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News

Together, we are Christ's Body

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Vital & Faithful Worship

A Georgia Presbyterian Celebration of Faith

The five presbyteries in Georgia will gather together for the second "Georgia Presbyterian Celebration of Faith", **September 28-29**, to be held at Peachtree Presbyterian Church. Friday events include: "Stewardship in the Big Top" (1-5 p.m.), Dinner together (5-6:30 p.m.), and a large celebrative worship service from 7-9 p.m., with Dr. Tom Long preaching. Saturday events include: breakfast together (7:30 a.m.), official meetings of Presbytery (8:30 a.m.), four different workshop options for non-commissioners (9-12 a.m.) and lunch together (12 noon). Special displays will be available during the entire event. The previous Georgia Presbyterian Celebration of Faith brought together about 750 Presbyterians from all over the state of Georgia.

Pre-registration is needed for this event. Special brochures, which are available at the Presbytery Office, have been developed for this special event and will be sent to churches soon. Registration is needed prior to August 31. Commissioners to the September 29 meeting of Presbytery will need to be identified early and must be registered by the August 31 deadline (**All churches should note this!**)

As the host presbytery for this special event, we encourage all of our congregations to publicize this special event, as well as to identify their presbytery commissioners early.



New Home for Presbytery Staff



In August of 1999, the staff of Presbytery moved out of its Tullie Road location where it had been operating since leaving the old PCUS building at 341 Ponce de Leon following reunion in 1983. Our temporary home since leaving Tullie Road was graciously provided by Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. Groundbreaking took



place last fall.

A complete photographic record of the progress of construction can be found on our website, <http://www.presbyteryofgreateratl.org>. The building was completed in early spring. The move into our new space took place during the week of March 26. It was carried out without a hitch thanks to the help of Calvin Center staff.



However, there were major voice and data problems in the new building which prevented phone calls in or out for several days. In addition, our website was down for several weeks until the new ISDN line was installed.

But we're home now. The Resource Center is the first area you see as you enter the building and it is beautiful. The years of effort by Mardee Rightmyer have finally paid off. There is a conference area to the rear of the Resource Center and a Conference Room on the first floor. With the exception of our receptionist, La'Keisha Crayton and Sue Huff, Mardee's assistant, the rest of the staff is housed upstairs. Please stop by and see us soon.

Open House is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, June 3 at 4 pm. Make every effort to celebrate with us in a service of dedication.

Lithonia Church Responds to Challenge

People on the southeast side of the Atlanta metro area know that some of the worst rush hours occur on Sunday mornings near New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, with its 25,000 members. When that church relocated two years ago to a site, with its sole entrance adjacent to Lithonia Presbyterian Church, the Session realized it was facing a challenge it hadn't dreamed of: the possibility of traffic choking off Sunday morning attendance. Then unexpectedly came an offer from a charter public school company to purchase LPC's property and facilities to start a new school. With 110 years of history in Lithonia and 20 years at its current site, did God have a wholly unexpected future for this congrega-

tion? With much prayer and soul-searching discussion, the Session, congregation, and presbytery decided it was so. While leasing back the facilities, the church began to consider where to relocate. A location with good visibility and prospects for growth that was close to members, but not close to sister congregations were among the goals. Finally, after much more prayer and a little trepidation, the search team located the site on Highway 20 in north Rockdale County. The groundbreaking service was on March 18. Site work begins in late May. Starting in June, the church office will move to a temporary location while Sunday School and worship will take place at Conyers Middle School. Since the new location will be outside Lithonia, the name of the congrega-

tion will be Presbyterian Church of the Resurrection. The congregation hopes to be in its new facility in January. More than once there seemed to be only dead ends, but God made a way for the life and ministry of this congregation to grow. God is quite adept at converting dead ends into new beginnings.

Stewardship Update

On May 10th the Presbytery welcomed 12 persons from 10 churches across the Presbytery to the first "Stewardship Roundtable." We gathered for a brown bag lunch in the Conference Room in the new building at 1024 Ponce. For nearly two hours we talked about all sorts of stewardship issues. The conversation was lively and informative. When we finished we agreed that such a gathering was helpful and informative. Several suggestions we made for topics to be discussed at a future "Roundtable." Watch this column and the website for our next meeting date.

Future dates of interest:

August 18, 2001—As part of the Fall Leadership Conference at Peachtree Church there will be 4 workshops offered on stewardship: 1) Basic Issues in Stewardship, 2) Stewardship Campaigns, 3) Generational Issues in Stewardship, 4) Stewardship in Racial-Ethnic Churches. All pastors, stewardship committee chairs, and stewardship committee members are encouraged to sign up

September 25, 2001—Pre-Presbytery workshop. The authors of *The Big Book of Presbyterian Stewardship* will offer a workshop on comprehensive stewardship issues in the local church. Again, all pastors, stewardship committee chairs, and stewardship committee members are encouraged to attend.

Therapeutic Riding Program Begins at Calvin Center

From dream to reality the therapeutic riding program at Calvin Center is starting March 17th. What began as a conversation between Cathe McKinnon and John Hicks, Calvin Center Director, a year ago is becoming reality. Cathe's dream for many years had been to start a therapeutic riding program, and Calvin Center is a perfect location for the program. With 80 acres of improved hay land and a total of 548 acres for trails and activities the combination is a natural. The therapeutic riding program is an outreach ministry of Calvin Center.

Therapeutic riding programs work with people with disabilities, physical or cognitive. The riding is not only enjoyable, but more importantly offers a sense of accomplishment for the rider. Safety is a key factor, with many riders requiring up to three volunteer walkers to assure that safety. Helmets and proper equipment are also a necessity. Training sessions for volunteers have been conducted this winter.

Cathe McKinnon is a certified NAHRA and CHA riding instructor with many years of experience. She is retired from the Clayton County Schools where she was a guidance counselor at Jonesboro High School.

Work has progressed through the winter to create the first pastures, riding arena, mounting ramp, and other facilities. Barns and a covered arena are in the planning stages. Horses for the program are currently being acquired through purchases, gifts, and lease arrangements. During the summer the equestrian program will serve the summer campers, and riding will be available for guest groups throughout the year.

Farewell to Laura Smith Conrad

We sadly say farewell to Laura Smith Conrad, who has resourced us in youth and young adult ministry since the fall of 1998. Laura has accepted a call to serve the Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, SC as their full-time Associate Pastor, while her husband, Chuck, goes back to school to prepare to become a teacher. Laura, Chuck, and their children, Avery and Hallie, have brought life to our presbytery and to the youth and young adults in this presbytery, and they will be missed! We wish them God's blessing in this move and



new beginnings.

The Presbytery is searching for interim youth ministry help, perhaps through May of 2002, while we plan for the future. If you know of someone available for interim youth ministry (20 hours a week) work, please have them mail or Fax (404-898-0679) a resume to Forrest Palmer.

Sunday.

As part of the Legacy of a Lifetime program, Wills Emphasis provides the cornerstone of a complete planned giving program. Although Wills Emphasis Sunday is traditionally celebrated the first Sunday of May, none of these materials is dated, so they may be used at the most convenient time of the year for individual congregations. Included in these resources are:

- a *Leadership Guide* to provide the basics of planned giving
- bulletin inserts containing stories of real-life examples of charitable giving
- bulletin covers – 8-1/2 x 11 or 8-1/2 x 14
- poster promoting the program
- *Guide to a Christian Will* – addresses typical questions about charitable bequests and estate planning (also available in Spanish and Korean)
- *Personal Record Book* – a concise record to list and organize assets for estate planning

To find out more about Wills Emphasis and the *Legacy of a Lifetime* planned giving program, visit the Foundation's website at www.fdn.pcusa.org.

You may also contact Jerry Dean Weber at (404) 898-0711, x-35. Materials are available through the website (for quickest delivery) or by calling 800-289-0313 Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (with voice mail available after hours).



Stewardship Corner

Jerry Dean Weber

Legacies

Spring and early summer is a time of renewal and rebirth in the church. It is the time when we observe Easter and Pentecost. It is also a time to remember the gifts that God has bestowed upon us. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have been given the greatest gift of all—the forgiveness of our sins. In the gift of the Holy Spirit we learn that God is constantly with us. On Pentecost we were gifted a church. What a tremendous legacy we are heirs to. At this time of year it is appropriate to ask ourselves, what sort of legacy will we pass on to the church of the future?

More bequests mean more dollars for mission

A recent study released by the National Committee on Planned Giving indicated that in 1999 be-

quest giving accounted for \$15.6 billion in charitable dollars and was the most popular method of planned giving among donors surveyed. Although less than half of the responding households had wills, nearly 60% were considering making one, with 14% considering charitable bequests. The survey also pointed out that most donors learned about charitable bequests from organizations' published materials: newsletters, brochures, mailings, etc.

It is estimated that Presbyterian congregations received \$187 million dollars in bequests in 1999 and 78% of all gifts received from estates were designated in a will.

These statistics reinforce the importance for churches to educate their congregations in the value of a will and how to provide for loved ones, the Church, and its mission. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation is offering free materials for congregations to use for Wills Emphasis



Highlights of May 8 Meeting of Presbytery

- The Rev. Dr. Ted Wardlaw moderated the presbytery meeting at Calvin Center. The meeting was held in the newly renovated dining center.
- There were 350 commissioners and visitors in attendance.
- The Rev. Dr. Martin Huggins preached the sermon during worship and the Praise Band from the Fayette Presbyterian Church, led by the Rev. John Westlund, provided music leadership. Communion was celebrated and a special offering for Calvin Center to purchase musical instruments was received.
- Ms. Cassandra Morrow was elected the new Associate Presbyter for Mission and Institutions. The presbytery also welcomed her husband, Kevin. Cassandra will begin her work with the presbytery in July.
- Jim Wells, Chairperson of the Restructuring Panel, gave a recap of the work of the panel followed by a visual overview of the goals and priorities, new structure, and implementation plan presented by the Rev. Dr. Tim Rogers-Martin. The commissioners met in small groups developing questions and comments, which the panel then addressed. This was the first reading of the proposed manual. The final vote will be taken at the July 10 presbytery meeting. See web page for further information: presbyteryofgreateratl.org.
- The Rev. Laura Smith Conrad was recognized for her exemplary work with the youth of the presbytery
- The Rev. Marilyn Washburn, M.D., has received the Woman of Faith award.
- The Rev. Cas Robinson, Public Policy Advocate, gave a summary of the legislative session.
- Reports from various committees and commissions were received.



We Welcome New Pastors in Our Midst

- We welcome **Samuel Adams** to the presbytery. Sam is to be ordained in June to further studies as he pursues a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Yale University.
- **Beverly Brigman**, from Northeast Georgia Presbytery, is the interim pastor of the Stockbridge Presbyterian Church.
- **Michael Bush**, from South Alabama Presbytery, has been called to pastor the Conyers Presbyterian Church.
- **George Rinker**, Central Florida Presbytery, comes to the presbytery as a pastoral counselor and teacher.



We Celebrate new Pastoral Calls

- **Sandra Wilmesherr** has been installed as the associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Peachtree City.
- **Lindsay Armstrong** has been called to the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church as pastor.



New Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry has enrolled the following students as Inquirers: Gyeong Kim, a member of the Decatur Presbyterian Church, and Ian Punnett, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta.

The presbytery voted to receive the following inquirers as candidates for ministry: Denny Read, a member of the Sallowford Presbyterian Church, and Katie Ricks, a member of the Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church.

