



| August 2009

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks |

Timnath Church Facility Destroyed by Explosion

The congregation of the Timnath Presbyterian Church knows that the church is not a building, but people coming together in response to the call of God. They are rejoicing that no one was hurt in the August 8 explosion that destroyed much of its facility, and they are determined to move forward faithfully.

On Saturday, August 8, a backhoe doing construction near the Timnath church building cut a gas line. Gas found its way into the church basement where it exploded, lifting the roof off of the building and the building off its foundation. The sanctuary, a lovely older building with beautiful stained-glass-windows, seems to have sustained only minor damage, but the newer building housing the fellowship hall and other facilities will have to be demolished.

Interim Pastor Ken Gorman reports that the session has met with insurance representatives and has received preliminary estimates of the costs of reconstruction. The session also discussed ways to make sure the congregation is heard as future ministries, and options for reconstruction, are considered.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has wired \$10,000 to the Presbytery for the Timnath church, to be used at the session's discretion. This is One Great Hour of Sharing money.

A number of folks throughout the Presbytery have asked how they can help. The main thing: please keep the Timnath congregation and its leaders on your prayer list long-term, as the recovery and reconstruction will take many months, and as the congregation seeks God's guidance for its faithful future. Volunteers are not needed at the moment, but a call for help may be sent out later.

Dan Saperstein Returns from Sabbatical September 1

Executive Presbyter Dan Saperstein has been on Sabbatical since June 1. For a portion of that time, he has been on a "polity pilgrimage" to Paris, Geneva, and Edinburgh, after which Liz joined him for a week in London. You can read Dan's reflections here: <http://politypilgrim.blogspot.com>.

Dan's Sabbatical continues through the end of August. Meanwhile, Dick Craft is filling in part-time as Acting EP and can be reached at dick.craft@familyofchristgreeley.org, or via his cell phone, 970-209-4377.

Welcome home, Dan!

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

7257 W. 4th St. - Unit 4
Greeley, Colorado 80634
800-257-4583
www.plainsandpeaks.org

Executive Presbyter ~

Dan Saperstein
dmsaperstein@gmail.com

Stated Clerk ~

Lynn Smit
lynn@plainsandpeaks.org

Treasurer ~

Diane Kenning
dkenning@kenningfilter.com

Office Administrator ~

Bobbi Hoffman
bobbi@plainsandpeaks.org

August Presbytery Meeting Highlights

- ✦ The Committee on Preparation for Ministry enrolled Katie Palmer and Robert Garcia as inquirers.
- ✦ Presbytery voted to adopt the revised Standing Rules/Manual of Operations. The revised copy will be on the website shortly.
- ✦ Council informed the Presbytery of a tentative mission budget of \$182,000 for 2010 and a tentative per capita budget of \$222,057 for 2010.
- ✦ Presbytery voted to designate the Reverend Nancy D'Ippolito as Parish Associate at Valmont Community Presbyterian Church in Boulder, Colorado.
- ✦ Presbytery voted to designate the Reverend Joshua Chang as Parish Associate at Presbyterian Church of Broomfield in Broomfield, Colorado.

NEW Presbytery Website

The Presbytery website will have a new look and a new host in the near future. Please check it out at www.plainsandpeaks.org. And please be patient with the current website as it is experiencing some problems.

World Mission Challenge '09

The Presbytery of Plains and Peaks will be participating in World Mission Challenge '09. Similar to a highly successful event held in the fall of 2007. World Mission Challenge will send 40 PC(USA) mission personnel into 140 presbyteries to tell how God is at work around the world.

Speakers will be on the road from September 25 through October 18, 2009. Their audiences will range from hundreds gathered for a Sunday morning worship service to handfuls of mission-minded Presbyterians who come together for a brown bag lunch, a committee meeting, a Sunday school class, and any other opportunity to share interests in mission.

Mission workers need at least two kinds of support. They need to know that people in churches care about them and the ministries they're engaged in, and they need to have the financial support of the church. The CMPW is coordinating this visitation. If you would like to be involved in this opportunity, please call Dennis Hurianek at (303) 652-2468 or by email at dhuri221@msn.com OR your Mission Advocate, Lois Vermeer at (970) 352-4071 or by email at lvermeer@comcast.net. As soon as dates are known, those who have signed up will be the first to be called.

Upcoming Events at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center

We urge you to plan now for upcoming retreats!
The Senior High Retreat is scheduled for November 6 - 8, 2009
The Middle School Retreat is scheduled for March 5 - 7, 2010

Attention Artists! - Consider a donation to "Palettes & Pieces" - The 2009 Highlands Auction!

Thank you again to everyone who made our 2008 Quilt Auction a success! We raised over \$13,000 to reduce our mortgage! This year the title of the auction will be "Palettes and Pieces" and will feature all types of handcrafted items. We are currently looking for items such as paintings, woodworking pieces, pottery, and of course, quilts. The money raised will again be used to reduce the mortgage on the Highlands retreat center, helping to ensure a strong financial future for the camp. The auction will take place at the annual Christmas party at Highlands Camp on December 5, 2009.

If you or someone you know is interested in donating an item for the auction, please contact Chrissy Starcher at Chrissy.Starcher@gmail.com or 303-747-2339. All items must be received by Saturday, November 7, 2009.

Congregational Leadership Equipping Workgroup Information

Elder/Deacon Training

The Congregational Leadership and Equipping Working Group is once again sponsoring a series of training sessions for elders and deacons in three different areas of the Presbytery. Led by Doska Ross of the General Assembly Office of the Stated Clerk at the headquarters of the PCUSA in Louisville, she will be conducting identical workshops in three areas on the nuts and bolts of the duties of being an elder or deacon, and Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter, will present the Historical Foundations of our Polity or form of government. These will be held Thursday, September 10, at First Presbyterian Church in Sterling, Colorado, Friday, September 11 at First Presbyterian Church in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and September 12 at Harmony Presbyterian Church in Ft. Collins, Colorado. September 10 and 11 will be from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. and Saturday's, September 12 will be from 9:00 until 11:30 AM. Elders, deacons, and pastors are URGED to attend. The subject will be officer polity, the historical and the why and wherefore of why we do what we do and how to do it! Plan to attend one of these events and be sure all your session members have the chance to be present.

To register for one of these three training events, please contact Bobbi at the Presbytery office.

A Note from the Nominating Committee

This is the time of year when the Nominating Committee is most busy. We're looking for elders, laypeople, and ministers to serve on most of our organizational units, some to fill currently vacant positions, most for the upcoming Class of 2012 which will be elected at the November Presbytery meeting. So, please consider your talented church members who might be interested in service at the Presbytery level. For example, you might think about those that rotated off your Session this year. The nomination form and a tri-fold brochure that lists the responsibilities and meeting times of our organizational units were included in the handouts at the last Presbytery meeting. These will also be emailed to all churches again, so that you can make copies as needed.

In addition to staffing all our organizational units, we as a Presbytery need to begin consideration about who we will be sending to General Assembly in 2010. Forms for nominating Elder Delegates and Youth Advisory Delegates will also be sent out via email soon. So, please be considering these important positions during your upcoming session meeting, and contact either the Presbytery office or Deb Anthony (Nominating Committee moderator - 970-223-4066) with your suggestions. Thank you!

Interesting Church News

First Presbyterian Church - Berthoud, CO

The 125th Anniversary committee is gathering information for a book of history that includes a section on personal memories of the congregational members. Please share your memories with us. Just jot down a specific memory and send it to the church.

First Presbyterian Church - Boulder, CO

Calling ALL Ministry Leaders and Others Who Invite People to Serve - We are again offering the well-received seminar: Learning More About Inviting People Into Service (Basics) at the end of August AND we've been asked to create and offer an intermediate level seminar as well - After Inviting, Now What? Interviewing, Screening, Equipping (Intermediate) in September. In the Learning More About Inviting seminar, you will find out WHY people volunteer and why they DON'T; why they STAY and why they DON'T. Our context is Scripture, specifically focusing on servanthood and equipping. The follow-on seminar, After Inviting, Now What? is for those who have taken the first workshop and who wish more information on next steps like interviewing, placement, screening, equipping, and retention.

Presbyterian Church of Broomfield - Broomfield, CO

We would like to share our construction progress on the following website link: <http://oxblue.com/pro/open/rcheath/broomfield>.

Harmony Presbyterian Church - Ft. Collins, CO

They are having a garage/book/bake sale on Saturday August 29, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Also, they have a Dessert Theater coming up on Friday and Saturday, October 9-10. The play they will be presenting is "Harvey". Finally, they will hold a Bazaar on Saturday, November 7. Somewhere in the middle of all that, September 13, they will have a Tail Gate Kick Off bbq/pot luck in the southeast parking lot immediately after worship to showcase Sunday School and all of the other programs happening around the church.

Weldon Valley Presbyterian Church - Goodrich, CO

The third annual fish fry will be Wednesday October 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the church basement. The community is invited; there is no cost.

Kimball Presbyterian Church - Kimball, NE

Kimball Presbyterian Church will celebrate 100 years of service to the Lord on August 29, 2010. They are planning several events that will begin with releasing balloons to commemorate our 99th anniversary on August 30, 2009. Their calendar is filled with excitement, inspiration, and fun. During September they will participate in the Farmer's Day parade of their little town with a float spotlighting the members and their contributions to the community. The Christmas celebration will include a live presentation of the Baby in the Stable with animals, music, and worship in a real barn. 2010 will include fellowship activities, renewing old friendships, and making new ones. They are looking forward to a very memorable celebration.

Central Presbyterian Church - Longmont, CO

The church has a Riso that is available and whoever wants it has to pick it up. Frontier Business products in the servicing company and those interested could call them and ask how much a service contract would be. It's a Risograph GR 3750 and it also has a second ink cartridge (blue). This machine is not a copier per se, it is good for making lots of copies.

Buckhorn Presbyterian Church - Masonville, CO

Masonville held their 7th annual Gospel Festival on Saturday, August 15. They also have a new lighted sign in front of the church.