



| March 2009

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks |

### New Stated Clerk Lynn Smit

Lynn was born in Grand Junction, Colorado, and is a fourth generation Coloradoan. She was baptized at First Presbyterian Church in Boulder, Colorado and confirmed at First Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She graduated from Arizona State with a degree in education. She has been married to her husband, Alan, going on 32 years. They have two sons - Jason, a Lieutenant JG in the Navy, currently residing in Saratoga Springs, New York and Brian who lives and works in Longmont, Colorado. Lynn is a member of Westview Presbyterian Church in Longmont, Colorado. Prior to being elected at Stated Clerk she was the Moderator of Presbytery, Council, and the Committee on Ministry. She has also served on the Committee for Preparation for Ministry and the Nominating Committee.

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### A New Opportunity for the Presbytery!! What??? - A Presbytery-wide Book Study!!

This spring, our Presbytery will sponsor its first-ever Presbytery-wide book study. We will be reading *Humble Leadership* by N. Graham Standish, who is a Presbyterian pastor in Pennsylvania and who leads workshops on spiritual leadership across the country. He is the author of several books. YOU are invited to participate!! If you would like to be involved, please contact your regional coordinator:

- ✦ Boulder area - Jim Reed - 303-776-7537 - [jim.reed@ncsl.org](mailto:jim.reed@ncsl.org)
- ✦ Larimer area - Rich McDermott - 970-482-6107 - [rich@firstpresfc.org](mailto:rich@firstpresfc.org)
- ✦ Eastern Plains area - Jane Westfall - 970-848-2285 - [jane@plains.net](mailto:jane@plains.net)
- ✦ NE Panhandle area - Scott Thompson - 308-262-0134 - [pastorscottthompson@msn.com](mailto:pastorscottthompson@msn.com)

They have books available for a purchase price of \$10.00 (list price of \$18.00!) and will be setting up the local discussion groups. We hope you'll take this opportunity to join in discussion with other Presbyterians in your area.

(Exciting footnote - Graham Standish will be presenting at a workshop entitled "Leading Your Church in Spiritual Vibrancy" at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center near Allenspark, Colorado in June - being part of the book study is a great way to learn about some of Graham's philosophies so that you can decide if you might like to attend this workshop.)

## Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

7257 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. - Unit 4  
Greeley, Colorado 80634  
800-257-4583  
[www.plainsandpeaks.org](http://www.plainsandpeaks.org)

Executive Presbyter ~

Dan Saperstein  
[dmsaperstein@gmail.com](mailto:dmsaperstein@gmail.com)

Stated Clerk ~

Lynn Smit  
[lynn@plainsandpeaks.org](mailto:lynn@plainsandpeaks.org)

Treasurer ~

Diane Kenning  
[dkenning@kenningfilter.com](mailto:dkenning@kenningfilter.com)

Office Administrator ~

Bobbi Hoffman  
[bobbi@plainsandpeaks.org](mailto:bobbi@plainsandpeaks.org)

## Our Presbytery Votes of the GA Amendments

- ✦ 08-A - Vows of Membership  
Yes - 54      No - 47 Abstain - 0
- ✦ 08-B - Ordained Officers  
Yes - 41      No - 60 Abstain - 0
- ✦ 08-C - Replacing "Sympathy" with "Compassion"  
Yes - 90      No - 10 Abstain - 1
- ✦ 08-D - General Assembly Council Name Change  
Yes - 90      No - 11 Abstain - 0
- ✦ 08-E - Nongeographic Presbyteries  
Yes - 30      No - 71 Abstain - 0
- ✦ 08-F - Presbytery Membership of Certified Christian Educators  
Yes - 69      No - 31 Abstain - 1
- ✦ 08-G - Synod Membership on Permanent Committees  
Yes - 93      No - 6      Abstain - 2
- ✦ 08-H - Five Ordination Examinations  
Yes - 77      No - 21 Abstain - 3
- ✦ 08-I - Certified Christian Educators  
Yes - 78      No - 21 Abstain - 2
- ✦ 08-J - Alternative Forms of Resolution  
Yes - 95      No - 2      Abstain - 4

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## Pastoral Transitions

- ✦ The Reverends Janice and Samuel Adams are now the Interim Co-Pastors at Central Presbyterian Church in Longmont, Colorado beginning November 28, 2008
- ✦ The Reverend Ken Gorman is now the Interim Pastor at Timnath Presbyterian Church in Timnath, Colorado beginning January 1, 2009
- ✦ The Reverend Judy McQuiston is now the Interim Pastor (not Stated Supply) at First Presbyterian Church in Gordon, Nebraska beginning January 1, 2009
- ✦ The Reverend Peter Barnes received a call to Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, and is no longer at First Presbyterian Church in Boulder, Colorado as of January 6, 2009
- ✦ The Reverend Bruce McQueen was granted status of Honorably Retired beginning February 1, 2009
- ✦ The Reverend Dixie Voss Anders is now the Pastor at Light Memorial Presbyterian Church in Sidney, Nebraska beginning February 1, 2009

## Upcoming Events at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center:

Members of the Mount Meeker Society are those who have given \$1000 or more annually to Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center.

Members of the Mount Meeker Society are invited to a special dinner at Highlands. We hope that you will join us and bring a guest! We look forward to a very special dinner, and time of celebration! Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

Mount Meeker Society Dinner  
Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for the Spring Work Day. We'll be opening cabins and buildings that have been closed for winter and doing special projects to help us be ready for Summer Camp.

Spring Work Day  
Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Lunch Provided

Please call or email Laura (laura@highlandscamp.org) to let us know you'll be there!



In 2009, Highlands will offer:

World Affairs Conference: Reflecting in the Rockies  
April 5 - 10, 2009

Emerge Into Spring at Rocky Mountain National Park  
May 3 - 8, 2009

Rocky Mountain High: John Denver and Rocky Mountain National Park  
July 26 - 30, 2009

An Intergenerational Elderhostel for Grandparents & Grandchildren!  
Summer Spectacular in the Colorado Rockies  
August 9 - 14, 2009

Summer Action in the Colorado Rockies  
*(Adventure Camp for Grown-ups!)*  
August 23 - 28, 2009

Aspen Glow and Mountain Folk: Autumn in the Colorado Rockies  
September 13 - 17, 2009

Rocky Mountain Halloween: The Stanley Hotel and Other Things that Go Bump in the Night  
October 29 - November 1, 2009

Dancing in the New Year with Glenn Miller  
December 29, 2009 - January 1, 2010

Be sure to go to [www.elderhostel.org](http://www.elderhostel.org) for full details and to register!



**Way-Points is a cooperative venture of 13 Presbyterian sites around the nation. In 2009, Highlands will offer:**

Rocky Mountain Fourth of July Family Vacation  
July 2 - 5, 2009

21st Century Thought in Astronomy, Geology, & Theology  
August 16 - 21, 2009

Longs Peak: Towering Treasure of Rocky Mountain National Park  
September 27 - October 2, 2009

Be sure to go to [www.way-points.org](http://www.way-points.org) and check out all thirty-nine of the programs that will be offered around the nation!

**Witness in Washington Weekly**  
**The Washington office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**  
**January 12, 2009**

Congress to take up SCHIP Reauthorization this week

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) provides health coverage to over seven million low-income children in working families whose parents make too much to qualify for Medicaid, but still lack health coverage. Since its creation in 1997, it has been a popular, successful program, credited with helping to reduce the uninsured rate among children by almost a third, even as uninsured rates for adults increased steadily. Now as the unemployment rate rises and fewer families can afford health care, low-income children are even more at risk. For every one percent increase in the unemployment rate, an additional 600,000 children become eligible for Medicaid and/or SCHIP.

SCHIP was due to be reauthorized in 2007, but after a grueling year of legislative battles, including two presidential vetoes, Congress had to settle for extending the program at 2007 levels until March 31, 2009.

Picking up the reauthorization work that should have been completed in 2007, the new Congress is taking up SCHIP immediately. The House will vote this week, probably on Wednesday, while the Senate will bring the bill through committee at the same time, looking for a vote by the full Senate not long after.

This bill will be very similar to the first SCHIP reauthorization bill that President Bush vetoed in 2007. The one significant change, an improvement, is that this bill will include the Immigrant Children Health Improvement Act (ICHIA). Currently, documented immigrant children and pregnant women have to wait five years before they can access SCHIP – a long time for anyone, especially children. ICHIA removes the five-year waiting period so that documented immigrant children and pregnant women will be able to access care as soon as they need it. Urge your members of Congress to support including this provision – no sick child should have to wait five years to receive treatment.

Click <http://capwiz.com/pcusa/issues/alert/?alertid=12409696> to send a message to your Representative and Senators to tell them you want a strong SCHIP reauthorization, including ICHIA.

#### General Assembly Guidance

In the "Resolution on Advocacy on Behalf of the Uninsured," the 214th General Assembly (2002) urged "adequate funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) so that health-care coverage will be available for all children...Urge[d] the expansion of CHIP legislation to include the parents or caregivers of children covered under its provisions... Encourage[d] members of the 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." (Minutes, 2002, PC(USA), pp. 633-644)

In 2006, the 217th General Assembly approved "On Advocacy and Welcome for All Immigrants," in which is urged "that our denomination, mindful of the current realities and threats to our belief system, not sway from our solidarity with, and pledge of service to, all of our brothers and sisters regardless of their race, creed, color, nationality, or residency status." (Minutes, 2006, p. 880)

Published by the Witness in Washington Weekly advocacy program of the Washington Office, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington D.C. 20002, (202) 543-1126 [www.pcusa.org/washington](http://www.pcusa.org/washington). For more information about the content of this article, please email us at [ga\\_washington\\_office@pcusa.org](mailto:ga_washington_office@pcusa.org). If you would like to receive this information directly, please go to <http://capwiz.com/pcusa/mlm/signup/>.

## Interesting Church News

### St. Andrew Presbyterian Church - Boulder, CO

The Book Group meets every month on the fourth Tuesday, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Dining Hall. We combine a good dinner with discussion of a good book, and we always have room for new faces. The current book is *Miss Julia Speaks her Mind*, by Ann B. Ross, and is available from your local book store. Remember it is a dinner meeting, so bring a dish to share.

### First Presbyterian Church - Bridgeport, NE

Come participate in the tale of three trees!!! This is an invitation for the young and the young at heart to participate in a musical event for Palm Sunday. The Tale of Three Trees brings to life the traditional story of some trees with a dream and a God with a plan. As we follow their adventures, we are reminded that there is no prayer that is too small for God.

### First Presbyterian Church - Ft. Collins, CO

This spring is going to be filled with excitement in our college ministry. In February we had a winter retreat to Steamboat for the new and returning students. We'll be looking at the concept of Idolatry: How we Attempt to Dethrone God? The weekend will be a time of spiritual reflection and an opportunity to make new and meaningful friendships.

For Spring Break, our college group will once again head out to Chinle, AZ. We've spent the last few years working at Trinity Presbyterian Church in the Navajo Nation. This year, the church is blessed to have a new pastor and she is eager to build a solid reputation among the community.

### Lisco Presbyterian Church - Lisco, NE

The Lisco Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2009. The Church's minutes reflect that March 14th, 1909, the vote was to form a Presbyterian Church in Lisco. On Sunday, March 15, 2009, the Church will hold a special service featuring memoirs, music of the various eras, and a dinner following. On September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, during the village's 100th anniversary celebration, the church will dedicate a new sign being erected in honor of its centennial milestone. With a membership of only 40, the Lisco Presbyterian Church continues to hold services every Sunday, minister to the community through their annual chicken noodle dinner and bazaar, and participates in local and national mission projects. Rev. Duane Dunwoody is the pulpit supply.

### Central Presbyterian Church - Longmont, CO

Central is hosting the Blackburn Voices in Concert, a select group of women that sings a wide range of music. They are from Blackburn College, a liberal arts college in Carlinville, IL which is affiliated with the PCUSA. Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 PM. Concert is free.

### Mtn. View Presbyterian Church - Loveland, CO

Ten ringers traveled to Colorado Springs on Saturday, January 24 to participate in a handbell ringing workshop. The day was quite worthwhile, as ringers learned new techniques and had the privilege of working with Kevin McChesney, gifted director and composer. The Pikes Peak Ringers performed in concert at the end of the day. This choir was recently chosen to perform with Yo-Yo Ma, world renowned cellist. What a treat for our ringers!

### Buckhorn Presbyterian Church - Masonville, CO

Buckhorn hosted a Chili Luncheon in February where all proceeds went to benefit local needs. They also had a Bluegrass Gospel Jam for singers, spectators, and experienced or beginner musicians.

### Light Memorial Presbyterian Church - Sidney, NE

The Installation of the Reverend Dixie Voss Anders will be at 3:30pm at Light Memorial Presbyterian Church on March 15, 2009. The congregation is extremely happy to have Dixie and would like to share this exciting day with everyone. There will be a reception following the service.

### Timnath Presbyterian Church - Timnath, CO

Dinner Theater - "Headed South for the Great White North or Get Out of Toronto Pronto" - March 27, 28, and April 4, 5 - Sunday Matinee March 30 - Adults: \$15.00; Children \$10.00 - For Tickets, call Sharon, 214-7442.

## Presbyterian Historical Society Awards Heritage Microfilming Grants

The Presbyterian Historical Society is pleased to announce that Crooked Creek Presbyterian Church, Ford City, PA; First Presbyterian Church, Yuma, CO; and United Presbyterian Church, Amenia, NY, have received 2008 Heritage Microfilming Grants from the Presbyterian Historical Society. The \$250 grants, funded this year by Fourth Presbyterian Church (Chicago, Ill.) And Friends of the Presbyterian Historical Society, will cover most or all of the cost of microfilming the congregations' vital records including session minutes and church registers.

Microfilming is the best method currently available for the long-term preservation of records. Brittle paper, deteriorating binds, fire, flood, and the rapidly changing electronic environment all pose substantial threats to records. Most paper produced since the mid-19th century contains acidic wood pulp which causes rapid deterioration of paper. Records may also be damaged or destroyed by water, fire, insects or other natural disasters. Changing computer software and hardware, as well as the fragility of electronic media present preservation challenges as well. Archival quality microfilm has an expected life of 500 years and allows copies of records to be stored in several locations to minimize the chances of loss due to natural disaster.

The Presbyterian Historical Society established the Heritage Microfilming Grant program in 2001 in honor of its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Awarded annually to encourage and support the preservation microfilming of congregations' official records, the grants go to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Congregations that have fewer than 250 members, are at least 50 years old, and demonstrate both preservation and financial need. PHS is grateful to Fourth Presbyterian Church and the PHS Friends for their generous funding, their support of our work, and their commitment to assisting small congregations in preserving their records.

Serving the church since 1852, the Presbyterian Historical Society is the national archives and historical research center of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Headquartered in Philadelphia, with a records management program at the denomination's headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, it serves the church's national agencies, middle governing bodies, and local congregations as well as scholars and the general public by collecting, preserving, and sharing information relevant to American Presbyterianism; and encouraging appreciation of the Church's heritage.

Contact the Presbyterian Historical Society by email at [refdesk@history.pcusa.org](mailto:refdesk@history.pcusa.org) or by phone at 215-627-1852. Visit our website at [www.history.pcusa.org](http://www.history.pcusa.org).

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### The Nominating Committee needs YOU!!

The Nominating Committee still has a few committee positions available. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the Presbytery office at [bobbi@plainsandpeaks.org](mailto:bobbi@plainsandpeaks.org) and Deb Anthony (the Nominating Committee moderator for 2009) at [deb@anthony-associates.com](mailto:deb@anthony-associates.com).

- ✦ Committee on Ministry
  - ✦ Minister - class of 2011
  - ✦ Elder - class of 2011
  - ✦ Elder - class of 2011
  
- ✦ Congregational Leadership Equipping Workgroup
  - ✦ Elder - class of 2011

## Plains & Peaks Churches Support Theological Education

Giving to the Theological Education Fund by churches in the Presbytery increased this past year, to an all-time high of \$4,460. The Fund is distributed among the ten Presbyterian Church (USA) seminaries. The General Assembly recommends every congregation contribute 1% of their annual operating budget, less benevolences, to the Fund as an investment in the development of church leadership for years to come. Thank you to the following contributing congregations: Greeley, Family of Christ; Ft. Morgan; Berthoud; Goodrich; Broomfield; Yuma; Akron; Ft. Collins, Westminster; Gordon; and Kimball. Elder Jane Westfall is the Presbytery's liaison to the Fund, and is happy to provide interpretive materials and resources. You may contact her at [jane@plains.net](mailto:jane@plains.net).

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### A Message for "Extraordinary Times" Dan Saperstein - Executive Presbyter

We are living in extraordinary times. At virtually the same time that over a million people turned out to witness the inauguration of the first African-American president, thousands turned out to apply for a few dozen jobs paying little more than minimum wage. It is no secret that our nation is facing the most challenging economic crisis in over a generation. For rural communities already in decline, or high-tech areas still reeling from the dot.com bust, the severity of the current crisis is compounded. Regardless of location, however, every church, every community, every family is being affected by economic turmoil. This is a reality that needs to be openly recognized.

I recently heard an interview on the radio about the impact of the economic crisis on churches. The speaker noted that for many people, support of the church becomes a "luxury" when the main concern is "putting bread on the table." The message was that in bad economic times, people will turn away from their communities of faith and look out for their own needs. I reject that message. History tells us that it is precisely in tough times that people of faith come together to help their neighbors. The church is strongest when it is tested. We know that it is as important to ensure that we are able to be fed spiritually as it is to be fed physically.

Undoubtedly, some churches will be financially stressed, and the need for pastoral leadership will be increased at the very time resources for that leadership will be hardest to find. Similarly, the resources to meet our needs in our communities and in the wider church will be harder to come by. But I believe that God will provide us with the resources and the generosity to come through these difficult times together. Recently, my colleague Tom Sheffield addressed Denver Presbytery with these words:

It is an extraordinary time, but in the church each day is extraordinary because we are given extraordinary work to do. We are given the work to be Christ's voice, hands, feet, face and heart in the world. We are to have the vision of hope, the words of life, and love that saves. That is always hard and extraordinary work. These days, however, make it even harder to have hope, to know what to say and to have enough love to go around for all the needs. But these days also will bring us, I believe, to depend even more on God's leading and God's giving extraordinary love that moves constantly into the ordinary of our lives. These days will lead us to depend on each other and see that we are, as the hymn tonight says, "one great fellowship of love."

It is therefore vital that no church feel it is going it alone; that no minister believe that she or he has no support to see how to meet these challenges. As your Executive Presbyter, and on behalf of the presbytery as a whole, I pledge to work with congregations or pastoral leaders in need to find the means to rise to meet the challenges of these extraordinary times. We can do it if we continue to work together in faith, because we are an extraordinary presbytery serving an extraordinary Lord.