



Welcome!

TO THE E-NEWSLETTER OF

THE PRESBYTERY OF TAMPA BAY

A publication of events in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.,
the Synod of South Atlantic and the Presbytery of Tampa Bay

Vol. 6, No. 12 ~ December, 2009

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[We are the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.](#)

Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting

Thursday December 3, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Northwood Presbyterian Church,
Clearwater, Florida**

Registration and fellowship begin at 8:30 a.m. Northwood is located at 2875 SR 580 in Clearwater. Child care is available by calling the church office **no later than Monday November 30. 727-796-8090.** Lunch tickets are \$7.00 and will be sold during registration. Checks should be made to Northwood Presbyterian Church. ***Attendance at meetings of Presbytery is expected.*** If you need to be excused, please call the office, 813-868-4800 and speak to [Carol Walker](#) or [Gerry Tyer](#). Packets for the meeting will be emailed to *churches and pastors only*. If you are an elder commissioner, please check with your church office or pastor and have them print a copy. *Additional printed agendas are not brought to the meeting.*

We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Dr. Danny



**Murphy, Associate
Presbyter for Mission,
Congregational
Development and
Evangelism as our
Keynote Speaker.**

As the Associate General Presbyter for Mission, Congregational Development and Evangelism, Danny's job is to encourage "All those things we DO after we say WE BELIEVE". Thus, he works with Committees, Divisions and Congregations in the areas of Local, National and Global Mission, Environmental and Justice Issues, New Church Development, Congregational Transformation and Evangelism. He works with congregations to interpret their mission and help them in ways to spread the Gospel. He has also led workshops on many topics geared toward congregational transformation, evangelism, effective time management and many others. He is a leader in the African American Middle Governing Body Association for the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Super Saturday for Leadership – January 23, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland

Focus for Super Saturday for Church Leaders: Church Growth, New Ways to Do More With Less



The annual Super Saturday for Church Leaders will be January 23, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland. It will be a joint gathering of those attending the Leadership conference, and also of the pastors and teams from churches taking part in the REACH initiative – “Reaching New Disciples for Christ!”

Rev. Kelly Fryer will be the keynote speaker for the combined group. She will then spend the rest of the day with the REACH members, while everyone else attends the leadership workshops. Rev. Fryer has served as a parish pastor, written a number of books on evangelism and church growth, and now is a partner in A.R.E. – “A Renewal Experience.” This year’s workshops include the basics needed for church leaders, but also new workshops in response to our changing world. The topics include but are not limited to:

Doing More Ministry With Less Money	Dealing With Change
New Computer Educational Technology	Clerk of Session
Being a New Elder	Personnel Committees
Communion Training	Developing More Income
Starting/Re-vitalizing Senior Adult Ministry	Spiritual Development Issues
Basics for Church Treasurers and Secretaries	Praying in Public
Ideas for Reaching Out to the Community	I Found it on the Web so it Must be OK...Right?

A brochure with the full listings of workshops and other details will be e-mailed next week, and then also sent by U.S. Mail and passed out at the December

3 Presbytery meeting. The brochure will also be linked to the Presbytery website as soon as it is available.

Contact [Carol Walker](#) at the Presbytery Office with specific questions.

News Flash!

[Committee On Ministry Update and Prayer List](#)

[Great Happenings at Cedarkirk Free!](#)
[Advent Devotional Calendars](#)
[Save the Dates!](#)

Committee on Ministry Update:

Approved Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl as Pastor of the Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church of Temple Terrace, Florida effective November 1, 2009.

Approved Rev. Scott Moncrieff as Parish Associate of the First Presbyterian Church of Haines City, Florida beginning July 21, 2009 until July 20, 2010. COM received Rev. Moncrieff as a member of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay upon dismissal from Peace River Presbytery.

Approved the following Commission to Ordain and Install Andrew Beery on October 11, 2009 at 2:30 P.M. as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Brooksville, Florida: Moderator Elder Helen Huntley, Rev. Philip Hollings, Rev. Carl Crawford, Elder Chuck Wilson of First Presbyterian Church in Brooksville, Elder David DeMersseman of Trinity Presbyterian Church in New Port Richey, and Elder Kathie Schellhaas of Pasadena Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg.

Received the report of the Commission to Install Rev. Jeffrey Guild as Designated Pastor of the Bayshore Presbyterian Church of Tampa, Florida on September 13, 2009; and the Commission to Install Rev. Gail Zoya as Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, Florida also on September 13, 2009.

Approved Rev. William Cowfer as Parish Associate of the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church of Clearwater, Florida beginning September 29, 2009 through September 28, 2010.

Received a Triennial Visit report from the following churches: Parsons Memorial Presbyterian Church of Yankeetown, Florida; St. John and John Calvin Presbyterian Churches of Tampa, Florida; Faith Presbyterian Church of Seminole, Florida; and Korean Presbyterian Church of Tampa, Florida.

Each week your Presbytery Staff prays for our churches, their staff, our General Assembly, for those celebrating birthdays in the coming week, and anyone who has asked for prayer. Each month we will share with you the churches we are praying for and invite you to join this ministry of prayer for each other. During November we are praying for:

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church - Clearwater
Trinity Presbyterian Church - Clearwater
First Presbyterian Church - Crystal River
First Presbyterian Church - Dade City
First Presbyterian Church - Dunedin
St Andrews Presbyterian Church - Dunedin
First Presbyterian Church of Ft Meade
Gulfport Presbyterian Church – Gulfport

Fall Events at Cedarkirk



Christmas International House

Ever wonder where international college students spend their Christmas vacation? Some have traveled

half way around the world for the opportunity to study in our country and cannot afford to return home. This year Cedarkirk will be hosting fourteen students from countries as far away as Russia, China and Thailand. While here at Cedarkirk, these students will be treated to a variety of camp activities by the staff and also a trip to the beach and some of our Florida theme parks. During the five days surrounding Christmas, families within our Presbytery will have the privilege to invite one or two of these students to stay in their home and share their Christmas holiday with them. Life-long friendships between the student and the host family have been made through this program. In addition to a ministry of hospitality, it has been an excellent way to share our Christian beliefs and customs with someone from another culture and religion. There can be no better way as a component of peacemaking than to bring about a friendship with a stranger from another part of the world. It is a life changing experience for both the host and the guest.

This is a ministry that many of our churches have supported in the past. For additional information about the program or if you would like to volunteer to be a host family this Christmas, please contact Mark Orendorf at Cedarkirk: 813-685-4224 or by e-mail: mark@cedarkirk.com.

The Inn Door

Metropolitan Ministries is an inner-city ministry providing shelter for homeless families in Tampa. Cedarkirk began a program some years ago by hosting several families chosen by Metropolitan Ministries for a three day respite. This is a time for rest, family fun, Bible study, and personal reflection. For these selected families, this event has been a high point over the holidays, providing an opportunity for them to be together as a family since the communal shelter has limited time and space for privacy. While at Cedarkirk they enjoy camp activities, quiet places to walk, nature, and can celebrate Christmas fellowship in a unique place. Accompanying the guests while at Cedarkirk will be staff members from Metropolitan Ministries. Additional volunteer assistance is needed. Come share some of the holiday spirit with those who are without a home this Christmas. This is an opportunity to assist with the weekend camp activities for a unique mission ministry. If you would like to assist with this event in any way, please contact Mark Orendorf at Cedarkirk: 813-685-4224 or by e-mail: mark@cedarkirk.com.

Summer Camp At Christmas! All children in 3rd through 12th grades are invited to come for a summer camp weekend December 18-20 at Cedarkirk. Two programs - Junior Retreat (3rd-5th graders) and a Mid & Senior High Retreat (6th-12th graders). Come enjoy all the great fun stuff from the summer with a unique holiday twist. Summer camp staff from the past few seasons will join you and your accommodations will be heated. \$50 deposit will hold your spot - visit Cedarkirk on the web to get registration information. www.cedarkirk.org Scholarships are available - contact Karin Dale - 813-685-4224.

Kairos Retreat (High School or Young Adult) Open Dates

Kairos, or "special time with God", is a retreat focusing on traditional spiritual disciplines and developing ways to enhance one's devotional life. This weekend is committed to exploring and expressing faith through art, lectio divina, play,

guided meditation, silence, prayer, and song; just to name a few options. These retreats are intentionally designed for small groups. It is for this reason we are keeping an open calendar for individual youth or young adult groups to book a private retreat. Come join us for the sole purpose of devoting time to God in a way that is counter to today's fast-paced, highly-stimulated culture. Please call or e-mail to customize your event. Cost, lodging, and program will vary according to your needs.

Confirmation Retreats - a great way to build relationships and connect with other youth in confirmation. March 5—7 or March 12—14, 2010.

For the above listed events or any other questions, please don't hesitate to call 813.685.4224 or check our website at www.cedarkirk.org. Download the Registration form for these events [here](#).

For registration information on any of these events, please contact Karin Dale at Cedarkirk - 813-685-4224 or by [email](#).

Westminster Church in New Port Richey has 14 pews, in good condition, each of which seats 6 persons. They also have around 150 Presbyterian Hymnals, never been used. Also available are tables that can seat 6-8 people. For information, please contact the Rev. Paul Richards, 727-849-4905. Cost: your time and effort to come gather what you need!

Ye Olde Christmas Madrigal Feaste - Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clearwater, Thursday - Saturday December 3-5 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased by calling the church office - 727-446-6210. Come enjoy this Holiday Dinner Theater.

The Justice and Peacemaking Committee of the Presbytery would like to thank the following congregations for participating in the 2008 Peacemaking Offering:

St. Andrew of New Tampa	Hope, Clearwater
FPC, Auburndale	FPC, Crystal River
Church on the Bayou	Parsons Memorial
FPC, Brandon	Westminster, Lakeland
McLeod	Trinity, Clearwater
Bethel, Clearwater	St. Andrews, Dunedin
Peace Memorial l,	Gulfport

FPC, Dunedin	FPC, St. Petersburg
FPC, Fort Meade	Seffner
Tims Memorial	Faith, Seminole
Lakeview, St. Petersburg	Palma Ceia
Woodlawn	FPC, Zephyrhills
Pasadena	Northwood
Bel Mar	Maximo
Temple Terrace	St. Andrew, Sun City Center
Village	Bayshore
Good Samaritan	

In 2009 your contributions provided grant money which supported:

- * Sending 23 youth from Metropolitan Ministries to summer camp at Cedarkirk for a week
- * Mosswood Center for Spiritual Life to aid them in their mission of developing and implementing interfaith programs for Central Florida
- * surgery to a boy from Haiti with congenital ptosis
- * Transfiguration Faith Community to help sponsor a "Caring for Creation" event

Presbyterian Women Events: Please put the following on your calendar: **Annual Gathering**, Saturday, February 20, 2010, at St. Andrew, Sun City Center, and our **Spring Retreat** with Peace River Presbytery April 26-28, 2010, at DaySpring Conference Center, Ellenton. All women are invited. Your church PW Moderator or contact person will have more information soon.

Advent Devotional Calendars are available from Presbyterian Distribution Service. Bonus! Order 10 or more and the price is cut in half. 1-9 is \$3.00; 10-99 is \$1.50 and 100 or more is \$1.25. Call 1-800-524-2612 or visit www.pcusa.org/marketplace.

The National Association of Church Business Administration (NACBA) is expanding its territory and accepting new members for 2010 -- and so is the local Sunshine Chapter. We are an organization that focuses on educating men and women in the administrative ministry of church life...folks like business administrators, business managers, controllers, bookkeepers; also, those doing facility oversight relative to any exterior needs or infrastructure (technology, etc).

Here in the Tampa Bay area, the NACBA Chapter meets 8-9 times annually at a business meeting that offers a special speaker and connections with local

vendors to build relationships. Lunch is included. CEU workshops are offered periodically for those who are seeking recertification. Our next gathering: January 21 at Christ Community Church, Himes Ave., Tampa.

Annual National dues: \$150 Chapter dues: \$50
Contact Cheryl Valdebenito, FCBA for more information: 813-868-4800 x11 or Cheryl@pbty.com
Much more information is available on the web: <http://nacba.net/>

Please let your members know of the Presbytery's newsletter. Anyone with access to email can sign up for our monthly e-news. They just need to send an email to newsletter@pbty.com requesting inclusion and we'll add them. Please also keep us up to date on your email address. If you change yours, please let us know so we can change our list also. For those who have members who do not have or want email access, we include a link for a printable pdf --please print and copy for them to read.

Newsletters Please. Presbyterians are connectional people and your presbytery wants to know what great things are happening in your congregation. Please be sure to add us to your newsletter mailing list. Our surface mail address is 4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, FL 33615. Email newsletters to newsletter@pbty.com. We will include events of interest to all, *if we get them well in advance*. The newsletter deadline is the second Monday each month. December 14 is our next deadline. Articles can be sent in word or email format. Clip art is also welcome, please contact us - we have a large library already and may have what you want!

Save The Dates!

Coming to Cedarkirk:

Challenge to Change - The perfect mission trip program for youth groups. - Year-round



Vacation Bible School Preview Party! Saturday January 9, 2010, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Resource Center. Cokesbury will be here with many different options for your summer vacation Bible school

curriculum. Enjoy refreshments, fellowship and browsing.

APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) annual meeting will be January 27-30, 2010 in Nashville, Tennessee. We have an offer of transportation by church bus for any from our Presbytery planning to go. Hotel and event registration can be made on-line - www.apcenet.org. Register on-line NOW to secure your place in the best room and classes. **Early-bird deadline is November 30!** After that fees are \$50 higher.

Super Saturday for Leadership (see related article) is Saturday January 23, First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland.

Late Winter Stated Meeting of Presbytery will be Saturday February 27 at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Hudson, FL



Resourceful Ideas

Be a Hero! Make a Difference! Volunteers are needed to help in the Resource Center. If you can give time for a great cause - an hour a week or a month, we can use your help! Our collection is growing as is our usage and having reliable volunteers is important. Even if you only have a few hours each month, we have simple jobs you can do. Being comfortable with simple computer tasks is important and we will train you. Please contact [Leslee](#) at the Resource Center for more information.

Big THANK YOU to Gary Thomas from our Clearwater Cokesbury store. Recently the store was doing some reorganizing and offered the Resource Center a chart display case. Now we have a great new way to display some of our larger items that were buried on a shelf before. Gary also donates outdated curriculum to us for use or to give away. Be sure to thank the staff at the store next time you stop in.

New! New! New!

The winter quarter of **We Believe, Wee Believe, FAQ and Faith Questions** is here for review. If you are

interested in a Lectionary based curriculum we have Living the Good News and Spark. Spark also has non-lectionary and rotation style curriculum available. Let us help you plan an excellent Christian Education program.

The Discipleship Resource Center has partnered with the Synod of Florida/Bahamas to offer the best resources for all our churches. Now available is the complete DVD series of Questions of Faith. If you don't find what you need in our Webrary, contact Leslee and she'll see if our Lutheran partner has the resource.

It's that time of year! Time to renew your annual membership in the Resource Center. We're holding our fees to current levels. Bonus - if you bring a non-Presbyterian educator to the center and she or he decides to become a member, you will save 10%!

Just in time for the end of the fiscal year - **The Essential Guide to Church Finances**. This is the most authoritative and accessible guide for those with responsibility for handling money in churches. IRS regulations change every year and handling God's money is important and must be done with integrity. This guide can help.

Take It Home - is a new resource to help parents spiritually transform their children. Parents are the most important faith educators of their children, yet often feel inadequate to the task. Also included are DVD messages for pastors and education leaders. If you are looking to equip parents to help their children grow in faith, this is a resource worth reviewing for your needs!

Zowie! 200+ Ministries Kids Can Do enables Christian Educators to engage children in service and mission and thus nurture spiritual growth. Short term, one time, long term ideas. Resource suggestions, recipes and reproducible handouts make this a great and easy to use book for helping children understand the importance of mission.

Here's a great gift idea for the children in your life. *The Little Christian* is a publication of the ELCA for children younger than 6. A subscription is a great way for parents to share the faith and help them learn that God loves them and that Jesus is their friend and savior. Stories, songs, prayers, activities and suggestions for family faith discussions also. Visit

www.thelittlechristian.org for subscription information.

Looking for websites to help with Bible study?

There are many out there, but not all are helpful or accurate or compatible with Reformed Theology. *Enter the Bible* is hosted by Luther Theological Seminary (ELCA) and can add depth to your Bible study. Discover people, places and events of the Bible not found on other sites. Visit www.luthersem.edu/enterthebible.

Sue Moore, Certified Educator and Secretary for APCE, has an article in the most recent *Advocate* - the quarterly journal of APCE. All members of APCE receive this publication and your Resource Center has extra copies. Sue does a great job on 'Crunching the Budget - tough on the dentures.' Christian Education is often the first program area in a church that experiences cuts due to lack of funds and Sue offers some insightful counsel for CE and Budget Committees as they seek to be faithful stewards.

The Thoughtful Christian always has great new studies. www.thethoughtfulchristian.com. Recently, House Democrats unveiled a controversial, \$894 billion health-care bill. This is the latest update in this year's health-care debate. In order to keep on top of this monumental discussion, we're releasing our third study on health-care reform titled "*Health-Care Reform: What's in the Way?*" If you haven't already used our previous two studies we suggest studying them in the following order:

- *Health-Care Reform*. This three-session study examines the history of health-care delivery in the U.S. and the current challenges and efforts of health-care reform.
- *Health-Care Reform: The Moment Is Now!* This one-session "In the News" study looks at the three basic models of health-care reform being debated.
- *Health-Care Reform: What's in the Way?* This one-session "In the News" study looks at the five major obstacles lawmakers face regarding health-care reform.

Studies are available individually or through an annual subscription. Visit The Thoughtful Christian website for more information or to download.

Explore these and other resources on the web - www.presbyteryoftampabay.com. You can click on [Webrary](#) (Webrary is our on-line, searchable catalog!) on the right hand side.

Do you need help with teacher training? Choosing curriculum? Need ideas for adult classes? We can help! Leslee Kirkconnell is a Certified Christian Educator and will lead workshops based on your need. She can also consult with your Education (or Stewardship or Worship or....) Committee as you plan and dream and hope. [Contact us!](#)

There's always more to our story than we can include here. **Come visit** the Resource Center and let us help you with your ministry. Remember our **hours have changed**. We're here to serve you Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. You can also call or email your questions/requests and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

You are the **RIESEN** we are here - **Resourceful Ideas Enabling Service Education & Nurture!** Contact Leslee Kirkconnell or Carol Walker at tampaprc@ppty.com or call 813-868-4800.

Serving Together in Mission

[Souper Bowl - Register NOW!](#)
[YAV in Africa](#)

Presbyterian Women's Gift Repaid - in 1956 Presbyterian Women gave \$208,577 to the hospital founded by Presbyterian Missionaries in Osaka, Japan. In 2009 the Yodogawa Christian Hospital gave the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. \$208,577 to be used for mission in Asia. Medical mission work began there in 1955 with the opening of the Yodogawa Christian Clinic. Today this hospital is one of the primary medical facilities in Osaka. The hospital was the recipient of God's love and now believes it is their mission to pass on that love to other Asian countries. A new facility for the hospital is being planning and will include a cathedral-like chapel.

The Society of St. Andrew has begun the fall/winter gleaning season. If your group is interested in helping glean produce that is given to food pantries and other need organizations, email Barbara Sayles at sosafl@endhunger.org. Even one afternoon can have a huge impact! **Save the date** - Saturday January 9 is Presbyterian Day in the Grove at Umatilla, FL (near Ocala). Read their newsletter [here](#). Also the Society publishes an **Advent Devotional Guide** that you can order for free! Visit www.endhunger.org or click [here](#) for the flyer.

Souper Bowl '10 is Sunday February 7. This is a wonderful way to share God's love with hungry people in our community and an excellent and easy mission project for youth groups (although any group in the church can do it!). Simply ask your congregation to donate at least \$1 per person as they



leave worship that day. Collect canned goods also and donate it all to a local mission that provides food/nutrition support to needy folks in the

community. To measure our collective impact, register your intent with the Souper Bowl organizers and report your totals to them. www.souperbowl.org has wealth of information and free resources to help you understand and promote this offering. A fun and tasty way to support this is to have church members make pots of their favorite soup and bring to church for a soup lunch. Everyone can try different soups (use a coffee mug!) and then donates the cost of the meal toward the offering. The best thing about this offering is 100% of the money raised goes directly to the people in need.

A Georgia minister who recently spent a year in Kenya as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) was interviewed by CNN recently. The Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather told CNN that his faith was strengthened by seeing African Christians tackle the pressing problems facing the continent "It's important to know that in the midst of the tragedy there's a whole lot of hope," he said. "There are a number people that are doing amazing works for God there and engaging in these issues and that's encouraging." Smith-Mather served with his wife, Nancy. [Watch the interview.](#)

We are the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

[Board of Pensions Webinar](#)
[New PCUSA Website Just for Kids](#)
[\(Vice\) Moderator's Letter](#)
[Great Continuing Education Opportunities](#)

From the Washington Office of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.: General Assembly Guidance on Healthcare Reform: (now that a bill has passed the House of Representatives)

In 2002, the General Assembly approved "Advocacy on Behalf of the Uninsured," in which it:

- Reaffirm[ed] the church's commitment to advocacy for a national medical plan.
- Encourage[d] presbyteries, sessions, and the

members of congregations to be advocates for universal health care and to support advocacy efforts in their local communities to bring public and private entities together in this effort.



- Encourage[d] members of Congress to recognize the importance of universal health care - that is, equal, accessible, affordable, and high-quality health care for all persons residing in our nation.

In 2008, the 218th General Assembly:

- Endorse[d] in principle the provision of single-payer universal health care reform in which health care services are privately provided and publicly financed.
- Direct[ed] the General Assembly Council, through appropriate offices including the National Health Ministries, the Washington Office, and the Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association (PHEWA), to advocate for, educate about, and otherwise pursue the goal of obtaining legislation that enacts single-payer, universal national health insurance as the program that best responds to the moral imperative of the gospel; monitoring progress toward this goal and reporting back to the next two General Assemblies (2010 and 2012).

Action

Contact your members of Congress urge them to support health care reform that includes a comprehensive public option that is available on day one and in all states. Ask them to:

- guarantee that citizens in all states have an opportunity to participate (no opt-out);
- that the public option is available on day one (no triggers),
- include more substantial mechanisms for controlling the cost of premiums,
- support Representative Kucinich's single-payer amendment to be offered as a Manager's Amendment to H.R. 3962.

Please surround this process in prayer as it is clear that *something* must be done to ease the health care crisis facing so many.

The Board of Pensions is sponsoring a Webinar on tax tips for ministers and churches. Register early as space is limited. Deadline is November 20. Contact Jennifer L. Furjanic, (215) 587-7213. The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is encouraging early registration for its free **Tax Tips Webinar for Ministers and Churches**, scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on December 9. *You can view at the Presbytery office! RSVP to Cheryl once you register.* cheryl@pbtty.com

Ministers and churches that want to learn about clergy taxes should join the Board for this annual online event. This year's Webinar will feature renowned clergy and church tax expert Richard R. Hammar, J.D., LL.M., CPA, who will discuss:

- recent tax law changes that will affect ministers and churches
- the expenses that are and are not deductible
- a ten-step, year-end checklist
- how lending money to a minister could put a church's tax-exempt status at risk

You also can submit your tax questions when you register.

Register today by phone at (800) 355-4487 or online by visiting the Educational Resources section of the Board of Pensions site.

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/bop09001.htm>

Check out the new website just for Presbyterian Kids! www.presbykids4kids.org is designed for children ages 8-11 to learn about children around the world and to find out how they can advocate and act on behalf of other children. There are sections for parents and teachers, with suggestions for mission involvement and practical tools to help children learn skills for life. Be sure to check it out and visit it with the children in your life.

A monthly column for the PC(USA) by the GA moderator, this month written by the vice-moderator

The Rev. Byron A. Wade - Vice-moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008)

Over the past sixteen months, I have had the pleasure of serving as vice-moderator of the 218th (2008) General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is a great honor and privilege to listen, learn, and witness the great things our church is doing to uphold the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. In my role, I have traveled extensively. One aspect that has not been so great is airport travel. With

security measures, overbooked flights, crowded planes, and potential delays, I can never tell if I will make it to my destination. Just a few weeks ago, I left a meeting in Louisville to return home to Raleigh. The trip included a long security line, a delayed flight due to weather that caused me to miss a connecting flight, and a re-booking on another airline through a different city. In all, I arrived home four hours later than expected.

On another level, people are facing many delays on the journey of life - financial hardships due to the present economy, the H1N1 virus or other similar illnesses, the deaths of loved ones, broken relationships, onset of depression, and more. It can make us wonder if the journey is worth the hassle. In these times, I invite you to take assurance in the God who loves and never leaves us. God walks beside us in these situations and brings us through, so that we can give hope to others on the journey. [Read more](#)

All of us need time away to relax, refresh, learn, worship and recreate. Here are opportunities available for Clergy, educators and more:

Association of Presbyterian Church

Educators annual event is January 27-30 in Nashville, TN. This is one of *the best* conferences in our denomination! Early bird registration ends November 30, so save \$50 and register now. The Presbyterian Youth Workers Association is meeting jointly with APCE with workshops designed just for youth leaders, in addition to all the great worship, fellowship and plenary events of APCE. Our Presbytery traditionally has a strong presence each year and this year is no different! Let us know you are attending so we can meet for fellowship and ideas during and after. www.apcenet.org



Interim Pastor Training will be held at Calvin Center, Hampton, GA (Greater Atlanta) January 11-15. Levels I and II and a Spouse Track will be available. All events begin with lunch on Monday and end Friday at 1:00 p.m. Get the Registration brochure [here](#). Deadline is December 15.

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is planning their first ever convocation for the Stony Point Center, Stony Point, NY, April 15-17, 2010. Visit their website for networking and conference information - www.presbypeacefellowship.org.

Local Church History Seminar April 22-25, 2010, at Stony Point Center in New York. Great for local church historians, Presbyterian Women, and more who want to learn more about Presbyterian history, managing and preserving local congregation's history, oral history, disaster preparedness and more. Visit www.history.pcusa.org/cong/lchs/index.html for information. **Scholarships are available** for churches at least 50 years old, with fewer than 250 members and who have financial need. Deadline is February 18. Email refdesk@history.pcusa.org for details.

Unity & Reformed Heritage Seminar - Geneva, Switzerland April 5-12, 2010. Continue your celebration of Calvin's Quincentennial. Visit www.pcusa.org/dear/unity-seminar.htm for registration information. This tour will feature visits to the Ecumenical Centre; worship at the Auditory, where John Calvin taught and John Knox preached, dialogue with leaders of the World Council of Churches and more. Sponsored by the Office of the General Assembly and coordinated through the office of Ecumenical Relations.

Columbia Theological Seminary:

Save the Date: January 26-28 Emergence NOW (January Seminars 2010) featuring speakers and workshop leaders Bruce Reyes-Chow, Philip Clayton, Phyllis Tickle, Tony Jones; Barbara Brown Taylor will preach two services. Registration is open NOW! Limited housing is also available on campus – must register separately.

Certificate in Youth Ministry Leadership - December 4-5 - *The Big Three - Worship, Mission and Fellowship*; March 5-6 is *Programming with a Plan: Intentional Youth Ministry*. Although part of a certificate program, all are welcome to attend occasionally as well!

A complete listing of courses and events may be found at <http://www.ctsnet.edu/LL/Events.aspx>.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary announces a Doctor of Ministry program that will meet at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. Parish Focus, Pastor/Theologian for the 21st Century will bridge the Word with the world. Brochures are available from the Resource Center. For admission or other information, contact The Rev. Susan Kendall who directs the program for the seminary. Call 412-441-3304 x2112 or email doctorofministry@pts.edu.

Montreat Conference Center has wonderful opportunities year 'round. Visit www.montreat.org for information or to register. Early registration is discounted on many conferences. New this coming year is the ability to register youth individually for Weeks I or IV of the annual youth conferences. Email

carols@montreat.org or visit Montreat's website for specific information. Coming in January: **College Conference** Jan. 2-5 2010 - God Without Borders; and **The Blaze** - January 6-9, A Formative Event for Leaders of Youth. Visit their [website](http://www.montreat.org) or call 1-800-572-2257 for more information.

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President: Gordon Bowles

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The Nominating Committee is always looking for folks to fill positions on our committees. If you're interested in serving on any of the above committees, please contact Mary McKey, Associate Executive for Nurture, at 813-868-4800 or nominate@pnty.com