

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



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

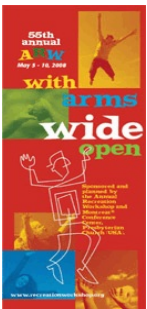
For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. The refugee and the stranger have found food and safe shelter; those stunned 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.



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. A brochure is available on the Presbytery website.

(http://www.presbyterywnc.org/content/monthly_update/2008/03_march/documents/p_10-11.pdf)



ANNUAL RECREATION WORKSHOP (ARW) ~ For Youth Leaders, Christian Educators, Pastors and Congregation Members May 5-10, 2008

The Annual Recreation Workshop (ARW) is held in Montreat, NC and is a week long conference that is jam packed with courses, events, creative worship, fellowship and more! Join in with 150+ other folks who are exploring the areas of creative arts, dance, games, spirituality, and children's activities, to name just a few areas. The theme this year is "With Open Arms," exploring the topic of hospitality. Check out the website at www.recreationworkshop.org.



YOUTH COUNCIL APPLICATION Due by May 30, 2008

The Youth Council can help strengthen many gifts that God has given you. Among a few of these are: leadership skills, communication skills and strengthening your faith.

A few attributes that will help you to flourish while on the Youth Council are: willingness and availability, good listener, creativity, flexibility, open-mindedness, individuality, and a sense of

humor. There are three teams that make up the Youth Council. They are recreation, worship and music. So, what are you waiting for? APPLY TODAY! Download your application from the Presbytery website:

http://www.presbyterywnc.org/content/youth_council/Youth_Council_Application.pdf

Mission Trip



UPCOMING MISSION TEAMS:

Pray for the following teams:

March 24-April 1: Partner Church Delegation to Guatemala. Prayer flyer can be downloaded from http://www.presbyterywnc.org/content/events/documents/guat_prayer_flyer_20080307.pdf

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April 13-20: Well-drilling team (Shelby) to Guatemala on April 20. Pray that the equipment works properly and they are able to complete at least one well satisfactorily. Pastor Luke Harkey, team leader.

April 18-28: Health team for a time of evaluation, discernment, team-building, and planning. Dr. Doug Michael, Buzz Durham, Al Cortes and Judy Nebrig go from PWNC. Guatemalan Committee members include Jose Asencio, Victor Batz, Ruben Morales, and Maura Echiverria.

May 7-18 and May 20-June 3: Two teams to Malawi to work at Nkhoma Hospital, Look for prayer flyer at www.presbyterywnc.org in about a month. Teresa Locke, Tom Kilgore, and Pastor Michael Bailey, leaders. Pray also for Barbara Nagy, Jodi McGill and Reynier ter Haar, as they work on arrangements in Malawi.



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 and 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 (http://www.presbyterywnc.org/content/camp_grier/).



EARTH DAY SUNDAY is coming! Earth Day is April 22; you are encouraged to emphasize care of creation on the Sunday before or after Earth Day. There are many good materials available at <http://www.ncecojustice.org/EarthDay/index.html>. Share what your church does through this newsletter.



Session Records Review

REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS

The Clerks of Sessions within our Presbytery review each other's Session minutes annually. There are two more meetings scheduled for this purpose. The next meeting will be at Canton Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 17th, with the final reading at the 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.



2008 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference

Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice - Confronting Poverty
July 15-19, 2008, Orange, California

Today globalization creates new forms of poverty with more extreme disparities between the rich and the poor. The annual income of the richest 1 percent is equal to that of the poorest 57 percent, and 24,000 people die each day from poverty and malnutrition. The majority of those in poverty are women and children. The number of people living in absolute poverty on less than one dollar per day continues to increase (Accra Confession, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 2004). In 2006, as many as 36.5 million people

in the United States lived in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau).

Jesus calls us to be aware of the systems that impoverish people and, through the parable of the mustard seed, teaches us of the power of small acts of peaceful resistance to crack those systems open.

To learn more about the conference visit: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm>.

To download a conference brochure: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008/brochure.pdf>

To download a registration form: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008/register.pdf>



LET'S CELEBRATE! ~ "Side-by-Side" -

August 9, 2008~ First Presbyterian Church, Morganton

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.