



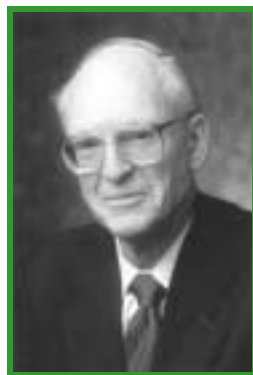
Presbytery of **G**reater **A**tanta **News**
 Together, we are Christ's Body

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Presbytery of Greater Atlanta 2003 Presbyterian Citizen of the Year JOHN ACKERMAN CONANT

The idea for the Presbyterian Citizen of the Year Award sprang to life at some point in time in 2002 when someone at a Public Policy Advocacy Committee meeting suggested that there were individuals in our congregations and even whole committees who were making significant differences in their communities. At some point in time, the idea went, these contributions to the common good should be recognized and lifted up as an encouragement to others. After all, the Reformed Tradition has always placed a high premium on community responsibility and civic leadership. The seed was planted and it took hold, falling on fertile ground in about a dozen of our congregations.



Early this past January twelve nominations were forwarded to an esteemed Selection Committee which included the Moderator of the Presbytery, Martha Rosselot, the Moderator in Nomination, Billy Wade, and Parliamentarian Veronica Ransom. The Selection Committee read and studied each of the nominations before naming the first person to be honored as the Presbyterian Citizen of the Year. The Committee's decision did not come easily, they confided. All of the nominees were

worthy of the distinction. Couldn't we give more than one award? Today we will honor the first of what promises to be many unsung heroes and sheros.

The person selected as the first Presbyterian Citizen of the Year was born in New Jersey and educated in New Jersey and Connecticut. He joined the U.S. Army following high school and served as an enlisted man during World War II in New Guinea and the Philippine Islands.

After graduating from Yale University in 1951 he came to Atlanta and began a 35 year career with the Harland Company. He met and married the boss's daughter and together they were parents to a daughter and grandparents to two grandchildren.

For some 50 years this man has worked tirelessly both behind the scenes and at the forefront of many of Atlanta's charitable arenas, giving primacy to human and spiritual values rather than to material values. His love for children was made evident in long years of service to Hillside Hospital, a facility for severely emotionally disturbed children and adolescents and to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro

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2003 PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES

May 6, 2003
 Tuesday, 10:00 am
 Calvin Center

~~July 8, 2003~~
 July 15, 2003

Tuesday, 4:00 pm
 Agnes Scott College

September 27, 2003
 Saturday, 10:00 am
 Newnan

December 2, 2003
 Tuesday, 10:00 am
 Korean Community

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events and happenings coming up

March 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- March 8, 2003 — Saturday, 2:00-5:00 pm. Presbyterian College Fair held at Columbia Theological Seminary in the Richards Center
- March 9, 2003 — Sunday, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Westminster’s 25th Anniversary
- March 16, 2003 — Sunday, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Hunger Walk
- March 22, 2003 — Saturday, 10:00 am—3:00 pm. Event for Young Adult Leaders. First Presbyterian Church, Marietta
- April 2, 2003 — Wednesday, 3:00 pm. Handbook Deadline
- April 6-8, 2003 — Sunday-Tuesday 136th Founders Day Johnson C. Smith Seminary
- April 13, 2003 — Palm Sunday
- April 18, 2003 — Good Friday, Presbytery Office Closed
- April 20, 2003 — Easter Sunday
- April 25-26, 2003 — Friday-Saturday, The Magnetic Church Evangelism Conference, Clairmont Presbyterian Church
- May 1, 2003 — Tuesday, 11:00 am–2:00 pm. Plain Talk About Churches and Money, Columbia Theological Seminary
- May 6, 2003 — Tuesday, 10:00 am Calvin Center. Presbytery Meeting
- May 6-8, 2003 — Tuesday-Thursday Rock Eagle. Annual PW Spring Retreat

Plain Talk About Churches and Money by Dean Hoge

On May 1, 2003 the Stewardship Committee of Presbytery and Columbia Seminary will sponsor a workshop designed for pastors. The workshop will be held in the Harrington Center of Columbia Theological Seminary from 11 to 2 pm. There will be a panel discussion of the book *Plain Talk About Churches and Money*. Attendees are encouraged to read the book before coming. It is available through Cokesbury and Columbia Seminary Bookstore (\$15.75 msrp). After lunch there will be small group discussions. President Laura Mendenhall, Dean Cam Murchison and Professor Walter Brueggemann are expected to participate. To reserve your place, please call La’Keisha Crayton at 404-898-0711 x33

For more information, please contact Jerry Weber at 404-231-5758 or jdweber@phgainc.org

workshop



THE MAGNETIC CHURCH

Sponsored by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Evangelism Committee

April 25 and 26, 2003

Clairmont Presbyterian Church, USA

1994 Clairmont Rd.

Decatur, GA 30033

Presenter: Andy D. Weeks, Evangelism Consultant Dynamic, Engaging, and Inspirational Conference

conference

The following issues will be addressed:

- How can we make our church more inviting and welcoming?
- How can we make visitors want to come back to our church and stay?
- I'm private and reserved; how can I "do" evangelism in my church where many other members seem equally uncomfortable about evangelism?
- How can we minister to the community around us?

Registration Fee: \$25.00 if prepaid by April 11

Registrar: Gay Alston, Administrative Assistant, 404-898-0711 ext. 27

Presbytery Staff: Cassandra Morrow, Associate Executive Presbyter, 404-898-0711 ext. 22

Being Faithful to God's Highest Calling - Nancy R. Vaughan

Wearing name tags that professed, "Voting is an act of faith.", some 125 Presbyterians acted out John Calvin's view that God's highest calling is that of civil responsibility and service. February 13, 2003 was declared as "Presbyterian Rally Day" at the Georgia State Capitol and participants learned how to call out their representatives and received "talking points" instruction on how to make the best use of the time. Rev. Cas Robinson, Public Policy Advocate (Presbyterian lobbyist), who met with Governor Purdue, quoted him as saying, "I'm counting on the faith community to help me with programs for children and the incarcerated." He mentioned his idea of "one church, one child" and "one church, one inmate" to the committee who gathered in his office for a brief meeting. The governor even hinted that he would approve of a little interdenominational rivalry! Rev. Kirby Lawrence-Hill

thanked the governor for his pro-child stance on issues.

The day began with a welcome and informational meeting at Central Presbyterian Church. Central has hosted the gathering for two years. Then off to the Capitol. At noon there was a Hymnfest on the interior staircase which was covered by PBS and a clip shown later that night on The LawMakers show. As we crossed the street for lunch at Central, we were met by the Senior Adult Ministry team and the ringing of the Liberty Bell. This bell is an exact duplicate of the Philadelphia bell made to raise money. Participants were invited to ring the bell. During lunch we heard from some of our legislators, Rep. Barbara Bunn, Rep. Jeff Brown, and Rep. Kathy Ashe. Tom Rothenback of Presbyterian Homes spoke to the group about the Medicaid cuts which have been devastating nursing homes.



Presbyterians sing on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol on Presbyterian Rally Day

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Atlanta. Both Hillside Hospital and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta received his service to children and to the organizations themselves.

A forty year member of the Kiwanis Club of Atlanta, our honoree and his wife were recently presented the Golden Rule Award, given to those persons who represent the highest standards of quality in leadership and achievement, who promote good fellowship as an inspiration to good works, and who serve the children of the world. Our honoree embodies the Reformed Tradition by placing a high premium on community responsibility and civic leadership.

While children were a major focus, church and faith community were

also important. An Elder, a teacher and a trustee at Trinity Church, he also devoted his time to Presbyterian Homes of Georgia where he served as chair of the board and as a trustee. And, he favored Columbia Theological Seminary and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta by chairing capital campaigns for each.

Through a lifetime of service this honoree has quietly contributed to the betterment of Atlanta, its children and citizens of all ages and in all circumstances. He exemplifies the very best of humble and devoted service to church, community and family. No one could be more deserving of the first Presbyterian Citizen of the Year award than John Ackerman Conant.

Presbytery Wide Senior High Retreat



95 youth and adults representing churches throughout the presbytery spent a weekend of fellowship and fun at the Calvin Center on February 21st-23rd.

The theme was Jesus: Mission Possible and the youth spent the

weekend studying and learning about mission from the early church to now and how they could incorporate mission and evangelism into their daily lives. Andy Myers, a senior at Columbia Seminary, led us on the journey with his keynote presentations, and Craig and Laura Neely (members of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church) added the rhythm to the retreat by leading the youth in singing. Though the weekend was full of rain, the youth found time to play together in a muddy game of football and to explore the lake in canoes. They capped off their evening with a human clue game.

The weekend was a success and the youth walked away with the important message that with Jesus our mission is possible!

young adults

volunteer opportunity

From time to time, the Presbytery office needs volunteers to help prepare mass mailings, assemble information packets, and help with other clerical tasks. If you are able to help us for a few hours occasionally, please call Ken Wideman at 404-898-0711 x24 and let him put you on our volunteer call list. Not only will you be of tremendous assistance to our staff, but you'll meet some other terrific volunteers from throughout the Presbytery. Thanks so much!

Event for Young Adult Leaders

When - Saturday, March 22
(register by March 14 at 1-888-384-6554)

9:45 a.m. Check-in;
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Program

Where - First Presbyterian,
Marietta, GA; 189 Church Street;
Marietta 30060

Cost - \$10 a person (includes lunch)

For - Leaders (or potential leaders) of young adults in the congregations in the presbyteries of Cherokee, Greater Atlanta and Northeast Georgia

Leadership Team - Steve Price (Foothills Presbytery); Larry Owens (Thornwell Children's Home & School of Children); John Morgan (Druid Hills Presbyterian and Emory University Campus Ministry)

Goal - to help build a young adult leader network and think of practical ideas for young adult ministry in the local congregation

Spread the word in your congregation!!!!