



|June 2010

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks|

Elder/Deacon & Clerks of Session Training

The Congregational Leadership and Equipping Work group will be having the third in the series of Elder/Deacon training sessions this September, the week following Labor Day as in the past. The subject this time will be the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church, with speakers talking about our connections to missions abroad and in the United States, missions in and by our own Presbytery of Plains and Peaks, and projects between local churches, both Presbyterian and others denominations.

Thursday, September 9; Friday, September 10; and Saturday, September 11 are the dates. Be sure and put them on your church and individual calendars. Folk can attend any of the sessions. The Thursday evening session will be at the church in Otis, with a dinner served at 5:30 for all comers and the training running from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to get you home in good time. Friday evening will be at the Bridgeport church again and dinner will be served there as well. The time is the same. The Front Range Training will be at Central Presbyterian Church in Longmont this time, from 9:30 until noon on Saturday.

There is a possibility for some follow-up meetings to dialogue with each other about what is working in your church and what you may learn from a neighboring church. Stay tuned for more information on this at a later time.

As in the past, all elders and deacons are urged to attend one of the training sessions, pastors are urged to let their officers know about them and urge their attendance, and pastors may well want to attend, as well. At least one church in the presbytery has used the training session as their meeting for the month each time. How about considering this as a way to really get some valuable information?

Additionally, Lynn Smit (Stated Clerk) and Bobbi Hoffman (Office Administrator) will be conducting Clerks of Session and Support training. The date and places are the same as Elder/Deacon training. The times are as follows: Thursday and Friday - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. All current clerks, potential clerks, and office staff are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, please contact the Presbytery office.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium

GREAT NEWS!! We have 39 young folk and 10 adult leaders representing us at the Triennium event at Purdue University in July! It is sponsored by the national office of the Presbyterian Church and has a multitude of wonderful leadership persons. What a wonderful representation from a small presbytery. Central Westview Presbyterian Churches in Longmont is sending their entire youth group and four leaders. St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Boulder is sending eight young people and their interim youth director. Wray is sending one young person, Milliken is sending three young people, Sterling is sending one young person, Loveland First is sending one young person and one adult leader, and Scottsbluff is sending seven and three adult leaders. The Reverend Chris Johnson of the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies in Estes Park is one of the small group leaders for the event. We will plan to hear several reports of this event in the coming months. Be sure and plan for a presentation at your own youth group. What a wonderful way to keep our young people interested and active in the church.

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

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

www.plainsandpeaks.org

Executive Presbyter ~

Dan Saperstein

dan@plainsandpeaks.org

Stated Clerk ~

Lynn Smit

lynn@plainsandpeaks.org

Treasurer ~

Diane Kenning

dkenning@kenningfilter.com

Office Administrator ~

Bobbi Hoffman

bobbi@plainsandpeaks.org

Administrative Personnel Association Regional Conference

The Rocky Mountain Regional APA is hosting a conference August 5-8, 2010 at The Plains Hotel (www.theplainshotel.com) in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Classes will be Biblical Interpretation I, Church History, GA Entities, Effective Meeting Minutes, Directory for Worship, Office Administration I, and Office Administration II. You do NOT need to be a member of APA to attend this conference. A brochure is available online at <http://pcusa-apa.org/> - click on the Conferences button and scroll down to Rocky Mountain Region. For information regarding this conference, please contact Bobbi Hoffman at the information to the left.



Administrative Personnel Association

The Administrative Personnel Association is a professional association for administrative staff of churches, governing bodies, agencies, and institutions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). APA was established to improve the quality of professionalism in the offices that are usually the first points of contact with congregations, governing bodies, and agencies of the church. It affirms the ministry of the lay church professional and recognizes the importance of efficient office procedures and competent personnel who strive to provide a deeper commitment and understanding of the issues and theology of our church. The mission of APA is to offer opportunities for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We accomplish this by providing continuing education events for certification and occasions for fellowship, worship, spiritual nurture, and prayer at both national and regional conferences.

Certification is recognized by the General Assembly through the Office of Vocation. Certified members are listed in the Minutes of the General Assembly, Book II and Book III (Directory).

The importance of certification is that continued education and personal growth increase your value as a lay professional to your staff, congregation, and to yourself. Your understanding of Presbyterian history, theology, and polity is essential to your profession.

For more information regarding APA, please visit <http://pcusa-apa.org/> or contact Bobbi Hoffman and the information above.

Highlands Celebrates Sixty-five Years of Ministry in 2010

Did you know that in August of 1945, Boulder Presbytery authorized its Christian Education Committee to appoint a committee in order to secure a location and raise funds for a tract of land for a new camp and conference ministry? This act of the Presbytery is considered the birth of the current Highlands ministry located in the beautiful mountains of Allenspark, Colorado. What began as a small and primitive summer-only operation has transformed and grown into a first-class facility, operating year round and serving over 17,000 guests annually. To celebrate sixty-five years of strong and vibrant ministry, Highlands will be offering special events and programs throughout 2010 in honor of the ministry of Highlands and the hard work and vision of those initial pioneers in camp and retreat ministry. Come up and celebrate sixty-five years of grace in a beautiful place with us! Highlands wants to ensure that we get our 65th anniversary information and specials to all of the Highlands family. Do you know a former camper, counselor, volunteer, etc. who does not receive our newsletter? If so, please call (303-747-2888) or email Holly (registrar@highlandscamp.org) at Highlands to share names and contact information for these friends of Highlands.

The Milestone Ride and Benefit for Highlands

On July 17, 2010, Cleon Kimberling, a long-time Highlands supporter and committee member, will celebrate his 80th birthday. On that day, Cleon invites you to join him in celebration with the Milestone Ride – a bicycle event 20 miles in length and 3,029 feet in elevation gain from Hall Ranch in Lyons, Colorado, to the doors of the Highlands Retreat Center. If you are not a bicyclist, you can still join in the festivities and show your support of Highlands by participating in a jig-saw puzzle tournament, or a hike around the property! More information is available on-line at www.highlandscamp.org.



Rocky Mountain Forth of July Family Vacation
~ July 2-5, 2010

Writing Your Spiritual Memoirs - September
27-30, 2010

Be sure to go to www.way-points.org and
check out over thirty other programs that will
be offered around the nation!



Rocky Mountain High: John Denver & Rocky
Mountain National Park
June 13-17, 2010

An Intergenerational Exploritas for
Grandparents & Grandchildren! - Summer
Spectacular in the CO Rockies
August 8-13, 2010

Summer Action in the CO Rockies
(Adventure Camp for Grown-ups)
August 15-20, 2010

Be sure to go to www.exploritas.org today to
register and check out the other programs that
are offered!

“Seeing is Believing” Summer Celebrations

These annual summer gatherings have become a Highlands tradition! Join us for a Summer Camp Closing Celebration and see the difference that Summer Camp makes in the lives of young people! Choose the date that works best for you . . . Friday evenings - July 2, 9, 16, or 30 - 4:00 p.m. arrive and tour camp - 5:00 p.m. enjoy a picnic dinner with campers and their families followed by the Summer Camp Closing Worship Service and Celebration. RSVP - 303-747-2888 or registrar@highlandscamp.org.

Presbyterian Women

SAVE THE DATE!!! - October 16, 2010

Joining Hands with Africa

Mtn. View Presbyterian Church - Loveland, Colorado

Special Guests -

Lydia Neshangwe - Zimbabwe, Africa

Wanda Beauman - PWS Moderator

Marilyn Collins - PWS Representative to CCT

This special meeting will be open to all - men, women, and youth. Come to see and learn what local congregations, presbyteries, and Presbyterian Women are doing in Africa. Watch for details about time, workshops, and guests focusing on Zambia, Malawi, Congo, and Sudan.

Interesting Church News

On Sunday, July 11, Weldon Valley Presbyterian Church in Goodrich, Colorado will host the congregations from Rankin Presbyterian Church in Brush, Colorado and United Presbyterian Church in Ft. Morgan for worship. A potluck will follow. The Stover Street Stompers, a dixieland gospel band from Fort Collins, will be on hand to provide the music!

The Presbyterian Church of Kimball in Kimball, Nebraska will be celebrating the 100 year anniversary on the exact date of its organization (August 28, 1910) this coming August 28-29, 2010. Activities in the church and the community have been taking place during these past months and several events are planned during the summer, taking us up to the big weekend celebration in August. On June 27th, a gospel quartet from Colorado City, CO will present an outdoor program (weather permitting) at 3:00 p.m. at the church. 'Crosswalk' is a family Christian gospel group, all Bible believing, born again Christians who love the Lord. Following their 'message in song', an ice cream social is planned in the fellowship hall for church members, friends and the community. It's a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon! August 28th will begin our official celebration with a gathering at 4:00 p.m. at the former Presbyterian Church on highway 30 in Kimball. A cowboy poet from the area will entertain us and fellowship, music and a picnic will be the activities of the day. Sunday morning will be at special worship service at 10:30 a.m. at our present church building on 7th and Cedar St. with former pastors and members participating in the service. A catered noon banquet will follow with a program of sharing memories, stories, letters and pictures. We invite pastors and friends in the Presbytery to share this special event with us.

Buckhorn Presbyterian Church in Masonville, CO is looking for a pair of good audio speakers for use on occasions of outdoor worship at its newly refurbished amphitheater which seats approximately three hundred people. If you have recently upgraded the system at your church or know of a source for purchase at a nominal fee, your help in locating such would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mike Wilkinson at 970 667-8788.

Timnath Presbyterian Church in Timnath, CO Re-Construction Update: Currently and in progress: electrical & plumbing rough-in, heating ducts and thermostats.

From the Lions' Den

“We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church...”

These “marks of the church” from the Nicene Creed provide the themes for our presbytery assemblies this year. The Nicene Creed is the earliest creed to receive ecumenical (i.e., church-wide) adoption. (Although the Apostles’ Creed has older origins, it did not obtain its current language until after the Nicene Creed.) In Western Christianity, it is the hallmark of orthodox belief. Traditionally, it is spoken at every service of Holy Communion to signify the common faith of the church.

The phrase “one holy catholic and apostolic” also serves as an organizing principle for the proposed new Form of Government being considered at the PCUSA General Assembly in July. I don’t know if the proposal will be adopted, but I do think its use of the Nicene marks of the church are instructive for our life and mission as a presbytery. The whole document is available online at www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment, but I will provide some excerpts here:

...Unity is God’s gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. Just as God is one God and Jesus Christ is our one Savior, so the Church is one because it belongs to its one Lord, Jesus Christ. The Church seeks to include all people and is never content to enjoy the benefits of Christian community for itself alone.... Because in Christ the Church is one, it strives to be one. To be one with Christ is to be joined with all those whom Christ calls into relationship with him....

Holiness is God’s gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. Through the love of Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God takes away the sin of the world. The holiness of the Church comes from Christ who sets it apart to bear witness to his love, and not from the purity of its doctrine or the righteousness of its actions. Because in Christ the Church is holy, the Church, its members, and those in its ordered ministries strive to lead lives worthy of the Gospel we proclaim....

Catholicity is God’s gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. In the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God overcomes our alienation and repairs our division. Because in Christ the Church is catholic, it strives everywhere to testify to Christ’s embrace of men, women, and children of all times, places, races, nations, ages, conditions, and stations in life....

Apostolicity is God’s gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God sends the Church into the world to share the gospel of God’s redemption of all things and people. Because in Christ the Church is apostolic, it strives to proclaim this gospel faithfully.... To be members of the body of Christ is to be sent out to pursue the mission of God and to participate in God’s new creation, God’s kingdom drawing the present into itself.

To say that the church is “one holy catholic and apostolic” is an expression of its inner reality, not necessarily its outer expression. We have a lot to do to live out our identity and to fulfill our calling. This year, may we be inspired to become a more visibly one, holy, catholic, and apostolic presbytery.



Update on PDA Donations

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has received donations totaling \$9.2 million for disaster relief in Haiti. About a third has been used to provide temporary shelter, water, hygiene, and more. PDA has committed half a million to purchase seeds and tools for Haitian farmers along with \$30 million sent by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) visited Haiti recently with a denominational group to determine the efficient use of donated funds. Church officials are looking at sending in short-term mission teams possibly this fall.

At the February 2010 Presbytery meeting that was held at Harmony Presbyterian Church in Ft. Collins, Colorado, the Presbytery voted to send the offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Haiti disaster relief. The total amount that was sent to PDA was \$991,750. This offering was one of the most generous offerings the Presbytery has received.