



Presbytery of
Greater
Atlanta

Together, we are Christ's Body

NEWS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

MARCH 27, 2005

FIRST IMMIGRANT LEADERS RETREAT CALVIN CENTER—FEBRUARY 18-19, 2005

—Lucas de Paiva Pina

We had a total of 19 people present at our retreat. Seventeen of them were from ten different fellowships. We had 8 Fellowships from PGA; 1 from Cherokee Presbytery and 1 from Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

The first session on Friday evening was, **“Knowing each other, knowing the church.”** We shared our lives and experiences with each other. After that we saw a PowerPoint presentation about the PC (USA) and our area.

We closed the evening praying with each other in small groups. Our second session was on Saturday morning and its topic was, **“Sharing needs, finding solutions.”** In that session we raised the main problems that the immigrant groups have and proposed some solutions for them.



The main problems raised were: Leaders Training, Meeting Places, Financial Help, Immigration, Evangelism, and Partnership with the Anglo church. The Solutions were given for each



problem and among them we had: The necessity of the fellowships to know their own needs; to know the Reformed doctrine; to have their leaders trained properly; to have their leaders trained on writing grants; have the fellowships trained on tithing; to receive information about immigration laws; and to work closer with each other and with the Anglo church.

The final session on Saturday morning was, **“Making our presence noticed.”** We decided to organize an event which will have the participation of all immigrant groups. The date was set for May 1st. 2005 at 5:00 pm. Also we set up a dinner for all the Immigrant Leaders for April 2nd, when we will finalize the plans for the event. After lunch we had Rev. Elias Dantas share with the group about Global Village. We concluded with evaluation and praying together.

The participants all considered this first retreat a tremendous success. It was an opportunity for share experiences, to discuss our problems and needs, and to find solutions for the challenges that we face.

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...MARK YOUR CALENDARS... UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES

JUN 14, 2005
3:00 P.M.
Mount Vernon,
Sandy Springs
Handbook deadline
May 19
Info-Pak deadline
June 3
PGA News deadline
June 15

SEP 17, 2005
McDonough

DEC 6, 2005
St Luke's, Dunwoody

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PEACHTREE CITY SPONSORS WINTER CONCERT SERIES

—Linda Hangen, First Presbyterian Church of Peachtree City

Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in Peachtree City enjoyed six evenings of dinner and music as the church sponsored a Winter Concert series to benefit the 2005 Youth Mexico Mission Trip Fund. The events, on two Saturday evenings each in January, February and March, provided enjoyable opportunities for fellowship while aiding the youth project.

Music entertainment was varied to appeal to a wide range of tastes - rock and roll, barbershop quartet, sacred music, favorite hymns sing-along, bluegrass, and big band jazz. Music was provided by members of the congregation as well as noted groups including Brushfire, Atlanta Country Music Hall of Honor members and Atlanta Society of Entertainers 2000 and 2001 Bluegrass Band of

the Year, and the Peachtree Jazz Edition, an 18-piece band featuring Big Band and modern pop-jazz tunes. Table hosts selected and prepared meals and table decorations of their choice for casual dining in Smith Fellowship Hall prior to the evening's music entertainment. Tickets were \$10 each.

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FIRST IMMIGRANT LEADERS RETREAT



I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the retreat such a success. It would have been impossible to accomplish it without their help.

Searching for a resource?

Visit our websites
<http://theresourceconnection.org/>
 or
<http://regionalresource.org>
 and click on the catalog link.

PGA MODERATOR NEWLY INSTALLED

—Jenny Dell, Communications Coordinator, North Avenue Presbyterian Church

North Avenue Presbyterian Church is proud to support our pastor, Dr. Scott Weimer, as the newly installed moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Our Deacons and Elders initiated a 24-hour prayer vigil to provide the initial foundation for Dr. Weimer's time as moderator. Many have also set aside a weekly time of prayer for Dr. Weimer and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta as a whole. In the meantime, North Avenue started the month of March spiritually-charged, concluding our 48th Annual Mission Conference on February 27 with guest preacher, Dr. Cleophus LaRue. Other guests during Mission Conference month included Dr. Scott Sunquist, Pas-

tor Jin Kim, and Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner. In only our third week of receipts, the Mission Conference has already generated 221 pledges totaling over \$350,000! With a rejuvenated passion for mission and an exciting end to the Annual Conference, North Avenue is preparing for Holy Week and Easter, holding four worship services on Easter Sunday – including a 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service and our newest 6:00 p.m. "THIRD SERVICE," which has brought many fresh faces to our church in the past six months. Take a moment to visit our newly redesigned website at www.napc.org for more information on the programs of North Avenue.

MGB
 MIDDLE GOVERNING BODY

Connect

Connecting with information when you need it.

Visit the site at <http://www.pcusa.org/mgbconnect/>

EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

—Forrest Palmer, Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Support

Did you know that the Educators from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and Cherokee Presbytery meet together monthly? From September through May, these educators, associate pastors and youth ministers meet for a time of fellowship, information sharing and education. A planning committee meets annually to plan the year's programs, inviting outstanding leaders from Atlanta and beyond to come share their wisdom with the group. This year's program leaders include: Connie Lee (First, Atlanta and Hillside), Rodger Nishioka (Columbia Theological

Seminary), John Westerhoff (author, professor and pastor of St. Luke's Episcopal), Gary Charles (Central), James Wagner (Emory University); Kathy Dawson (Columbia Theological Seminary), Beth Johnson (Columbia Theological Seminary); Mark Lomax (First African and Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary) and Ed Albright (Presbytery Executive). While most meetings are held at the Presbytery Office on the third Thursday of the month, the Christmas gathering will be held at Trinity, Atlanta this year.

WINTERFEST: A LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT

—Carol Johnson, Financial Officer

Cherokee and Greater Atlanta Presbyteries sponsored WinterFest on Saturday, February 12, 2005. First, Marietta hosted the event. The church staff was very gracious and provided a delicious lunch. The Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, led an inspirational worship service. Many different workshops were offered, including those on prayer, stewardship, technology, effective small churches and

evangelism. Approximately 250 people from throughout the two presbyteries attended.

Next year, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will sponsor a separate event and in 2007 the two presbyteries will join forces again. Please mark your calendars now for February 4, 2006 for this exciting opportunity for fellowship and education. If you have suggestions for workshops, please send your ideas to Carol Johnson at cjohnson@presbyteryofgreateratl.org.

A GATHERING OF NATIONS AND VOICES TO CELEBRATE GOD.

COME AND BE PART
OF THIS UNIQUE
EVENT IN THE
PRESBYTERIAN
LIFE.



Where:
Peachtree Presbyterian
Church
3434 Roswell Road
Atlanta, GA 30305

When: Sunday, May 1st
5:00 pm

More Information Call:
404-842-3175



The Book of Order (.pdf), Supply Preaching List or
Directory Information?

Visit our website presbyteryofgreateratl.org.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH 12TH MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

—Ed Albright, Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will be held on Tuesday, June 14th at 3:00 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Sandy Springs.

The Presbytery met on Saturday, March the 12th at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. The pastor and so many volunteer members did an exceptionally fine job of helping us to have one of the best meetings we've had. The sanctuary was beautiful with a sound system that was exceptional.

Some of the highlights of the meeting include the following:

- The meeting began with worship, and Good Shepherd Church had a full choir present and provided very special music.
- Charles Easley, the retiring moderator of our Presbytery, preached a sermon entitled "The Look." It was a marvelous sermon for this Lenten season, and it was built around Luke 22:60-61, when Peter denied Jesus and Jesus looked at him.
- The Presbytery celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion and then the new moderator Dr. Scott Weimer, the pastor of North Avenue Presbyterian Church, was installed.
- The Executive Director of the Presbyterian Homes of

Georgia, Frank McElroy, spoke to the Presbytery and gave us an update and then introduced Felicia Cercone who told us about the new facility Hearthstone, which is a special facility for Alzheimer's residents.

- Rick Wolters, the Chair of the New Church Development Commission gave a full update - - first he introduced Tom Bagley and many of the members and children from the newest congregation, the Hamilton Mill Presbyterian Church, which was chartered on Sunday afternoon February the 13th. He also talked about the nine "traditional" New Church Development Projects that are at some point in their development. Then he highlighted the 24 immigrant fellowships and introduced to the Presbytery once again, Lucas Pina, the Immigrant Ministries Coordinator, which made a key to congregations of Greater Atlanta Presbytery to open doors and seriously consider hosting an immigrant fellowship and challenged our Presbytery to have 5 more immigrant fellowships nested in 5 different congregations by the next time the Presbytery meets, June the 14th.
- The Presbytery received two more candidates for Ministry: Sheryl Sumlin-Barclay, Church of the Hills;

and Keonbae Kim, Korean Community.

- The Presbytery received nine new clergy members and there is a biographical sketch in other parts of this newsletter about each one.
- The Presbytery heard from Dr. David Wallace, Dean of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, on the subject of the Theological Education Fund. He made the point that this is an important source of income for the seminaries of the PC (USA), and he emphasized how the goal is to have each congregation giving 1% of its annual operating budget to the TEF.
- The Presbytery heard from the new Director of PLSE, which stands for the Pastoral Leadership Search Effort. Graham Reside thanked the Presbytery for our efforts today and made the point that PLSE needs to be showcased in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta since this is where its headquarters.

Youth Council Applications Now Available!

Visit the Youth Section on our Web site.

<http://presbyteryofgreateratl.org/youth/youth.htm>