

# Presbytery of the



# Inland Northwest

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Volume 33, Issue 5

October 2009

## Update

by Gary Bowker

Some time ago I dropped off some books at the Presbytery office. My house is small, and my library too large to accommodate the overflow of books, files and memorabilia. One of the books donated to Presbytery was a Holy Bible. I took this old Bible from its shelf in the Presbytery library and opened it seeking inspiration for the days ahead. A page fell open where I had long ago written a note to myself. The note read, "Every moment is preparation for something." And next to that short note was a reference to Exodus 14:14- "The Lord will fight for you and you have only to keep still."

Today, we are momentarily without a presbytery executive and an interim executive. As chair of the Personnel Committee of Presbytery I received a letter from Frank Beattie stating that he was immediately resigning his post as Interim Executive Presbyter due to "a complex family situation." The Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 and formally received Mr. Beattie's resignation. In his letter of resignation he wished the Presbytery staff and the people of our Presbytery the best of everything, confident that God is still in charge.

The Personnel Committee will in the short term fill the position of interim executive, and will get on with its task of identifying and hiring a Transitional Presbytery Executive who will serve from twelve to twenty-four months. In that period of time, a presbytery committee will conduct a search for a permanent executive presbyter.

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest has named a highly qualified group of

people within our presbytery to study the needs, aspirations and vision of this Presbytery that will be presented in a Presbytery Mission Study. The committee, headed by Dr. Don Leibert, will report to Presbytery in May of 2010. At that time a Presbytery Executive Search Committee will be named by the Personnel Committee, and confirmed by vote of presbytery. The Mission Study will guide the Executive Presbyter Search Committee in its work.

As we move forward in the days ahead I will think back to this day and my chance finding of Exodus 14:14 in an old Bible where it reads, The Lord will fight for you and you have only to keep still. And next to it, the reminder that every moment is preparation for something.

Surprise sometimes overtakes us, and in it is always the opportunity to be used of God.

## Addendum

In the hours that have passed since writing the above article for this newsletter I prayerfully contacted Bill Ailes and asked him to fill the executive position for the next sixty days. He has consented to do this. I for one, am deeply grateful!

## Comings and Goings

Rev Susie Beil transferred to Olympia Presbytery. Rev Bill Peterson is Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Coeur d'Alene ID.

## Presbyterians Partner with Habitat for Humanity-Spokane

There will be a Presbyterian Build in Spokane. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2009, lasting 3-4 months.

The first Habitat-Spokane house was built in 1988. While many Presbyterian churches and individuals have been actively involved with Habitat throughout this period, this is the first multi-church "Presbyterian Build". There are currently eleven area churches participating as official project sponsors.... hallelujah! Additional churches are welcome to become sponsors throughout the project.

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, Christian ministry whose goal is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness internationally. Homeowners are given a "hand up" as Habitat and volunteers come together to work with the homeowner to build their home and to build community. The homeowner is required to put in 500 hours of sweat equity on their home or other Habitat projects and then to repay a 20 year, interest free mortgage.

For more information on how you can get involved as an individual or a church congregation contact one of the Habitat Liaisons: Ann Phillips ap15005@msn.com, Eileen Hartzog ejhartzog@msn.com or Bob Elmore Belmore41@comcast.net.



## Mission Connections

Dear Friends in Christ,

With summer past and fall upon us, we Presbyterians find new energy as God calls us into mission locally, nationally, and around the world. Here in our presbytery, we have been blessed by receiving Bill and Ann Moore, PCUSA mission coworkers serving in Kobe with the Reformed Church of Japan. Bill and Ann visited many of our churches as part of Mission Challenge 2009, a program organized by Presbyterian World Mission bringing 45 PCUSA mission coworkers to over 150 of our 173 presbyteries. My role in Mission Challenge this year has taken me to Olympia, North Puget Sound, Central Washington, and Boise presbyteries to share the story of our mission in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland. As in 2007 when I traveled across the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, the many visits in congregations have been a highlight of the year!

Visits by mission folks connect congregations in a personal way to the international ministries of our denomination. They make clear that "Presbyterians do mission in partnership," and they create new ways for prayer and financial support that sustains us all. After a visiting missionary returns to her or his home, there are ample ways to keep the spirit of the visit alive. The Mission Connections website hosts the biographies and newsletters of over 200 PCUSA coworkers serving around the world in 52 countries. See it at [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/). As we live out our lives in Washington and Idaho, what better way to stay abreast of the work of the Holy Spirit than reading about the ministries of our mission workers abroad. Another excellent way to stay connected is to receive the daily readings by email or podcast from the Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study. Our yearbook shares the mission stories of presbyteries, synods, and our international church partners. You can sign up at [www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/](http://www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/).

As we continue our faith journeys together, I ask that you hold in prayer mis-

sionaries called by God to serve around the world to strengthen the Kingdom.

Yours in Christ, *Gary*  
[gdpayton@aol.com](mailto:gdpayton@aol.com)

*Gary Payton is a PCUSA mission coworker and lives in Sandpoint, Idaho. Read his newsletters at [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/paytong.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/paytong.htm)*

### Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training

*Latab Valley NCD*

*202 E Meadow Lane Rd, Spokane, Wash.*

Sexual misconduct and abuse are serious problems. As we all know, our churches are not exempt. Inland Northwest Presbytery takes seriously its responsibility to make every effort to assure that our churches are free from sexual misconduct and abuse. The Committee on Ministry has scheduled a day of training which is mandatory for ministers in our presbytery, and strongly recommended for those working with youth. Attendees may go to either day—October 7 or 8. They may also attend the morning of one day and the afternoon of the other day. It would be desirable for Sessions to schedule a report from the minister about the learnings from the training, and what the whole church can do to help prevent sexual misconduct and abuse.

## Goodbye to Dave Hamilton

Dave has announced that he will not run for re-election as Stated Clerk in November. Dave has served the Presbytery for nine years in this position. We will miss him and wish him the best in the future. To give him a good send-off, we would like to put together a memory book. If you would like to write him a note, story, share some pictures, etc, please send them to Joyce at the Presbytery office (8910 E Dalton Ave, Spokane, WA 99212) by November 12.

## Acting Stated Clerk Needed

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest is looking for an Acting Stated Clerk. This is currently filled by David Hamilton, Jr, who has decided not to be re-elected. This position is ¼ time and would start in November. Training will be provided by David Hamilton. This person would work in the Presbytery Office on Tuesdays. The duties and responsibilities are set forth in the Book of Order and the Presbytery's Manual of Administrative Operations. A complete job description can be obtained from the Presbytery Office. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please send your resume to the Presbytery Office, 8910 E Dalton Ave, Spokane WA 99212 before October 5.

### School Books for South Africa- Mission Opportunity

Please consider a donation to the South Africa Textbook Drive to provide school textbooks for a rural school on the out skirts of Mthatha (Umtatah) South Africa. The school has 70 children per class and only 50 textbooks. The book drives goal is to provide the middle school teachers priority book wish list, math, science and English for 7th ,8th and 9th grade.



The school has a high dropout rate and perhaps an inadequate book supply is part of the problem. A gift of \$10.50 will buy a math book. Education is an important part of a developing nation's foundation. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of Mthatha will be distributing the books to their member, Nomayeza who is the middle school teacher. Colbert Presbyterian Church at 4211 E Colbert Rd. Colbert, WA 99005 will be accepting the funds for the book drive. Please be sure to place South Africa Books (SA Books) in the memo portion of your check. If you have any questions or suggestions call Judy Crowder at (509) 238-9430.

NEWSLETTER

Published Bi-monthly

Presbytery of the Inland Northwest

8910 East Dalton Avenue, Spokane, WA 99212-3401

*Purpose: to encourage, support and inform the churches of our Presbytery*

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Cindy Enos, Editor

# The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning

The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning provides resources, training, and encouragement for clergy and laity. In addition to sponsoring the annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry, the Weyerhaeuser Center provides workshops, short courses, reading groups, certificates and a diploma, and other programs designed to renew clergy and lay leaders and equip them to serve Christ in the church and the world.

## Pastors' Reading Group

The purpose of the pastors' reading group is to help pastors and interested laypersons explore the themes of vocation and ministry through the reading and discussing of books related to these topics. This reading group is designed to provide intellectual stimulation and personal enrichment by engaging in significant conversation regarding the nature and purpose of the church as it moves into the twenty-first century. The reading group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. A book and light breakfast is provided to each participant at minimal cost. All pastors and interested laypersons are invited to join. Next group begins October 6, 2010. We will be reading *John Calvin: A Pilgrim's Life* by Herman Selderhuis.

## Certificate in Teaching the Bible

Church leaders are expected to teach the Bible in various settings with a variety of different constituents. The Certificate in Teaching the Bible is designed to give pastors, lay ministry leaders, and Sunday school teachers greater insight into how to teach the Bible more effectively with children, youth, and adults. The certificate is specifically designed to provide an overview of the narrative and key theological themes of the Bible; practical skills and tools to teach the Bible with power and effectiveness; and support in ministry and networking opportunities with others who regularly teach the Bible. Topics include:

- Major themes in the Old Testament
- Major themes in the New Testament
- Major themes in Christian Theology

- Teaching skills 101
  - Teaching the Bible through Catechesis and Mentoring
  - Teaching the Bible in Small Groups
  - Teaching the Bible to Adults
  - Teaching the Bible to Children/Youth
- The program meets every other Saturday (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) beginning February 2010.

## Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry

Churches and religious organizations are increasingly looking for qualified men and women to serve in non-ordained positions



of pastoral leadership in the church. Unfortunately, many otherwise qualified people are reluctant to pursue these positions because they do not feel adequately prepared biblically and theologically, or they find themselves lacking in the practical skills they need to be successful in ministry. Others are already involved in ministry positions but feel limited by their lack of training and ongoing opportunities for development and support.

The Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry is designed to help train, equip, and support lay men and women to serve more effectively as commissioned lay pastors, lay ministers, or in other lay pastoral positions in the church or other religious organizations.

## Master of Arts in Theology

The purpose of this program is to develop deeply committed, spiritually disciplined, visionary leaders for the church.

- Convenient: A schedule that allows students to enroll in the program without leaving their jobs or having to be residents of Spokane. All courses are offered during Friday/Saturday sessions or week-long summer or January intensives.
- Self-paced: Designed so that students can finish in two years, or take courses at their own pace taking longer for completion.
- Flexible: Students take core courses covering theology, church history, and biblical studies and additional electives

in areas of interest (12 courses total). Whitworth's M.A. in Theology program is designed around:

**Classical Theology** – rooted in the disciplines of Biblical studies, theology and history.

**Practical Ministry** – focused on addressing contemporary ministry challenges.

**Spiritual Formation** – learn together as a praying, worshipping community.

## Spring 2010 Course

### The Theology and Practice of Lay Ministry

Class meets Friday evenings (5:00 – 9:30) and Saturdays (8:00 – 4:00) on the following weekends: February 12, 13; March 12, 13; April 16, 17; May 14, 15

The Bible teaches that all Christians are called to ministry; some are called to be pastors of local congregations while others are called to ministry on their jobs, in their communities, or in the wider world. One of the most important roles of a pastor is to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12). One of the most important tasks of the saints is to become equipped. This course is designed for both pastors and lay leaders who seek to develop a deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of ministry for all God's people. We will look at some of the biblical foundations, theological issues, and practical and pastoral responsibilities of ministry. Special emphasis will be placed on the nature and role of lay ministry, ways to equip and empower lay men and women for ministry, and some of the practical skills necessary to be effective in lay ministry in congregations, Christian organizations, the marketplace, and in other contexts. Members of the Spokane community who are not enrolled in the MA in Theology program are welcome to participate in this course.

For additional information about these programs, call Michelle Pace at (509) 777-3275 or [mseefried@whitworth.edu](mailto:mseefried@whitworth.edu). or Dr. Tim Dolan at (509) 777-4676/ [tdolan@whitworth.edu](mailto:tdolan@whitworth.edu).

## The Presbytery Celebrates 500th Anniversary of John Calvin

On July 10th this year we Presbyterians and other Reformed Churches celebrated the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin in Noyon, France.

At the November 20th meeting of our Presbytery at East Valley Church the members of the Committee on Ordained Leadership Development, with the assistance of many additional people, will take you back in time to the City of Geneva.

It was a rather dark time for most of Europe because of the daily threat of various plagues. You might be with friends or family in the morning and at their deathbed in the evening. People were afraid to gather in large groups yet the church Reformers carried on their work. The people desperately needed to hear and understand the Word of God in their own languages and to learn to read Scripture and to feel the comfort of God in their worship and prayers.

Thus began the Reformation which has never stopped. The November meeting of our Presbytery will be a re-visit of Calvin's worship service in Geneva with the business of the day interspersed in the worship and with commentary on the rationale of the various Reformers' choices of the essentials of a Reformed worship service.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join our committee in the continued preparation of this service and its commentaries. And, if anyone has photos of Geneva, Wittenberg, Strausburg, or other Reformation locations to get them to us for our video display. We also welcome individuals who would like to receive some of the music to be sung at this service ahead of time to begin practicing it. Creeds and prayers were learned by singing them in worship.

Please invite people from your congregations to attend this special Presbytery Worship Celebration of Calvin's Jubilee.

Rev. Cathy Harrison, [charrison45@yahoo.com](mailto:charrison45@yahoo.com) or 509-464-0479.



## Dates for the Calendar

October 7-8	Misconduct Seminar at Latah Valley NCD
October 13	Committee on Ministry at Millwood Church
October 20	Council meets at Presbytery
October 20	Meeting Committee meets at Presbytery
October 28	Prep. For Ministry meets at Presbytery
November 10	Committee on Ministry at Millwood Church
November 19	PIN Newsletter Deadline
November 20	Presbytery meets at East Valley Church
November 26	Presbytery office closed

## Dinner by Candlelight

*Save the Date!*

Once again you are invited to Liberty Park Child Development Center's annual "Dinner by Candlelight...a dinner that makes a difference" Friday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. preceding the Whitworth University Christmas Choir Concert. Both will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Spokane, 318 S. Cedar.

The concert is a wonderful way to enjoy the Advent Season. Come early for a festive and delicious dinner and avoid the rush for parking and seating.

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit Liberty Park Child Development Center's ministry to children and families. Call now to reserve your places at both the dinner and the concert.

For dinner reservations: Call Marianne Frase 509-466-2555 for dinner reservations. The cost is \$25.00 per person. (Tables for eight are available by reservation.) For Concert tickets: Call Dick Barney 509-467-9397 to purchase tickets or order them on line with a credit card at [www.whitworth.edu/music-tickets](http://www.whitworth.edu/music-tickets). Tickets go on sale early November and you are encouraged to order early. The cost of the choir tickets is \$18.00, discount for seniors and students \$15.00.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of the Center!



## New in the Resource Center

### BOOKS

**THE BIBLE'S PLOT**, by Kenneth Onstot, pastor of Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church, Spokane WA. An overview of the Bible showing, how individual Bible texts, including laws, psalms, prophesies, and letters, fit into a larger plot that shapes the meaning of individual stories.

**FAITHFUL DISAGREEMENT**, by Frances Taylor Gench. Provides a constructive resource to help Christians to wrestle with Scripture in the midst of their disagreements. Questions for discussion or reflection after each chapter.

**TO DO JUSTICE**, by Rebecca Todd Peters and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. Encourages Christians to call for public policies, in our nation, to benefit those who are most vulnerable.

**CALLED FOR LIFE**, by Paul C. Clayton. Finding meaning in retirement.

**LIVING WELL: CHRISTIAN PRACTICES FOR EVERYDAY LIVING**, by Lifelong Faith Associates. Written for adults, parents, and families, to encourage Christian practices as a way of life.

**LIVING WELL CHILDREN'S WORKBOOK** can be used by parents with younger children or used by older children alone.

# GUATEMALA

*My one purpose in life  
is to help people find a personal  
relationship with God, which, I  
believe, comes through  
knowing Christ.*

*Billy Graham*

Experts in the field and members of the Research Center of Corn Improvement (CIMMYT) have the formula for the resistant to different diseases and fungi that usually attack corn crops. A seed improvement specialist of the Center noted that he is working with Guatemalan colleagues for the improvement of corn. "We work with research institutes in Central America and Mexico in a breeding program, which is developing corn with higher nutritional quality than the normal corn. It provides an improvement in the quality of proteins of corn for food consumption for humans. Other qualities of the grain which were are tolerance to stress caused by drought when the temperatures affect the crops. It improves both the quantity and quality of the grain to make it appealing to producers. The Ministry of Agriculture, MAGA, has the commitment to promote the cultivation of this kind of corn for Guatemalan farmers. They have the commitment to start the first seeding in thirteen thousand experimental plots in a large area of land in Guatemala. MAGA also will provide funding for the promotion of the new corn. This will greatly help our K'ekchi brothers and sisters. I am sure this corn will make very good tortillas. I have tasted tortillas in other countries, but the K'ekchi in Guatemala are the best by far.

Amazon has a special on The Mayan Calendar and the Transformation of Consciousness (Paperback) by Carl Johan Calleman, Jose Arguelles.

Some information about the land and people of Guatemala:

About 60% of the population is of mixed Mayan and Spanish descent (Ladinos) and about 40% are of purely Mayan origin. The latter have historically suffered from discrimination, poverty, and relative geographical isolation. Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion, and there are also Protestant and traditional Mayan minorities. Spanish is the language of about 60% of the people; the balance speak several indigenous dialects.

### Excerpts from Richard Welch:



I believe God's gift to us Presbyterians is our commitment (and sometimes struggle) to be connected in ministry. Imagine what God could do through us if we were to fully

live into that connectional vision! I have no idea what God has in store for a relationship between a bunch of Presbyterians in Spokane with a heart for a bunch of K'ekchi Presbyterians, and some Presbyterians in Spokane with a heart for human rights for women in Guatemala, but I bet we'll have a much better chance of finding out if we work to keep those connections alive.

### Excerpts from Sandi Thompson

Please keep concerned about the women and violence that is happening to them. EVERY day two women are being raped and brutally treated and left to die. The numbers have risen each year. There is very, very little prosecution and lots of fear as you can imagine. We met at the U.S. Embassy with USAID and were disappointed at how little money is being directed to help. Peace to each of you.

### Excerpts from Roger Marriott

Our work with the Kekchi has matured from where we first began nearly eight years ago. Among other things our book-keeping classes have become more formalized. We found that conducting 2-3 day workshops with our adult students periodically was not generating the interest or results expected. Gloria developed the course into four different two-day sessions which are given on a more frequent basis of one session every four to five weeks. This has generated far more enthusiasm and we see that students look forward to the following workshop since each one builds on the other. They keep their materials from one session to the next so by completion of the four sessions they will have a complete set of simple books and information about how banks and checking/savings accounts can help them. We have seen many students grow in confidence when they find that they, too, can handle this necessary aspect of modern life. That is enlightening for them since they have been at the margins of society all their lives living as subsistence farmers and having only a year or two formal education and frequently none.

We have sought to develop teachers from among our students but that is quite a leap. Yet one student, Raymundo Ba Choc, a 35-year-old farmer from Ixcán with a third grade education and five kids, absorbed the instruction like the proverbial sponge. He now travels with us when we have a workshop and has become the teacher. He gives the classes in their native language of K'ekchi and refers to us only when something unfamiliar is asked by a student. We have become assistants and are proud to serve in that capacity. We feel it is a mark of success.

Till the next time pray for our K'ekchi sisters and brothers, and the possibility of you going on the next Guatemala Task Force (GTF) mission trip.



Joan

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## Scholarship Opportunity

### Association of Presbyterian Church Educators

*Nashville, Tennessee — January 27–30, 2010*

Christian Educators from the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest are requested to submit a short essay on “Why I would like to attend APCE”.

After reading the essays the PINW CE committee will give two scholarships of \$750 dollars, based on need. Individual church sessions are encouraged to supplement the scholarship to cover expenses not covered by the scholarship. The recipient of the scholarship would also be encouraged to prepare a short presentation detailing what they brought back with them from APCE that could be presented at a future PINW meeting and included in the PINW newsletter.

Scholarship recipient(s) will need to submit travel receipts to Joe Bruce, chair of the PINW CE committee for the \$750 reimbursement upon return from the APCE event; airline tickets, hotel reservations, etc.

The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) is a professional association concerned with the advancement

of education in the church and is committed to the on-going witness of our faith in the gospel. APCE derives its strength from more than 1,500 members committed to the educational ministry of Presbyterian and Reformed congregations throughout the United States and Canada. Each year APCE holds a nation event and provides several days of educational workshops for Christian educators in children, youth and adult ministries.

If you would like to be considered for a scholarship to the 2009 APCE event in Nashville, TN, send your essay, by October 31, 2010, to:

Joe Bruce  
Director of Children's Ministries  
Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church  
4102 S. Crestline  
Spokane, WA 99203  
or by email: [joe@hamblenpres.org](mailto:joe@hamblenpres.org)

APCE Event page:  
<http://www.apcenet.org/events/annual-regist.htm>

## Northfork Presbyterian Church Update



Last Christmas Eve a wood stove kindled a fire in the ceiling that swept up through the bell tower and burned the sanctuary to the ground. On September 27 at 10 a.m., a dedication ceremony will take place. Donations have come in from all over. The church has a similar appearance to the old sanctuary, but is built to contemporary standards. Everything is up to code and instead of a wood stove for heat, the sanctuary has a new central furnace system. The one thing that remains is the sign that hung outside the old church. The back of the sign remains charred by the flames, but the front lettering was in good enough condition to be raised again. The congregation would like to say a big “Thank You” to all the church mission groups and church donations of money, labor, fixtures and books.