

MISSION MEMOS April 2008

HELPING HANDS WORK DAYS at CAMP GRIER! April 5 & 12

You are needed! The best way to help is for a group from your church to sign up to do one or more of the many jobs; some of them are critical. The explanation of the plan, descriptions of the jobs, the Lowe's order form, registration form and directions to Camp Grier are all included in the Monthly Update. They can also be e-mailed or faxed. One nice improvement this year is that it is possible to order what's needed on-line from Lowe's so it will be delivered to the Camp so your supplies will be there waiting for your team. There will be work for individuals as well as church teams, but teams are encouraged. Also those who cannot work are urged to help by purchasing some of the needed materials, using the Lowe's on-line order form. Let's make this a Camp Grier EXTREME MAKEOVER!

For more information, contact Director Dave Cohn or Administrative Assistant Jan Griffin at 828-668-7793. SIGN UP NOW using registration in this mailing.

PWNC CHURCHES DO IT AGAIN! 67 churches participated in Souper Bowl, collecting \$20,881.33 and 4402 food items for local ministries. Nickel a Meal "supersized" these contributions with another \$11,541.21. GREAT JOB!

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

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.

FALL DISASTER TEAM: Nov 1-8: Team to Gulf Coast. Please publicize & encourage members to participate. Contact Billy Wilson for more information. (few1@earthlink.net; 704-864-1205). Applications available from Presbytery office.

SPECIAL PROJECT FOR MALAWI: PWNC has been asked to build a school in Nkhoma! It will take around \$20,000 to build the basic structure and more to finish and equip it. We are suggesting that churches consider this for a Vacation Bible School or other special offering. **But here's another idea: if lots of individuals contribute \$1 for every year in school, we could do it all in a heartbeat!** It's a very simple way to contribute. Even kindergartners can send \$1! And all those PhD's and MD's...WOW! Checks should be sent to PWNC, designated Nkhoma School.

Unfortunately, the Government of Malawi has made importation of medicines almost impossible, so there is no option for these donations. However, a list of medical and school supplies will be available soon. It will be posted on the Presbytery web site or can be sent on request to Presbytery staff.

MAKING MISSION TRIPS MATTER: According to one survey, 1.6 million U.S. Christians (2.1 percent of all church members) went on an international mission trip of 14 days or less in 2005. Participants go on these trips with the intent of strengthening communities and churches abroad and experiencing spiritual transformation. While mission trips can have remarkable results, there is potential

for harming the communities they visit. Mission trips "can be terribly destructive and can be the impetus of very bad feelings," says Robert Priest of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, one of the first missiologists to study short-term mission. "How to work in ways that do not do that is a major challenge."

The March cover story of *Presbyterians Today* tells how congregations are meeting this challenge by emphasizing preparation, partnership cultural sensitivity and relationship building. Read more at <http://www.pcusa.org/today/cover.htm>

MOTHER'S DAY MEETS MOSQUITO NETS: International Health Ministries' 2008 NETWORKERS MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT makes it possible each spring for U.S. Presbyterians to support malaria prevention programs in Africa while also honoring their mothers and other women on Mother's Day. NetWorkers Mother's Day cards are available in exchange for a donation to the NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program. For more information and available resources visit <http://www.pcusa.org/health/international/networkers-mothers-day.htm>

HUNGER ACTION TRAINING: Not sure about Nickel a Meal? Wondering about One Great Hour of Sharing? Need some facts about hunger? Ideas to reclaim Christmas? These and other topics will be covered in a short and snappy program held in each cluster in October. So put the following dates on your calendar (and be sure to recruit others):

Oct 4:	Cluster A: 9:00-11:30 Cluster B: 1:30-4:00 (Swannanoa, First) Cluster E: 9:00-11:30
Oct 11:	Cluster C: 9:00-11:30 Cluster D: 9:00-11:30 (Southminster)
Either Oct 4 or 11:	Cluster F

FOR WONDERFUL MONTHLY NEWS ABOUT PCUSA MISSION, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/newsletter.htm>

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS: Read the stories of two former Young Adult Volunteers at <http://www.pcusa.org/msr/youngadult.htm>.

AND FOR THOSE ON EITHER END OF THE AGE SPECTRUM....there are two new web sites.

- * Health for 50+: <http://www.pcusa.org/healthyliving/>
- * And coming in May a web site for Kids: Stay tuned!

MISSION YEARBOOKS & CHILDREN'S MISSION YEARBOOKS: Order by using the form in this packet. Deadline for orders: May 15, 2008.

2008 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference

Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice - Confronting Poverty

July 15-19, 2008, Orange, California

<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm>

Download a conference brochure:

<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008/brochure.pdf>

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