

(Continued from page 12)

circumstances or incapacity, the patient has not been provided an opportunity to agree or object to being included in the facility's directory, these disclosures may still occur, if such disclosure is consistent with any known prior expressed preference of the individual and the disclosure is in the individual's best interest as determined in the professional judgment of the provider. See 45 CFR 164.510(a).

Additional specific questions and answers will be posted on http://answers.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/hhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php.

What Parish Nurses Need to Know

Background Information

PHI includes all "individually identifiable health information" held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associate, in any form or media, whether electronic, paper, or oral. "Individually identifiable health information" includes many common identifiers such as name, address, birth date and Social Security Number. HIPAA governs privacy and security issues as to how we must process and protect patient information.

HIPAA and the impact on Parish Nurses and Health Ministers

How do the HIPAA regulations impact our health ministry teams and parish nurses in our congregations? HIPAA Privacy Rules pertain to the following covered entities: health plans, health clearinghouses which unify data in standardized formats, and health care providers. Essentially, congregations are not considered a "covered entity" and are not bound by these regulations. It does mean that keeping medical records of all types confidentially locked and secure to protect the privacy of those individuals must

continue to be done. Also, when talking with an individual about their medical condition, screening results and/or test results, make sure you do it in private where the conversation won't be overheard by others. Parish nurses need to be vigilant about protecting an individual's health information both oral and written.

Sharing a patient's medical information with other parties is permissible, if for the purposes of treatment (usually to doctors), payment (to insurance or third party payers) or for other purposes, such as quality review or student teaching in a hospital setting. In the congregation for example, it would be permissible to contact someone's physician (over the phone or via FAX) with a screening result, or pertinent information from a home visit, as this is important to the ongoing care and treatment of the individual. A word of caution: inform the patient of this prior to disclosing the information.

Although the HIPAA standards do not specifically spell out duties and responsibility for parish nurses, it is more critical than ever that all staff or volunteers working with a particular person be vigilant about confidentiality. Any papers with a patient's name on them should be kept in a safe, secure and private place.

Patient Condition Reports and Information

Patient condition information may be provided consistent with the limitations imposed by the HIPAA privacy standards. The American Hospital Association has suggested the following one-word descriptions and explanations of a patient's general condition.

Undetermined: Patient awaiting

physician assessment.

Good: Vital signs are stable and within normal limits. Patient is conscious and comfortable. Indicators are excellent.

Fair: Vital signs are stable and within normal limits. Patient is conscious but may be uncomfortable. Indicators are favorable.

Serious: Vital signs may be unstable and not within normal limits. Patient is acutely ill. Indicators are questionable.

Critical: Vital signs are unstable and not within normal limits. Patient may be unconscious. Indicators are unfavorable.

Treated and Released: Received treatment but not admitted.

Treated and Transferred: Received treatment. Transferred to a different facility.

For More Information

Federal Register-Standards of Privacy for Individually Identifiable Health Information

www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/privrulepd.pdf

Summary of the HIPAA Privacy Rule

www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacysummary.pdf

Office for Civil Rights (Agency Implementing the Privacy Rule):

www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/finalreg.html

Glossary of HIPAA terms

www.professionalchaplains.org/resources/readingroom.html

Clergy Question and Answer (Clergy Question already answered):

answers.hhs.gov

American Nurses Association

www.ana.org/

Health Ministries Association

www.healthministriesassociation.org

new health privacy regulations

Young Clergy under the age of 40 years will be gathering

Engage in Worship, Workshops, Connecting and Networking **Seven Percent Event** **Date:** October 6-9, 2003



Location: Radisson Hotel New Orleans
1500 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.hotel-neworleans.com
Event Registration Fee: \$350

The 7% Event is the third national gathering of Presbyterian Young Pastors (under of the age of 40). The event take its name from the startling statistics that only 7% of ministers in the Presbyterian Church (USA) are under the age of 40. The purpose of this event is to gather this population to begin to:

- Nurture, support and encourage each other so that we might be strengthened for service to the church for a period of 25+ years.
- Work for greater inter-generational understanding and opportunities for the exchange of wisdom across generational lines.
- Begin to give shape to our particular generational "charism" for ministry and our distinctive contribution to the mission of Christ's church.

Whether you are a solo pastor of a small church or an associate on a large staff (or a super-important Head of Staff), being a young pastor can feel isolating. Come and meet your colleagues from across the country who intend to serve in the ministry for 25+ years! Join us for worship, conversation, and a night out in New Orleans

Contact Information:
Bill Golderer
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Reminder:
**All Grant
Applications are
due in the
Presbytery office
Friday, September
12th
at 3:00 pm.**
****Don't forget—4
complete copies,
including
attachments**

Looking for more
information on
Meetings/Events?
Visit our website
presbyteryofgreateratl.org
and click on the calendars
link.

2003 Presbyterian Parish Nurse Seminar

"Becoming An
Instrument of Peace"

Oct 22-26, 2003
Stoney Point Center
Stoney Point, New York

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Graceful Growth

—The Reverend Dr. Susan R. Andrews

When I think back to my earliest memories of church, I see and *feel* myself in worship—a small child, cherished and safe. My favorite part was the offering because I could participate. I could place my quarter on that velvet lining and then imagine myself curled up in that plate, being carried forward as an offering to God.

I invite us this year to imagine ourselves as a collective offering to God, carrying forward our whole lives as a gift of hope for the church. I call our Presbyterian Church to a season of graceful growth—in gratitude, membership, and mission.

Growth begins with deep gratitude for the trustworthiness of God. We have much to be grateful for in our denomination: love of scripture and scholarship; cultural and theological diversity that challenges and changes us; wide arms of mission, embracing the whole world. Let's spend this year saying thank you to God and to each other.

I call us to graceful growth in membership. The congregation I serve has been growing for fourteen years. The reasons include making a commitment to grow twenty-five percent in five years. We also doubled our evangelism budget. We offer creative options for reverent worship, rooted in strong, biblical preaching. We openly welcome thinking, searching Christians. We have an interfaith witness in our pluralistic city. We push each other to serve "out there"—in God's fragile world.

I call us to graceful growth in mission. We have two mission fields in this rapidly shrinking world. One is across the ocean, where we are

called to meet the physical and spiritual hungers of the developing world and where we are energized by the fresh joy of global Christians. The second is in our backyard. We need to reclaim our conviction that ministry is

everybody's business, that the vocation of each Christian is to be the living presence of Christ in the boardrooms, courtrooms, living rooms, and classrooms of our world.

We are surrounded by

people who long to experience the presence of God. I've known Yoshi for seven years. He grew up in Japan, the grandson of a Zen Buddhist master. He came to the States to study and pursue a career in bio-medical research. He married a Christian woman and started attending our congregation, but distanced himself from any kind of faith commitment. Then God decided to come close. In two powerful dreams, Jesus appeared to Yoshi. Providentially, that same week, I approached Yoshi, asking him if he was ready to claim Christ as his own. On Father's Day, Yoshi was baptized. He offered to Jesus his Japanese, Buddhist, scientific self, now transformed by the living Christ.

Brothers and sisters, God is in *our* dreams. God is working in the imagination of our denomination. This year let us be that grace-filled offering I dreamed of as a child. Together we can give ourselves to God for the sake of the world.



Photo by Danny Bolin.

[The Reverend Dr. Susan R. Andrews is the Moderator of the 215th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).] This article is from Perspectives, an online publication of the Office of the General Assembly. www.pcusa.org/oga/perspectives/

The Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews Moderator of the 215th (2003) General Assembly

Coming to Atlanta

Sunday, July 27,
2003
10:00 a.m.

Preaching
at Morning Worship

Radcliffe
Presbyterian Church
286 Hamilton E. Holmes
Drive, NW

Monday, July 28,
2003
10:00 a.m.

Leading Bible Study
Isaiah 56: 1-8

Druid Hills Presbyterian
Church
1026 Ponce de Leon
Ave, NE

Overflow parking available behind
Druid Hills Baptist Church

Presbytery Directories

Churches, Immigrant Fellowships, Ministers, Educators, Ministry Team and Committee Members help us save postage costs and pick up your Printed 2003 Directory at the Presbytery Office.

2003 Directories are also available on our website under our "Directories Section." Visit <http://www.presbyteryofgreateratl.org/Directories/Directories.htm>

Please Note:

Updates on Ministers and Educators will be available at each Presbytery Meeting. A mid-year update will only be available on-line in the fall. The next printed directory will be the 2004 Presbytery Directory available at the 2nd presbytery meeting of 2004.



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Greater Atlanta

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*Together, We are
Christ's Body*

about pga news

PGA News shares news of the Presbytery, including: Highlights of the Presbytery Meetings, welcoming new ministers and educators to the Presbytery, and sharing news from our congregations. PGA News is published after each Presbytery meeting. Our goal is to share the news of the Presbytery, the churches and its members in an economic fashion.

Available Formats:

Online: available for reading and/or for download in .pdf format at <http://www.presbyteryofgreateratl.org>

E-Mail: by your request to be placed on this list

Mailing: a specially created mailing list, for those without access to the internet.

Submissions:

One of the primary features of PGA News is stories from our congregations. We invite you to submit brief articles about the mission and work of your congregation. Please submit these to the editor, Cristie Reed. The preferred method is by e-mail.

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Deadlines:

Deadline for submissions is the day after each Presbytery meeting. The next deadline for submissions is July 16th. PGA News is published within 2 weeks after each Presbytery meeting.