



Presbytery of New Harmony

Nurturing Churches and People



THIS WEEK IN NEW HARMONY

May 7, 2008

(If a headline is a link, please click it for more information)

Mother's Day Offering to benefit Presbyterian Retirement Community Residents

The Mother's Day offering to be collected on Sunday, May 11, will directly benefit the residents of South Carolina's Presbyterian Retirement Communities. The Communities, celebrating 50 years of service this year, minister to their residents with kindness and respect.

This ministry not only belongs to those called to work in one of the retirement communities, but it belongs to all Presbyterians in the state, who over the past 20 years have provided over \$25 million in benevolent care. During 2008, the cost of care for residents who live in our Presbyterian Retirement Communities and qualify for financial assistance will be approximately \$2.1 million. Please give generously to help defray these costs and continue this important ministry among us.

Are you prepared for hurricane season?

Hurricane season is only a few week away. We never know what will occur but the predictions are for a bad hurricane season. Are you ready? If you feel like you need some help with how to prepare, I suggest doing a web search for disaster preparedness. If you want one site, I suggest <http://www.ready.gov/>.

We live in a society where we expect to be rescued if we have a problem. EMS will respond. Law enforcement will be there if we have a traffic accident. The hospital emergence room will be ready to receive us. The phone always works or at least the cell phone works. We have good automobiles and can drive to safety. In a disaster, not all these resources we take for granted may be there. After Katrina and Rita, these resources were not there.

Our churches, our communities, our counties, our state and our nation are continuing to prepare for disasters. However, in a major disaster, the local resources can be destroyed and/or the needs instantly exceed resources. New resources will come, BUT it takes time. You may need to live totally self sufficiently; that is with no utilities, no communications, no help, and no infrastructure for several days. Again, I ask, "Are you prepared?"

-- Elder Doug Macdonald, Presbytery Disaster Coordinator

Survey shows majority of congregations not prepared for pandemic

During early April, congregations responded to a brief survey designed by National Health Ministries to collect information that would provide a **snapshot** of pandemic planning throughout the PCUSA. Though the survey was completed anonymously, respondents had the option of providing information that identified them by Presbytery and community. Of the 52% who identified themselves - the cross-section of respondents came from 89 communities, and 61 Presbyteries in 37 states.

Calendar May 7, 2008	
<u>May</u>	
8,	Grand Strand Min./Ed. lunch, Cedar Hill Landing, 12 pm.
8,	Camping Division, Presbytery office, 4:30 pm.
12,	Sumter area Min./Ed. lunch, Foo Garden Buffet, Sumter, 12 pm.
13,	Stated Spring Presbytery Meeting, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Kingstree.
14,	COM/CDD Task Force, Presbytery office, 10 am.
20,	Worship & Spiritual Formation Division, Presbytery office, 9:30 am.
20,	Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Presbytery office, 4:30 pm.
21,	Cheraw area Min./Ed. lunch, El Sheriff's, 12 pm.
22,	P.A.D.D., Presbytery office, 1 pm.

Prayer Concerns (as requested)

If you have a prayer request, please email it to netanyia@newharmoniypres.org.

New Harmony Churches (praying for two each week)

McDowell Presbyterian Church, Greeleyville

Two percent of the responding congregations indicated that they are fully prepared in all aspects of pandemic planning. 17% indicated that they are well on the way. However, over 52% of congregations have not even discussed planning.

If you have not completed the survey, visit [here](#). Visit [Congregational Health Ministries](#) for more information on health.

General Assembly committee leadership announced

The Office of the General Assembly (OGA) has announced the committee leadership for the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in San Jose, CA, June 21-28.

Nearly 1,000 items of business to be considered by the Assembly will be processed by 17 Assembly Committees. Each committee will have a moderator and vice-moderator — chosen by 217th General Assembly Moderator Joan Gray from the ranks of the 852 elected commissioners to the Assembly — plus a committee assistant and a parliamentarian/recorder appointed by General Assembly Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick.

--view the [complete article](#) by Jerry Van Marter, PNS

Columbia Theological Seminary to offer courses in July

Distinguished historians, scholars, writers, and artists will offer diverse perspectives on faith and spirituality in Appalachia during the "Religion in Appalachia" Lecture Series in Montreat, NC, July 21-25, 2008. Admission is Free. Click [here](#) for details.

The July 28 - 30 Baptism and Eucharist Seminar looks at sacraments from a holistic understanding of the human person, human community, and the earth. Get details and registrations [here](#).

Standardized form for financial assistance developed

The Presbytery of New Harmony has a standardized form for those seeking financial assistance, scholarship assistance, or a grant. The form was developed for committees and divisions to use in getting the same information from those seeking monetary assistance for ministry projects and continuing education events. For more information or to request a form, contact [Julie Cox](#).

39 congregations share \$214,000 for community programs

The [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) (PHP) in partnership with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s [Small Church and Community Ministry office](#), recently allocated \$214,000 to 39 congregation-based community organizations (CBCOs) in urban and rural areas across the country.

They are among the hundreds of Presbyterian U.S. congregations making a difference in their local communities through CBCOs.

CBCOs are broad-based coalitions of congregations working in partnership with other community organizations that address quality of life issues such as affordable housing, public healthcare for children, living wage, and public education. Grants are provided to support training for lay leaders, pastors, middle governing bodies, staff, and seminarians to develop the skills for congregational-based community organizing.

--view [complete article](#) by Evan Silverstein, PNS

Melina Presbyterian Church, Gable

Mission Yearbook

(next six days of prayer from the Mission Yearbook)

- + The Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky
- + The Presbytery of Mid-South
- + The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
- + The Presbytery of Mississippi
- + Pentecost Offering
- + North Alabama Presbytery
- + The Presbytery of St. Andrew

View Past Issues

[04/30/08](#)

[04/23/08](#)

[04/16/08](#)

[04/09/08](#)

Events of Interest & Employment Opportunities

Click on [Presbytery](#) and [Church/Synod/GA](#) to find events of interest.

Click on [Employment Opportunities](#) to find educator, musician, and other employment opportunities. New listings for Ebenezer and Pawleys Island

Adobe Version of "This Week"

available at [adobe version](#). Need adobe reader. Visit [adobe](#).

Information Needed

If you have had an event at your church you would like to report or have an upcoming event to publicize in the Presbytery of New Harmony, send the information to avery@newharmonypres.org. Publicity of an upcoming event should be sent two weeks prior to the event.

Presbytery of New Harmony

Contact us at office@newharmonypres.org or (877) 662-8411.
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-6p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8:30-12:30, Friday. (Executives are in the office Mondays-Thursdays.) Contact the [Presbytery Staff](#).