30 am followed by lunch, and an all afternoon gospel singing.



The church was organized as the result of a 10-day revival led by Rev. Thomas C. Johnson in September 1906, and parts of the original building erected in 1907 remain in use today. You can find more of the history of the Carthage congregation on the Presbytery's website at [pinespb.org/congregations](http://pinespb.org/congregations).

## Youthang '06

The Youth Ministry Mission Team is calling youth around the Presbytery to join in our own version of "The Amazing Race" at Camp Alabama, September 15-17. The Presbytery Youth Council is meeting in August to put the final program plans in place for a weekend of praise, worship, fellowship, and fun!

Middle schoolers and junior highs can look forward to developing tools to guide them on their faith journey. There will be a wonderful variety of activities to nurture their faith and connect with other Presbyterian youth, as well as time for swimming, canoeing, crafts, games, a bonfire and talent show.

## Louisiana Interchurch Conference Calls for Prayer Services

The Louisiana Interchurch Conference invites all congregations to hold observances around the first year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, August 29th:

In remembrance of the past

In efforts to deal with the continuing aftermath

In hopes for the future

## Presbyter Calendar



### August

- 12 School of the Pines—First Church, Monroe, LA
- 19 Presbytery Council—Presbytery Office
- Committee on Ministry—Presbytery Office

### September

- 8-9 84th Presbytery Stated Meeting—Camp Alabama
- 15-17 Youthang—Camp Alabama



# Presbytery of South Louisiana

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

August/September

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

12909 Old Hammond Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
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## Canal Street Presbyterian Church, New Orleans Sends Message of Hope After Storm Damage



Canal Street Presbyterian Church, New Orleans



Canal Street Kitchen Shower Pictures



As guests look over the rubble outside **Canal Street Presbyterian Church**, inside Presbyterian Women of South Louisiana participated in a Kitchen Shower to restock the kitchen. Presbyterian Women from all over South Louisiana brought gifts and donations to the Kitchen Shower.

Canal Street is one of the Presbyterian churches in the New Orleans area who are supporting rebuilding and renovating the community, as they tend to their own church renovations. A Community Gathering took place at 7pm, July 5<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary. Jerry Conrad answered questions on the rebuilding process. Information was available on dealing with Post-Katrina (and new hurricane season) anxiety & stress.

Many of the Presbytery of South

Louisiana Churches are receiving help from all over the United States and also from other countries.

Three summer interns from First Presbyterian, Boulder College Ministry, CO, were at Canal Street in June and July to help on gutted houses; nail removal, sweeping, moving, window washing, light maintenance, gardening, or street clean up. They were housed at Woodland Presbyterian Church, New Orleans. They also helped follow up on homes that had been addressed/gutted by teams earlier this year.

**Parkway Presbyterian Church, Metairie, LA** has a new P. D. A. Coordinator, Allie Quinn. Allie has been very busy during her first few weeks at Parkway.

Twelve volunteers from Midway Parish in North Dakota stayed at Park-

way from May 30 to June 5. They spent two days assisting with cleanup and preparation for Terrytown Elementary School's move. Also, they spent one day gutting a house and cleaning up a yard in New Orleans East.

On June 19 through June 23, Parkway hosted thirteen volunteers from Central Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Nebraska. They spent three days cleaning out and gutting a house in New Orleans East, one day gutting a house in Lakeview, and one day assisting in ministry with Operation Blessing at Victory Fellowship.

A group from Oxford Presbyterian Church in Oxford, Ohio, visited after a week of work with Habitat for Humanity in Meridian, MS. They stayed at Parkway on June 10

and joined Worship on June 11.

A Senior High Youth Group from Central Presbyterian Church of Omaha, Nebraska, was hosted by Parkway the week of June 19-23.

**Jefferson Presbyterian Church, Jefferson, LA** welcomed the Boy Scout Venture Crew 1812 from Monroe, Wisconsin on June 9th. They worked at Common Ground and gutted houses.

A crew of 12 volunteers from Bon Air Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia stayed from June 18 to June 23rd, and helped with Katrina cleanup.

On July 16th a group arrived from Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX. They helped with gutting and rebuilding and returned home July 22.

(Please contact the Presbytery Office with info. on recovery efforts at your church.)



### Presbyterian Women "Churchwide Coordinating Team"

August 20-26<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, learn from the CCT will assemble in New Orleans and participate in the RHINO Project (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans) which is housed in the St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church. This will be both educational and work related. We will tour the areas affected by Katrina

thirty women about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's role in rendering aid, work with Habitat for Humanity in rebuilding homes in New Orleans, and hear speakers concerning this disaster.

Judith Foreman, Synod of the Sun CCT Representative

### Vacation Bible School

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, LA, held one of the first 2006 Vacation Bible School Programs in Lafayette. It was staffed by experienced adult teachers, as well as enthusiastic teenagers. This half-day program featured: Music, Bible Stories, Crafts and Snacks. Each days activities were reviewed in Closing Exercises.

The mission was to collect paper products to supply the local Women and Children's Shelter. This Christian out-reach was so graciously accepted and appreciated by the Shelter. This was one of the best Vacation Bible Schools that Trinity has ever had in its twenty-five years of witnessing in our community.





# Tres Rios Presbytery

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## Remembering Nelson Erwin

Nelson Erwin died on June 15, 2006 while attending the 217<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly where he was serving as Commissioner for Tres Rios Presbytery. Nelson served as a Commissioned Lay Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in San Angelo and was actively serving on the Presbytery Committee on Ministry when he died. Funeral services were held on June 20<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church. Nelson touched the lives of everyone he met. Below are some special memories from members of the presbytery.

I want to share a word about my friend Nelson Erwin who died of a heart attack while serving the church. When I came under care of Tres Rios Presbytery, Nelson was at that Presbytery meeting in 1979. When I came home to serve as pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in El Paso, Nelson was there. When I had my surgery Nelson was the first person to send me a card. I had thought of calling him and thanking him for that get well card, but I thought I will see him at the G A and I will give him a big hug and say thanks. But I didn't get to see him before he died. He was always so loving and caring and interested in what I was doing. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to have known Nelson for all these years. I commend him to God's care and keeping.

Patty Lane , Presbytery Stated Clerk

Those of us who attending 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama never imagined that the theme of the Assembly will be affirmed by one beloved man of God who dedicated his life to serve the Presbyterian Church. Nelson Erwin said good-bye to his friends and family to take his place among the "Great Cloud of Witnesses", the members of the invisible church of our Lord Jesus Christ. His seat was empty in Birmingham because the Lord called him to take his eternal seat in the Kingdom of God.

Jose Luis Casal, General Missioner



On a personal note I want to say how honored I was to be a commissioner side by side with our YAD, Kyle Connelly, from Big Spring. I also want to say how privileged I was and how grateful, too, to spend the first day of the Assembly with my fellow commissioner, Nelson Erwin. We walked through the various parts of the orientation together. Nelson spent his last day among us serving the church of Jesus Christ with great joy. May it be so for you and for me!

Cheryl Homsher  
Clergy Commissioner

It is with great sorrow that I write to you on the occasion of Nelson's passing. But, my heart is also full of joy. I thank the Lord for the years I was privileged to serve with Nelson on that staff. His presence and help were such a gift to me.

Many things stay in my mind about Nelson Erwin. The first is the kindness with which he received me to San Angelo. I was so green, new to West Texas, new to ordained ministry. I was thick headed at times, impatient, and idealistic. Yet Nelson took me under his wing, never judged me, encouraged me and served by my side. He treated this younger, inexperienced pastor with honor, and with the love of the Lord. I would not be where I am today without his love, patience, and support.

Secondly, I learned how to do pastoral visitation with Nelson. I was able to watch the importance he placed on meeting people in their homes, the solemnity with which he administered the sacrament and the love and respect he showed to all who were ill or homebound. I continue to imitate him in all my pastoral care activities.

Third, Nelson and I both loved our dogs. Our canine children held such special places in our hearts that we talked about them often. We shared many stories of how smart and funny our pets were, and how God used them as a means of grace to us. Our love for our dogs created a bond between us.

And lastly, I so admire the commitment with which Nelson served the church of Jesus Christ. I never heard him complain. I saw him take on difficult tasks with joy and purpose. He accomplished so much for the kingdom of God, sometimes without any tangible, earthly reward. I spoke to Nelson the Sunday evening before he died, and he was so excited about going to General Assembly. His motivation for all he did was his love for Christ and his love for the church.

Now he has received his reward. I can clearly hear the Lord saying to him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." I look forward to that day when Nelson and I will again sit around the table of the Lord together. Until then, know that I grieve with you at this great loss and you remain in my thoughts and prayers.

In Christ,  
Rev. Tracey Davenport, proud to be a friend of Nelson Erwin.

# Tres Rios Presbytery Commissioner Dies at General Assembly

by Shane Whisler

BIRMINGHAM, AL— Elder Commissioner Nelson L. Erwin of San Angelo, TX, died June 15 of an apparent heart attack in an elevator on his way to the evening business meeting of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Erwin, 74, was found unconscious in an elevator. Emergency medical technicians transported him to nearby Carraway Methodist Medical Center where a doctor pronounced his death about an hour later, according to his pastor and general presbyter who were present.

“Nelson died quickly doing what he loved most,” said the Rev. Ron Sutto, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, San Angelo, TX, in Tres Rios Presbytery. Sutto said he was thrilled to be a commissioner to General Assembly for the second time in 25 years.

Earlier that day, Erwin told fellow members

of the Bills and Overtures Committee how happy he was doing church work. Jill Hudson, resource staff for the committee, said Youth Advisory Delegate Anne Thielke quoted something Erwin said on Thursday:

“I don’t hunt and I don’t fish. My service to the church is the closest thing I’ve ever had to a hobby.

But if I were to die tomorrow, I would die happy because I’ve had the opportunity to serve the Lord.”


*Complete obituaries and more General Assembly news and photos of Synod of the Sun Presbyterians are posted on [synodsun.com](http://synodsun.com). Please click “The Presbyterian SUN” icon for the news site.*



**Nelson Erwin**

**The Rev. Dr. Paul B. Brown**, 72, retired professor at Memphis Theological Seminary and a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, died May 29 from injuries received in an automobile accident in Jonesboro, AR, on May 21. He was enroute to First Presbyterian, Paragould, AR, a PC(USA) congregation where he was serving as pulpit supply.

**Bernard R. Wagner**, Ph.D., 66, who served 18 years as President of Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries Inc. headquartered in Bossier City, LA, died July 4, after a courageous battle with cancer. He retired as President Emeritus. He was nationally honored for his extensive work in programs and education for developmentally disabled persons.



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