

DELEGATION ATTENDS NATIONAL GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN MEN IN CHARLOTTE

—Charles Easley, Sr.
Radcliffe Presbyterian Church

The 2005 Gathering of Presbyterian Men was held in Charlotte, NC at the Westin Hotel, April 22-24, 2005, with the theme, "Love the Lord with all Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind." A plenary session was dedicated to each of the four areas for loving God listed above, where a speaker developed the theme for each of the sessions. The plenary sessions and keynote speakers were offered as follows:

- 1) "Love the Lord with All Your Heart," Reverend Dr. Jerry Cannon, Pastor, C. N. Jenkins Presbyterian Church, Charlotte;
- 2) "Love the Lord with All Your Soul," Brotherhood Luncheon, Dr. Kenneth J. McFadden, Professor of Ministry and Leadership Development, Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond;
- 3) "Love the Lord with All your Strength," Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, Moderator, 214th General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S. A.), and
- 4) "Love the Lord with All Your Mind," Dr. Frank Colclough, Sr., Associate Presbyter for Pastoral Care and Leadership Development, New Harmony Presbytery.

A highlight of the conference was the Breakfast/Youth Panel, where a panel of two students, a college professor and a national church associate shared their observations

and views on the state of religious life among college students. The following issues were identified as faced by college students in their quest for a balanced life of faith: anti-Christ vs. no Christ; spiritual apathy and fear of rejection or persecution; adequacy of spiritual foundation that parents helped build; negative influence of things and people outside the family; lack of Biblical literacy; lack of follow-up from home churches; and the need for religious groups to come inside the college walls and meet students where they are every day.

Two of the most popular workshops were the ones conducted by Dr. Jerry Cannon and Rev. Martin Concepcion. Dr. Cannon led two workshop sessions on the topic "Men's Ministry: Mission Minded and People Focused," in which he emphasized the need for men to find some mission or ministry of the local church where their talents and time are needed. Rev. Concepcion is a consultant on new church development for multi-cultural churches. He conducted a workshop on strategies, considerations and skills needed for working with men in a multi-cultural church.

The members of the Radcliffe delegation to the Gathering included the following: Machion Garrison, Clarence Lewis, Sr., Edward Fitts, Verlis Jones, Preston McCoy, Charles Easley, Sr., and Drs. William and Mirian Shropshire.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGE THOMPSON

—Ed Albright, Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

We have just learned that George Thompson has been selected to receive the Pilgrim Press Mayflower Award in leadership for his book "Treasures in Clay Jars: New ways to understand your church." He will receive this award at a banquet to be held on Sunday, July the 3rd at the Omni Hotel at the CNN Center. Congratulations to George!

Holiday Schedule

The Presbytery office
will be closed

July 4
Independence Day

July 7-8
Staff Retreat

September 5
Labor Day



WANTED: ARTICLES FOR PGA NEWS

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. Submit your Article Today!

MENTAL-ILLNESS TASK FORCE STARTS ITS WORK

GROUP SCHEDULED TO HAVE REPORT READY FOR '08 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our own Brenda Gales, elder at Presbyterian Church of the Resurrection, elected as Moderator of General Assembly Mental Illness Task Force

—Evan Silverstein

A newly formed Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) task force on serious mental illness met for the first time this month.

The Task Force on comprehensive Serious Mental Illness was appointed by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP). The new panel convened in Louisville May 19-22 to begin developing a "Feedback Churchwide Study Document."

The document will give the task force information about how individuals, congregations, presbyteries and synods are engaged in ministry with people who have serious mental illness and their families, according to the Rev. Belinda M. Curry, ACSWP's associate for policy development and interpretation.

The PC(USA)'s 211th General Assembly in 1999 directed ACSWP to develop a mental-illness policy. ACSWP develops social policies for GA consideration.

During its January meeting, ACSWP appointed the task force members.

The proposed policy statement is to be presented to the PC(USA)'s 218th General Assembly in 2008. Jack Marcum, administrator of "The Presbyterian Panel" in the PC(USA)'s Research Services office, will work with the task



The new Task Force on Comprehensive Serious Mental Illness Photo courtesy of ACSWP

force in developing a survey on comprehensive serious mental illness issues to help the task force gather information from members, elders and ordained ministers now on The Presbyterian Panel.

The task force meeting included time for members to get acquainted, identify resources and perspectives around the table, set an agenda and calendar, and begin preliminary work.

Two officials from the PC(USA)'s Board of Pensions (BOP), Stew Beltz and Minner Serovy, made a presentation on mental-illness benefits and treatment options available to BOP plan members and their families.

The Rev. Nancy Troy, associate for Social Welfare Organizations in the PC(USA)'s National Ministries Division, presented an overview of work being done through the Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network (PSMIN) of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA).

The feedback document is tentatively scheduled to be sent to middle governing bodies, church sessions and seminary

libraries next spring. The document also will be posted on ACSWP's Web site: <http://pcusa.org/acswp/>. Meanwhile, developing a definition of "serious mental illness" and a Biblical and theological framework for further study will be the major focus of the next task force meeting, which is scheduled for Nov. 3-6 in Chicago. The group's third meeting is scheduled for Feb. 23-26 in Washington, DC.

The task force, whose members were appointed in January, includes psychiatrists, therapists, pastors, elders, psychologists and professors.

The members: the Rev. Robert A. Butziger of Albuquerque, NM; Ethel M. Charles of Hollis, NY; Mary Helen Davis of Louisville, KY; the Rev. Thomas Crawley Davis of Wilmington, DE; Timothy C. Engelmann of Burlingame, CA; the Rev. Kum Ock Kim of Bayside, NY; Matt Morse of Taylor, MI; José R. Rodriguez-Gomez of Hato Rey, PR; and Alyce Woodall of Brunswick, ME. Elder Brenda Burch Gales of Conyers, GA, will serve as moderator, and the Rev. Thomas Crawley Davis of Wilmington, DE as recorder.

Two elected ACSWP committee members also will be part of the group: the Rev. B. Gordon Edwards of Stillwater, OK, and the Rev. Leslie Klingensmith of Silver Spring, MD.

The Rev. Susan J. Dunlap of Durham, NC, will be a consultant to the task force, and Curry will represent the ACSWP staff.

NORTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — UPCOMING EVENTS

—Jenny Dell, Communication Coordinator

North Avenue Presbyterian is gearing up for several big events taking place on our grounds during the summer and early fall. The Sunset Film Festival continues on the 4th Friday of each summer month. Members, neighbors, and friends are all invited to enjoy a free family movie under the city lights (June 24 – *The African Queen*, July 22 – *Chariots of Fire*, and August 26 – *The Rookie*). On Sunday, July 31, *The Cup*, North Avenue’s homeless worship service, will begin in it’s new home – the chapel at the 24/7

Gateway Center on Pryor Street. From July 11-15, the Children’s Ministry will bring the *Serengeti Trek* to the church with Vacation Bible School 2005, and while our members here are hard at work preparing for VBS, our 20-person mission team is in Las Moritas, Honduras conducting Vacation Bible School, building houses, and restoring safe drinking water to the community after devastation by Hurricane Mitch in 1999. Missing all the excitement is our senior pastor, Dr. Scott Weimer, who is on a three month sabbatical – the result of a Lilly Grant for Pastoral Renewal

received last year. Dr. Weimer is spending his time traveling to China, France, and across the U.S. to bring renewed energy and creative worship ideas back to Atlanta. While he is away, three dynamic guest preachers will be visiting to give the sermons in our 8:50 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 7:00 p. m. services. Dr. Weimer returns on September 11 and will be welcomed back with the annual church picnic and homecoming celebration – just the beginning of a fun-filled and spiritually-led fall season.

2006 MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER & STUDY AND CHILDREN’S MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER & STUDY

As a service to our churches, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will order the **2006 Mission Yearbook** and **Children’s Mission Yearbook** in bulk.

The new Children’s Mission Yearbook is wearing out the printer! A great resource! The weekly format will include such items as prayers and Scripture, PC (USA) mission stories from around the world, puzzles and games, maps and photos, and interesting facts about Presbyterians. The resource promises to be inspirational, educational, interactive and fun.

Cost is \$5.50 per copy for the *Mission Yearbook* and \$5.00 for the *Children’s Mission Yearbook*. Price includes shipping and handling to the presbytery office. **Send in the order form below and a check to pay for the order by July 5, 2005.** We notify the person who orders below by email or phone when the Yearbooks arrive in November 2005. Any designated member of the church may pick them up from the presbytery office.

If you have questions, please e-mail Gay Alston at galston@presbyteryofgreateratl.org or call at 404-898-0711 ext.27.

Please complete the following. Orders must be received and prepaid by July 5, 2005. Orders received after July 5th will be returned.

Church: _____
Name of Person Ordering: _____
Email: _____
Daytime Phone Number: _____

Number of 2006 Adult Mission Yearbooks _____ x \$5.50 = \$ _____
Number of 2006 Children’s Mission Yearbooks _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____
Total = \$ _____

Please return this order form and check (make payable to “Presbytery of Greater Atlanta”) to the following address: Presbytery of Greater Atlanta — Attn: Gay Alston, 1024 Ponce de Leon Ave, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306