

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA March 2008



PRESBYTERY GOING TO ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Do we have your current e-mail address? In an effort to go green, the Presbytery communications are going electronic. You will need to have adobe reader loaded on your computer to view these documents. A downloadable version of Adobe reader is available on the Presbytery website. If there is someone at your church that needs to be added to our communications list, please contact the Presbytery Office (rbuchanan@presbyterywnc.org). The Monthly Updates will be posted on the Presbytery website (www.presbyterywnc.org).

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE SUNDAY ~ March 2, 2008



Celebrate the ministry of Self-Development of People (SDOP). Once a year, Presbyterians gather on a particular Sunday morning to celebrate the ministry of Self-Development of People. The Self-Development of People (SDOP) ministry affirms God's concern for humankind and participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people. Various resources for SDOP Sunday are available on the PC(USA) website (<http://www.pcusa.org/sdop/>). Use the resources and suggestions as you interpret the ministry of Self-Development of People in your congregation.

REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS



Session Records Review

The Clerks of Sessions within our Presbytery review each other's Session minutes annually. Three regional meetings for this purpose are scheduled in early 2008: Morganton First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 8th, Canton Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 17th and Shelby Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 7th.

All meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. with refreshments, include lunch, and should finish by 2:00 p.m. All Clerks should attend, and any Assistant Clerks are welcome. Call the Presbytery office with the number of attendees and the location you plan to attend. Directions can be obtained by going to www.mapquest.com and keying in your beginning and ending location. Watch your mail for further details!



Middle School
News

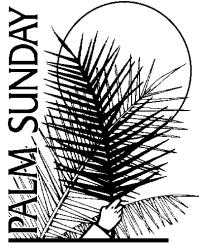
MIDDLE SCHOOL RALLY ~ Sunday, March 2, 2008 - "One of Many - One of a Kind" ~Upper Anderson, Montreat, NC ~ IT IS FREE!!! Beginning at 3:00 p.m. and ending by 6:00 p.m., the keynote speaker will be Lisa Diedrick from Summerville, SC. Come and reconnect with other Presbyterian Youth from Western North Carolina.



SENIOR HIGH RETREAT ~ Friday, March 28- Sunday, March 30, 2008 ~
"Faith Beyond Borders" ~ Holston Presbytery Camp & Retreat Center

A weekend for youth from both Western North Carolina AND Holston Presbyteries. Corey Nelson will be the keynote leader for the weekend. The event will begin on Friday, March 28 with registration from 7:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m. and conclude with worship on Sunday, March 30. A registration fee of \$59 per person is due no later than March 24. Registration will be limited to the first 120 to register. Brochure included within this update and on the Presbytery website.

Palm Sunday ~ March 16, 2008



Palm Sunday falls on March 16, 2008. The last date congregations can order eco-palms in time for Palm Sunday 2008 is February 20, 2008. Purchasing eco-palms for your congregation helps ensure a market for the palms, which in turn means that communities can depend on fair and stable wages and that the forests can be protected.

What You Can Do: Instead of receiving palms from a wholesaler in Minnesota this year, churches should be able to order directly from their local florist. One of three participating Charlotte-based wholesale florists has also agreed to mail eco-palms to churches that are outside of its distribution area. Florists that order from one of these Charlotte-based wholesale florists-Derita Floral Supply, Floral Trends and L & M Wholesale Florist-will be able to get eco-palms imported by Continental Floral Greens. One or more of these wholesalers may supply florists in the Presbytery's geographical area. Please check with your local florist.

Easter Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing Offering ~ March 23, 2008



For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. The refugee and the stranger have found food and safe shelter; those stunned by the aftermath of disasters have found relief and help rebuilding; and communities seeking to take control of their future have found partners in development. Presbyterians' gifts support the work of The Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One

who came that all might have life more abundantly. Locally, OGHS has supported two programs that help our Hispanic neighbors, Avery Amigos and Latino Advocacy Center in Hendersonville. Churches will be receiving their OGHS materials at the end of the month...only a week before Lent begins, so be on the look-out! The green OGHS fish will identify your packet or box. Be sure to check to see that you've got enough bulletin inserts, offering envelopes and fish banks.



HELPING HANDS WORK DAYS AT CAMP GRIER ~April 5 & 12, 2008

Volunteers are invited to come on one or both dates to prepare the camp for the summer season, and enjoy the fellowship of others. There will be a wide variety of jobs, from cleaning and sprucing up the buildings, to clearing trails, to doing repairs. If you can't come (or even if you can), consider contributing for the needed supplies. Send checks to Camp Grier, PO Box 490, Old Fort, NC 28762, designate "Helping Hands." For those planning to help, you are asked to register through the Presbytery office. A registration form is enclosed, or you can download a form from the Presbytery's website (www.presbyterywnc.org).



LET'S CELEBRATE! ~ "Side-by-Side" - August 9, 2008

An all-day event filled with worship, workshops and fellowship for youth and adults. J. Herbert Nelson will lead worship and two workshops. Mark your calendar and watch for your brochure the first of June, which will include a full list of workshops and registration information.



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM ~ September 29-30, 2008 - Montreat Conference Center This annual event, sponsored by the Presbytery's Care of Church Professionals Committee, invites all Ministers, Commissioned Lay Pastors, Directors of Christian Education, and Musicians to a time of fellowship and study on September 29-30, 2008, at Convocation Hall. More info to follow.