



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. 7, No. 1 ~January, 2010

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[VBS Open House and Super Saturday for Leadership
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[We are the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.](#)

Vacation Bible School Open House! Join Cokesbury and Group Publishing at the Discipleship Resource Center.

Saturday January 9, 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Drop in anytime, preview the great new VBS options for this summer (yes, **IT IS** time to plan for the summer!). The Resource Center will be open for browsing as well. **Invite a non-Presbyterian friend!** This will be an excellent opportunity to show off what a great center we have, so bring your friends who attend other churches. If they join, we'll discount your annual membership!

Super Saturday for Leadership - January 23, 2010 - 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

New Computer Educational Technology

Being a New Elder

Communion Training

Starting/Re-vitalizing Senior Adult Ministry

Basics for Church Treasurers and Secretaries

Ideas for Reaching Out to the Community

I Found it on the Web..so it Must Be Ok...Right?

Clerk of Session Training

...and much more. Brochures are available on the

Presbytery website – www.presbyteryoftampabay.com



News Flash!

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

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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 December we are praying for:

First Presbyterian Church - Haines City

St. Marks Presbyterian Church - Hudson

First Presbyterian Church - Inverness

First Presbyterian Church - Lake Alfred

Lake Hamilton Presbyterian Church

Chapel in the Grove - Lakeland

First Presbyterian Church - Lakeland

North Lakeland Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church in the Highlands - Lakeland

Westminster Presbyterian Church - Lakeland

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. The registration information is now available.

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.

For registration information on any of these events, please contact Karin Dale at Cedarkirk - 813-685-4224.

Free! 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!

Beth-El Needs Donations! If you can help with any of these items, please contact Dave Moore at dave@beth-el.info.

Items on our Wish List

- New Folding Chairs
- Strollers
- Walmart Gift Cards
- Rice or Pinto Beans
- Men's Underwear
- Socks
- Web Design assistance
- Help in transitioning to a listserv
- Pampers in all sizes
- Toiletry Items
- Volunteers for VBS



Events at Cedarkirk

All mid high and senior high youth groups are invited to

Mission: Encounter at Cedarkirk over MLK, Jr. Day

weekend (January 16-18, 2010). This two-day retreat will be filled with worship, mission work and mission-oriented discussions, and some of your favorite Cedarkirk activities. You will be gleaning a field near Cedarkirk for donation to local food banks and exploring the ways the Bible calls you to minister to the hungry. For more information, contact Matt or Mark at (813) 685-4224 or program@cedarkirk.com.

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

- Administrative/ office help
- Dental and Eye Care Professionals for clinics
- Work groups to help with exterior property maintenance

Did you know Beth-El gives out food to needy people every week? They have helped an average of 635 families *every week* since early October. Thanks to all who volunteer their time to make a difference to God's children who would otherwise go hungry!

Important Forms and Information: Has your church sent in your 2010 Mission Pledge to the Presbytery? These are due by January 29. The Pledge form and Remittance Form are available on our website.

A tax and administrative checklist for church finance officers: TEN YEAR-END TASKS

Housing allowance. The board or congregation should designate the 2010 housing allowance for ministers who own or rent their homes.

W-4 forms. December is a good time to check with all non-minister church employees to assure their 2010 tax withholding information is updated prior to the first payroll period of the New Year.

Notice to donors. Donors should be advised in the church bulletin or newsletter, or in a letter from the church, not to file their federal income tax return before they receive their contribution summary from the church. Donors may not be able to deduct individual contributions of \$250 or more if they file a tax return before receiving a contribution summary from their church.

Christmas gifts. Be sure to handle correctly any Christmas gifts made by the church or congregation to a minister or lay staff member(s). In most cases these transfers represent taxable income and not a tax-free gift, and must be reported as income on the recipient's W-2 form.

Handling end-of-year contributions. The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means a check deposited in the church offering in January 2010 cannot be deducted in 2009 even if it is backdated to 2009. One exception – checks that are MAILED and POSTMARKED by midnight 12/31 are deductible in 2009, even though not received until 2010.

Business expenses. If your church reimburses some or all of your employees' business expenses, reimburse year-end business expenses, properly receipted, now.

Reclassification of workers. Now is the time to decide if you want to reclassify any of your workers for tax reporting purposes. If you have a minister or lay worker who is treated as self-employed for federal income tax reporting purposes, and you would like to reclassify the person as an employee, the ideal time to make the change is on January 1 of the new year.

Voluntary withholding. Minister's wages are exempt from Social Security, Medicare and federal income tax withholding with respect to services performed in the exercise of their ministry. This means they use the quarterly estimated tax procedure to repay their federal taxes. Ministers who report their income taxes as employees can enter into a voluntary withholding arrangement with their employing church by submitting a W-4 form to the church finance officer. Under such an arrangement, the employing church withholds income taxes as it would for any other employee, and also can withhold an additional amount of income taxes to cover the minister's self-employment tax liability. The ideal time to start voluntary withholding is January 1.

Order IRS tax forms and publications. Order your 2010 copy of the IRS publication 15, copies of Forms W-2, W-3, 1099 and 1096 for 2009 compensation reporting. IRS: 1-800-829-3676. And, you can download most forms from the website: www.irs.gov

Order tax publications and renew subscriptions. 2010 edition of Richard Hammar's Church and Clergy Tax Guide (print or CD); other audio tax recordings (CDs) are available for churches and clergy as well. 800-222-1840 or www.ChurchLawToday.com NOTE: Congress enacted major tax legislation in 2009 containing several provisions of direct relevance to churches and church staff. These developments will be included. ---Excerpted from Richard R Hammar's CHURCH FINANCE TODAY newsletter, Dec. 2009. Details of each item may be acquired from the Church and Clergy Tax Guide, or by inquiring with a qualified tax consultant.---

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.

Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church is hosting a FREE presentation by the America Living Will Registry, Saturday January 30, 2:00 p.m. The ALWR is an on-line registry for your living will and health care surrogate information. You will learn the importance of having a living will and health care surrogate and the Registry makes it easily accessible when needed. Call the church office, 727-391-5509 or visit www.alwr.com for more information. Those who attend and sign up will receive \$10 off the registration fee. You might also win a free membership!

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@pbtty.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@pbtty.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@pbtty.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. January 11 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



Late Winter Stated

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

Eckerd College is bringing reknowned author and lecturer Thomas Moore in February 2010.

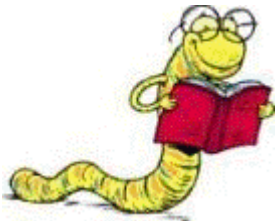
A workshop on Saturday, February 20
"Soul and Spirit: Deeply Human and Open to the Mysteries"
To be held on the Eckerd campus; times and cost TBA

A lecture on Monday, February 22
"The Ecology of Everyday Life: Caring for Your World and Your Deep Soul."
7:30PM in Fox Hall, Eckerd College
The lecture is free and open to the public.

Thomas Moore's 18 published books include the

bestseller *Care of the Soul*. His most recent book is *Writing in the Sand: Jesus and the Soul of the Gospels*. Soon to be published are *Care of the Soul in Medicine* and *The Guru of Golf*.

Space in the workshop is limited. If you would like to be listed to receive more information as soon as it is available, please email bagasam@eckerd.edu with your contact information.



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.

Invite your Resource Center Director to visit your congregation. Have Leslee do a Minute for Mission in worship, or visit with your Session to promote the Resource Center, or come to your Christian Education committee meeting. Having a Mission Fair? Include your Resource Center and we'll bring a display. Need a Wednesday night program? Your Resource Center Director can bring fun and fellowship or do a Bible study for your group. Call or [email!](#)

Vacation Bible School Preview Party - Join us Saturday January 9 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Cokesbury is hosting their annual event in *your Resource Center!* Group Publishing will bring their preview kits and do special presentations. Refreshments, fellowship and time to browse the Resource Center. Bring your VBS committee members.



New! New! New!

With Hearts & Hands Uplifted - This new devotional guide from Witherspoon Press invites us on an Advent journey through beloved hymns. 27 meditations based on familiar songs of the season. Good for individual or group reflection.

Let Us Break Bread Together - A Passover Haggadah for Christians. Written by a Baptist pastor and a Rabbi, here is a sensitive and respectful approach to involve Christians in understanding and participating in the Seder. This would be a good resource for a Lenten or Holy Week program for all ages.

Comfort My People - A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy of the PCUSA. Includes a study guide to help us understand and reach out to those among us suffering from mental illness.

The Discipleship Resource Center has partnered with the Synod of Florida/Bahamas (ELCA) 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%!

The Thoughtful Christian always has great new studies. www.thethoughtfulchristian.com. Spanish language Thoughtful Christian Studies—coming Summer 2010

Yes, it's true! In July, 2010, twenty studies will be available in Spanish! The Thoughtful Christian is working with two other organizations to offer studies for Spanish speakers. The Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico and the Congregational Ministries Publishing Office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are partnering with The Thoughtful Christian on this project.

We need your Spanish speakers' help! The name of "The Thoughtful Christian" really does not

translate well into Spanish. We need a name for this part of the site. What do you suggest? A small prize will be given to the person who suggests the winning name!

Studies are available individually or through an annual subscription. Visit [The Thoughtful Christian](#) website to see the many wonderful studies they offer.

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@pnty.com or call 813-868-4800.

Serving Together in Mission

[Souper Bowl - Register NOW!](#)
[Mission Crossroads](#)
[Time to Glean with St. Andrew](#)
[Ecumenical Advocacy Conference](#)

Beth-El Names College Scholarship for a Faithful Servant.

In honor of Dr. Anne Murphy, longtime Board member from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay (and member of the Maximo Church), the annual scholarship award to children of farmworkers has been named the *Dr. Anne Murphy Scholarship Award*. Dr. Murphy taught at Eckerd College and continues to be a strong advocate for education and social justice. She has recently resigned from Beth-

El's Board of Directors and will be greatly missed. Scholarships are awarded each year to applicants that are approved by the Education Committee of the Board of Directors. Congratulations to Dr. Murphy!!

E-community connects mission-minded Presbyterians - 'Mission Crossroads' offers ideas, resources and coordination

Mission Crossroads, "a Web-based wisdom community for Presbyterians passionate about mission," is growing in membership and content, according to Lis Valle, the site's creator.

"More than 750 people have joined since we launched the site last April," said Valle, Presbyterian World Mission's associate director for equipping the church for mission involvement. "It's a place to share ideas about mission, coordinate efforts and form groups around particular interests."

The site contains links to online resources as well as information about books and other print publications. January 15 will see the launch of a podcast - "God's Mission Matters." Come join those already a part - Mission trip leaders, mission committee chairs, mission network members, mission personnel, World Mission staff, and members and leaders of various Presbyterian-related mission groups. To join go to <http://missioncrossroads.ning.com/>.

The Society of St. Andrew has begun the 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 sosaf@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](#). Visit www.endhunger.org to learn more about the important mission and ministry of the Society of St. Andrew.

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. *If you plan to participate in this worthy event, please let your newsletter editor know how much your raise - let's celebrate together the impact we have!* Email newsletter@ppty.com with your totals.

Save the Date - Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference

The 2010 Advocacy Days conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, VA, just outside of Washington, DC. The theme is, "A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples."

Visit the [conference website](#) to learn more and to register.

We are the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

[Presbyterian Outlook Webinar](#) - Multichannel Church
[From Our Stated Clerk](#)
[New PCUSA Website Just for Kids](#)
[Financial Aid Opportunities](#)
[Great Continuing Education Opportunities](#)

Permanent lodging

A monthly column for the PC(USA) by the GA stated clerk by the Rev. Gradye Parsons, PC(USA) General Assembly stated clerk

LOUISVILLE — The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories, was established in 1860. It faithfully serves the town of Bethlehem with a variety of important ministries. In recent years, the congregation has been able to expand its mission with a larger building dedicated to education and community activities.

An ancient cave was discovered while the site for the

new building was being excavated. The congregation decided to leave the cave intact to show what a cave stable might have looked like when Joseph and Mary arrived over 2000 years ago.

The first sense I had when I saw the site is that this stable is nothing like the great barns to which we are accustomed in our American context. It is a small, intimate space where humans and beasts would be close companions. Being a cave, it is cool and very quiet, almost like an empty sanctuary. It is not hard to imagine a couple settling into this place after a long journey or its use as the birthing place for a child.

In his comments on Luke 2:7, John Calvin said, "We see, at the same time, what sort of beginning the life of the Son of God had, and in what cradle he was placed. Such was his condition at his birth, because he had taken upon him our flesh for this purpose, that he might, 'empty himself' (Phil. 2:7) on our account. When he was thrown into a stable, and placed in a manger, and a lodging refused him among men (sic), it was that heaven might be opened to us, not as a temporary lodging, but as our eternal country and inheritance, and that angels might receive us into their abode."

That Christmas spirit that seems only to come in December is not meant to be temporary lodging in our souls. It is meant as a place to live our lives and enjoy the rich gift we have received from God. Calvin is right — in a small, quiet cave stable the heavens opened up to us.

Remember Bethlehem. May your hearts find permanent lodging in the Christ child.

The Presbyterian Outlook is sponsoring webinars.

The first is Thursday January 7 at 2:00 p.m. and will be on the "MultiChannel Church." Mainline churches have suffered a long and relentless slide. But it can be turned around and OUTLOOK columnist, Tom Ehrich, is eager to show you how.

Hint #1: It isn't magic. It's what Ehrich calls: "The Multichannel Church" - moving beyond Sunday morning as the main ministry. In this Webinar, the writer, pastor, and founder of the Church Wellness Project will describe a convergence of research and experience that led him to see that moving beyond Sunday mornings can put the church in touch with a changing world.

Hint #2: Many are already doing Multichannel Church - you can too.

The introductory fee for Webinars is \$9.95.

Register for this event by clicking [here](#) or calling Gillian at 800/446-6008 before Wednesday, January 6. You will need access to a phone and the Internet.

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.

Did you know? The Office of Financial Aid for Studies of the PCUSA has funds for education for both undergraduate and graduate student. Grants, loans and scholarships are all available. Visit their [website](#) and explore the different options and deadlines.

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

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.



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

Two Seminaries Offer Special Training For Youth Ministry Leadership

Columbia Seminary in Georgia and **Princeton Seminary** in New Jersey are now both offering special weekend study programs for those called to any form of youth ministry, whether ordained or lay leaders (volunteer or paid). Information on both programs follows:

Columbia's Youth Ministry Leadership Initiative

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and Columbia Theological Seminary have designed a non-degree program, the Youth Ministry Leadership Initiative (YMLI), for pastors

and lay leaders who are committed to developing strong church youth programs.

Participants in YMLI courses will gain a deeper understanding of their personal call to youth ministry and how that call can faithfully serve the life of the church. Courses provide the opportunity to network with others who are passionate about working with young people. Participants will learn from one another and the program, while gaining practical knowledge of how to work within the church to create theologically sound, enjoyable, innovative ministries for youth.



The YMLI curriculum includes two weekend retreats and six weekend courses, all held at Columbia Theological Seminary, in Decatur, GA. Leadership will include seminary faculty and staff, members of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta staff, and other experienced youth leaders and professionals. Youth Leaders may enroll in as many courses as they want. If they complete all eight courses they will be awarded a certificate of Training and Development in Youth Ministry. For more information go to: www.ctsnet.edu, click on Lifelong Learning, then Youth Ministries Leadership.

Princeton Offers Three Forms of Youth Programs

Princeton Seminary offers three different ways to grow in youth ministry leadership. 1) *Pathways* are one-day retreats in various parts of the nation for youth leaders and the youth they serve; 2) *Youth Forums* are two-three day study/discussion events, and 3) There is a new format called the *Certificate in Youth and Theology Program*. Here are a few details:

It begins with a retreat that offers a whole-person approach to initiation into the certificate program. The retreat will introduce participants to a practical theological approach to youth ministry and nurture the peer-to-peer relationships necessary for developing a cohesive cohort that will support participants through the program.

The Certificate in Youth and Theology Program is designed for practitioners who want to extend their ministry and their credentials with further education about adolescent culture, Biblical theology, and healthy practices of youth ministry. For more information on all three programs go to:

www.ptsem.edu, click on Continuing Education and then select Institute for Youth Ministries.

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. **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.

Presbytery Committees

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Inc.
Contact Dave Moore, Executive Dir.
dave@beth-el.info

Bills & Overtures
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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