



connections

Newsletter of the Presbytery of New Covenant

Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.

A Call to Engagement: Faithful Responses to Climate Change

The Fossil Fuel Planning Team, a network of the Synod of the Sun, has been hard at work planning a Symposium that will address Faithful Alternatives to Fossil Fuel Divestment and Responses to Climate Change. The Symposium will be held Friday, October 2, 3:00 p.m. through Saturday, October 3, 3:00 p.m. at Memorial Drive PC, 11612 Memorial Drive, Houston.

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe (Texas Tech) and Marshall Saunders (Citizens Climate Lobby), nationally known for their work on climate change, will be the keynote speakers.

The 24 hours will be filled with a number of breakout sessions and opportunities for folks to network. In addition, there will be a call to engagement with climate

change and opportunities to work on potential overtures to General Assembly to address climate change with real, tangible, results-oriented proposals. This promises to be an excellent opportunity for those who are concerned



Marshall Saunders

both for the environment and the corporations who employ a significant number of our members to gather with a positive focus.



Katharine Hayhoe

More details may be found in a folder in Our Filing Cabinet

on the presbytery website, www.pbyofnewcovenant.org, titled Faithful Alternatives to Divestment from Fossil Fuel. An informative Consultation Document (background information) created by the planning group is also located in this folder. It is an excellent document that provides lots of information on ways to address climate change other than divestment.

Registration and meals: \$45 payable at the door or sent to Carrie Walker, 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston 77006. Online registration at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/faithful-alternatives-to-fossil-fuel-divestment-symposium-tickets-17887787855>. A hotel reservation may be booked at Marriott Westchase Hotel, 713-978-7400 (2900 Briarpark Dr, Houston, TX 77042), at a group rate listed

under “Presbytery of the Covenant October.” \$105, taxes included. Hotel deadline is Monday, September 21.



Breakout Sessions

- ABCs of Climate Change
- Theological and Ethical Foundations
- Alternative Energy Sources for addressing Climate Change
- Pricing greenhouse gas emissions to motivate behavioral change and transition to future energy sources
- MRTI Presentation and Q & A

New Covenant to offer free seminar: Engaging and Forming Disciples in a New Day

Why don't the ways we have done Christian Education for decades no longer work?

The Congregational Resourcing Team of the presbytery seeks to help congregation pastors and leaders engage and wrestle with this question that is critical to the vitality of our congregations. They are pleased to offer a free, one day seminar, “Engaging and Forming Disciples in a New Day” on Thursday, September 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Community of the Servant Savior PC, 11303 Hughes Road, Houston.

Registration and coffee hospitality begins at 8:30 a.m.

Outstanding teacher and leader Dr. Michael Waschevski will lead both a presentation time and group process time around tables. Come to better understand the significance of our changing worldview and to experience practical techniques that can guide us as we faithfully and effectively nurture faith formation across the age continuum.

Beginning by unpacking the oft-used and frequently misunderstood term “postmodernism,” Michael will help us understand this shift and then offer guidance for how your church can not only survive but thrive in this new



Michael Waschevski

reality. Other presentations examine the centrality of Christian Identity Formation in the Community of Faith, Theological Reflection and Bible Study that is a dynamic conversation, and Practices of Faith for lived discipleship.

Dr. Michael Waschevski serves as Associate Pastor of Programming and Pastoral Care at

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NEW COVENANT CONNECTIONS

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From the Cole Mine

Rev. Mike Cole, General Presbyter
Presbytery of New Covenant

“Race Matters”

White Supremacy wasn’t “taught” in my family; it was presumed during my childhood years in the 1950s in Houston. It took one night in River Oaks, of all places, to expose our racial prejudice for what it was.

In the summer of 1959 my father hosted a national convention of steel corporation executives. Since it was summer vacation, Dad included me in the details and let me tag along as he negotiated hotels, restaurants, and parties. He located a wealthy sponsor in River Oaks who was willing to host a big outdoor party on a Saturday night under huge tents. The featured entertainment was a Dixieland jazz band from New Orleans featuring “Big Mama” at the piano. The appearance of a jazz band was significant for me because I was determined to tell my father that I wasn’t cut out for playing the violin, which he had bought and forced my sisters to play before me, until they gave it up, too.

In the week leading up to the convention I accompanied my father everywhere picking up dignitaries at the airport and train station and taking them to the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in downtown Houston. The afternoon arrived for us to pick up the band; I was beyond excitement to meet actual professional jazz musicians. Dad and I met them at the train station and loaded their suitcases and instruments into our station wagon and headed for the hotel. The only thing was that we didn’t head for the Shamrock Hilton but to the 3rd Ward. The band members were jovial and very talkative, asking me about school and if I played an instrument. I mumbled something about the violin but blurted out that I really wanted to play the trumpet. The trumpeter said he’d be glad to teach me a little something and I enthusiastically agreed, noting the slight frown on my father’s face, as he thought about having to trade the noble violin for

a trumpet. I had laid the foundation for my switch to the trumpet without even planning it. I was exultant.

Then we pulled into the motel where the band would be staying. The band kept laughing and talking but I became very quiet. The motel was a little old and looked okay, but it wasn’t the Shamrock. “Why aren’t they staying where everyone else is staying?” I wondered. “They are the featured entertainment. Shouldn’t they be treated even better than everyone else?” Dad helped them unload, get settled, and made arrangements to pick them up for a rehearsal in River Oaks.

After Dad got back in the car and we started our drive home, he said, “Mike, you got kind of quiet there. Are you okay?” I took my time in responding and then said, “I don’t understand why we didn’t take the band to the Shamrock?” “Because they’re Negroes,” he said matter of factly. I gave him a look, like the RCA Victor dog and shook my head, indicating that I still didn’t understand. Dad continued. “Negroes are not allowed to stay at the Shamrock or any other white hotel. They have to stay in one of their hotels.” “But,” I stammered, “They are celebrities! They ought to be treated better than everyone else.” My Dad responded, “It’s just the way it is.” I sat quietly contemplating the injustice of it all.

I was shaken to my core. I had lived in my own white world not really seeing or considering the impact of the Jim Crow laws on those different from me. It wasn’t fair. I knew that without even having to consider the matter. That night I hung out with the band, learning the rudiments of jazz while they played and the effects of racism when they took breaks. I talked to every member of the band, quizzing them about what it was like growing



up black in the South. The stories they told me made me ashamed to be white - made me ashamed of America - made me ashamed to be so ignorant. I simply had no idea that America was not the land of the free for everyone.

The band left for New Orleans the next morning. Dad and I put them on the train and I waved goodbye not only to the band but also to my youthful ignorance. Dad and his friends had been entertained for the evening. I had been changed for life.

Through the ensuing years, I’ve supported racial equality, assuming that the passage of time would eventually erase racial prejudice from the landscape of America. However the events of the past year in particular have made it obvious that racial prejudice hasn’t disappeared; it simply went underground and has now been exposed in all its ugliness and hatefulness. I confess that, as a white man, I cannot begin to comprehend the pain, anguish, and inequality of systems in our country and even our church that perpetuate injustice and the myth of the superiority of one race over another. I repent of turning a blind eye to systemic and individual racism. I commit to actively engage systems for justice and equality for all God’s children. I am no longer content to remain quiet about racial inequality and white privilege. I confess that I have been passive and timid in the face of racial prejudice. I repent of my inaction in not calling out racism when I encounter it. I commit to speaking the truth in love.

The leadership of the African

Race continues on Page 3

Race Matters

Race continued from Page 2

Methodist Episcopal Church has invited Christians across this land to join them on Sunday, September 6, in declaring that Sunday as a “Day of Confession, Repentance, Prayer, and Commitment to End Racism.” They are asking that every church, temple, synagogue, mosque, and place of worship focus on race, while asking every pastor, rabbi, imam, and other leaders to preach on race, reminded that out of one blood, God created all of us to dwell together in unity. I will be on vacation but I plan to attend worship, perhaps even in an AME church to show my support for racial equality and justice.

During these last five decades, I have lived by the motto that race doesn’t matter, but I now realize that it matters very much. Race matters because we can’t leave our skin, nor should we want to. Race matters because we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” to be diverse and culturally different. Race matters because it is only in knowing the breadth, length, height, and depth of humanity’s differences that we begin to see God’s purpose in breathing life into us. Race matters. In Christ,



Engaging and Forming Disciples

Engaging continued from Page 1

First PC in Fort Worth and has served as adjunct professor of Christian Education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Anyone who has been in a workshop or classroom with Michael will bear witness to the thoughtfulness, clarity, and insight of his presentations that equip participants to put their learning to work.

Churches are encouraged to send teams to this event to both hear content and begin a plan for what these approaches might look like in their own congregation. Because of the critical importance of this event and its content, New Covenant is

pleased to offer the seminar at no cost to participants other than a catering fee of \$15. As always, individuals are welcome to bring their own lunch.

Please help planners by making reservations no later than Monday, September 21. Simply email [Mary Marcotte at mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:Mary.Marcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org) to reserve your place at the table for a word of hope and wisdom as we seek to be faithful together.

Details about the schedule for the day are on the presbytery website, http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/files/forms/events/2015_Engaging_and_Forming_Disciples.pdf

Mission story from Synod of the Sun Older Adult Mobility

Thank you to the Synod of the Sun for the support in allowing



ADA Bathroom.

Mo-Ranch to be accessible for all guests to enjoy! Because of the synod’s generosity, Mo-Ranch now has ADA accessible rooms for guests with mobility

issues.

Pheasant Run now has an ADA accessible room and bathroom, complete with two twin beds and a roll-in shower and shower seat. Features include convenient ramps for the outside door and bathroom door, wider doorways to accommodate wheelchairs, and grab bar handrails inside of the shower and toilet area. The bathroom sink, toilet, and mirror are now at appropriate ADA heights for guests with these needs to enjoy their stay.

Clerk’s Corner

Rev. Lynn Hargrove, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of New Covenant



Sharing the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading

We often hear about the PC(USA) being a “connectional” church. We are connected by our Reformed understanding of theology and Scripture. We are connected by our form of government, also called polity, which is built upon shared power and mutual accountability as together we seek to represent the will of Christ. A primary way that we discern together is through our biennial General Assembly (GA).

Commissioners to the General Assembly are both teaching and ruling elders who come from every presbytery in the country. In the mid 1800s, a “plan of mileage” was adopted by the assembly to defray the expenses of commissioners attending the GA meetings so that everyone could be present to participate regardless of distance or financial resources. This became known as “per capita” apportionment.

Per capita not only funds the cost of the meetings of the General Assembly, it also supports ecclesiastical and administrative functions that are shared by the whole church. It provides the opportunity for all of us to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination of the assemblies, as well as the provision of ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed church. It also strengthens the sense of community among the members of the PC(USA). Per capita allows us to work with other churches around the world to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

So, other than supporting the General Assembly, what does per capita provide?

Leadership training comes through various conferences for elders, moderators, Christian educators, and others. The Church Leadership Connection assists congregations and pastors with the call process. Help with immigration issues for those coming from outside the country enables congregations to worship in the language of their home country while being part of the PC(USA). The Presbyterian Historical Society collects, preserves, and shares information on American Presbyterianism. The Office of the General Assembly provides for the overall coordination and work of the General Assembly between meetings, and assists the Stated Clerk in carrying out the duties assigned to the Clerk by the assembly. Constitutional services provide answers to questions of interpretation of the *Book of Order*. The Moderator of the General Assembly represents the denomination around the country and around the world.

The current rate for per capita is \$7.02. It may be difficult for the person sitting in a pew in a congregation to see the benefits of paying per capita. Just as our regular contributions to our individual congregation provide an infrastructure that we may not see, per capita does the same on a larger scale. We are all diminished when a congregation makes the decision to withhold their per capita payment.

Being Presbyterian means that we are connected. Per capita funding is how we mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future.



Mary's Musings

Mary Marcotte, Associate General Presbyter
Presbytery of New Covenant

Meetings. I have meetings. I have lots and lots of meetings

It has only somewhat jokingly been suggested that Presbyterians are a meeting people. The theological underpinning of that assertion is our belief that we discern God's will in community. That is a foundational principle in our polity.

I attend committee meetings and task force meetings. I attend video conference call meetings with participants spread across twelve time zones, and I attend informal meetings around the lunch table. I attend meetings where my active input is expected, others when I might be called upon to provide additional background only when asked. I attend meetings where I am expected to ask questions and others where I am expected to give answers. I attend meetings where the primary work is reporting on what has already happened and others where the time is spent in brainstorming and dreaming something new.

Meetings I do not typically attend are those of the committee that plans presbytery meetings. These folks have an incredibly complicated task. People attending these meetings have a variety of differing opinions of the ways these days should be shaped and few of them are shy about sharing their opinions.

Some think Saturday meetings make it possible for them to attend. Others think all the meetings need to be on weekdays. Some feel strongly that each meeting should include 'big' worship with glorious music, powerful preaching, and celebration of communion. Others think some prayer and congregational singing will be just fine. Some come looking forward to business processes and voting on actions specified in the *Book of Order*. Others look for a challenging keynote that expands the ways we think of doing church. Some love small group conversations, and others just want the meeting to get done.

One of the recurring threads that the Visioning Team of our presbytery has reported on is a hunger for real relationships within our presbytery. And the truth is that we will probably never achieve that kind of authentic relationship if we only see each other three times a year and are mostly looking at the back of one another's heads.

What if we considered every time a group of Presbyterians representing multiple congregations gather to prayerfully be equipped and to serve the mission of God in our communities to be a meeting of the presbytery? Sure there would be committee meetings that support our structure's work, but there would also be gatherings around workshops that equip us for new and revitalized ministry. There would be geographic or affinity gatherings over shared meals where joys and concerns for our ministries and our families would be shared. We would remember that when a new pastor in a neighboring congregation is being installed, we are urged to be present and that we are gathering as a meeting of the presbytery. When our Youth Council gathers to lead Conclaves, we are meeting as presbytery. When the Presbyterian Women have training events, when Pilgrimage or Emmaus weekends occur, when community prayer services happen – these too can also be meetings of Presbytery. When congregations partner to do that which is bigger than what any one of them can do alone, this too can be a meeting of presbytery.

Yep. We have three stated meetings a year. But friends, how much more can we be and do and dream about when we respond to God's call together? Those are some meetings that will give life that I will be delighted to attend.

community news

First Presbyterian, Pasadena celebrates its 75th Anniversary!



First Pasadena's congregation.

All former members and friends of First Pasadena PC are invited to take part in the church's Celebration of its 75th Anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, October 17-18. Featured guest minister on Saturday is the Rev. Ted Foote, the first intern at First Pasadena and currently pastor at First PC, Bryan. The Rev. David Fletcher, a former church member, will preach at the Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship service. Special activities for the celebration will include a prayer vigil, tree planting, choir and handbell concert and reception, exhibits showing the activities and history of the church, and the Sunday barbeque luncheon. Visit <http://www.fpcpasadena.org/75th-anniversary/> for details.

On October 1, 1940, First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena received its charter from Brazos Presbytery, PCUS, (now New Covenant Presbytery, PCUSA), with 42 charter members. The church was meeting in its new location on Randall and Broadway in the old band hall moved from the nearby junior high school. The Rev. Dr. Charles L. King, of First Presbyterian, Houston, preached the inaugural sermon and

presented the new church with a pulpit Bible, still on display today.

The actual beginning of this church was in 1936 as a mission church of Park Place Presbyterian (now Trinity/San Pablo) with thirteen interested persons meeting in the Pasadena High School. When a family of six left and moved to Houston, the mission almost died. However, the arrival of the new Champion Paper Mill in 1937 brought many Presbyterian families from North Carolina who gave invigorated growth to the group. Descendants of some of these original families are still active in the church today.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the inspiration of our ministers, and the dedication of lay leadership, the church has continued as a strong presence at the corner of Preston and Crenshaw in Pasadena. At this time the congregation enjoys the leadership of the Rev. Dr. James S. Currie and his wife, Jo Ann.

The church is located at 4647 Preston Ave., near Crenshaw Rd. and the Sam Houston Pkwy., Beltway 8. All are welcome to this anniversary celebration!

highlights

Thanks, friends!

“To all of you who helped the kids at John Knox Summer Mission Camp by saving your bottle caps this summer, thank you so much! We had more than enough to complete our art project. The photo shows the final result!” says TE Becky Downs, pastor of John Knox.

John Knox Presbyterian, Houston, put out a request to New Covenant churches to help them collect bottle caps for their Summer Mission Camp project. The Presbytery congregations responded by sending hundreds of bottle caps from water



Bottle cap art project.

bottles, juice bottles, milk jugs, soft drinks, etc.

Course on Healthy Boundaries to be offered

Healthy Boundaries is a course for church professionals that provides them with self-care strategies and the setting of healthy boundaries. It also fulfills the requirement of the PC(USA) and the Presbytery that all ordained clergy, CREs, and Candidates under care of the Presbytery receive training every five years to help them avoid sexual

misconduct allegations. The trainings will be offered three times in 2015:

- Tues., Sept. 29, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Presbytery Center
- Thurs., Oct. 8, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Covenant Presbyterian, College Station, TX
- Tues., Nov. 17, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Presbytery Center

Connecting and Energizing Presbyterians for Mission

Beginning in 2016, the 120-year-old print publication of the *Presbyterian Yearbook for Prayer & Study* will transform to a new digital-only resource. By offering this as a free resource through the PC(USA) website, this publication will be able to broaden its reach, share inspiring content in a timelier manner, and demonstrate better stewardship.

The number of subscribers to the printed version of the Mission Yearbook has declined greatly over the years, from 80,000 in the year 2000 to just 8,000 this year. Correspondingly, the cost per book increased from \$7.50 to \$34.95 per copy. Meanwhile, revenue from the book was not

meeting expenses. Those factors, combined with the fact that the vast majority of people now access information

online, made it clear that this publication must transition to an online-only resource in order to remain good stewards.

The *Mission Yearbook* will live on, telling the stories of lives transformed through God's eternal grace and extraordinary love!



2015 Mission Yearbook

Making History Today

Rev. Dr. James S. Currie, Executive Secretary
Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest



The Story of Your Church in Context

Every church has its own story. Anniversaries are occasions to recall charter members, church officers, pastors, and events in the life of the congregation. It is also interesting and helpful to note other events that were going on in the community, the nation, and the world.

The church I have the privilege of serving is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Dr. Charles L. King, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Houston, was instrumental in helping First Presbyterian Church in Pasadena get off the ground in 1940. The Pasadena effort had been a mission project of Central Park Presbyterian Church, Houston, since 1936. Central Park is now San Pablo-Trinity Presbyterian Church.

In 1940 the population of Pasadena was 3,436 souls. In 2010 the census recorded a population of 149,043 persons. First Presbyterian Church was organized by Brazos Presbytery on October 1, 1940, with 42 charter members. The church is now in its third location and has had a marvelous history of mission and outreach to the community and beyond. Among the various mission initiatives this church has had over the years is an interfaith brotherhood founded in 1966 by First Presbyterian Church, the Knights of Columbus, and B'nai B'rith. Since 1980 this organization has owned and maintained the Pasadena Interfaith Manor, an apartment complex for low-income older adults.

But what was going on in the rest of the world in 1940? W. Lee “Pappy” O’Daniel was governor of Texas. The average annual wage was \$1,315.00. Gasoline was 15 cents per gallon. A new Plymouth two-door sedan cost \$739.00. The racehorse “Seabiscuit” became horse racing all-time leading money winner. And “Gone with the Wind” won eight Oscar Academy Awards.

Ghettos were established in 1940 in large Polish cities by German forces to isolate Jewish populations. Germany invaded Denmark, Norway, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Winston Churchill succeeded Neville Chamberlain as Great Britain’s prime minister. Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to a third term as president of the U.S.

Among the books that were published in 1940 were Ernest Hemingway’s *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Richard Wright’s *Native Son*, C. S. Lewis’ *The Problem of Pain*, and Graham Greene’s *The Power and the Glory*. Meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (the Southern Church) elected Rev. Frank C. Brown moderator. Brown was pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. The controversy revolving around fundamentalism in the church was still causing problems in the church, but there were also conversations about possible reunion between the northern and southern branches of the Presbyterian Church.

And so, as we make history today, and as we all celebrate the ministry of our own particular congregation, we do so knowing that nothing happens in a vacuum. Just as our lives must be understood in the context of world events today, so also should we see our own church history in its context.

Next Connections deadline

The next *Connections* copy deadline is Wednesday, October 14, for the November/December 2015 issue. Please send articles and photos to Helen Wolf at hwolf@pbyofnewcovenant.org.

Have you not heard? Have you not seen?

By RE Shelley Hernandez, Chair of General Council

God is doing new things within The Presbytery of New Covenant. Are you ready to participate? Even if it means...*change!*

After traveling throughout Presbytery and meeting with several hundred people through committees, sessions, and geographic gatherings, the Visioning Team (VT) gathered the data from questions asked and put its prayerful imagination to work creating “provocative images” of what our Presbytery could look like in the future. Following are some of these Provocative Images:

- Free flowing and extensive Communication between congregations, between congregations and Presbytery, between Presbytery and congregations, and so on.
- Extensive and year-round leadership development opportunities for TEs, REs, church administrative staff, church program staff, church committees, etc.
- Employing 21st century collaboration and communication tools, so intra-Presbytery travel no longer hinders inter-congregational interaction.
- Extensive and year-round opportunities to engage in service, mission, and evangelism. We want to reach out, to minister, to feed, to clothe, to “you name it.”
- Empowering the Presbytery to do our work closer to our congregations.
- Emphasizing the “good news” of the PC(USA) and our Presbytery so we can communicate the “Good News” to our communities.

We are gathering again around the Presbytery for several reasons: Did we correctly hear the responses to the questions asked in our first set of gatherings? Did we miss anything? How can our congregations and our Presbytery work together to begin implementing these ideas?

The VT has many ideas and thoughts on how to implement these provocative proposals...but it's not up to the members of the VT. It is now in the hands of each one of us, for WE ARE PRESBYTERY. It is up to each of us, working together, connecting with our brothers and sisters, to make the changes that we believe we heard voiced when we met with folks around our Presbytery.

We know there are persons out there who could get excited about one or more of these proposals, and if it's not you, the reader of this article, you probably know someone who fits the profile. Share this “good news” of change that is working among us. We are always stronger when we come together - in work, in prayer, in conversation, in mission, in worship. And always remember... where two or more are gathered, there God shall be... we are not alone, God IS doing good things. Come, bring along a friend, and participate.

Look for dates, times, and locations for when the Gatherings around our Presbytery will be held. And in the meantime, if you would like to connect with a VT member, contact TE Lynn Hargrove at lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org, RE Dave Coles at DaveLColes@comcast.net, or me, RE Shelley Hernandez, at shernandez@schwartz-co.com.

mission an



Mama Jane, Connie Esposito, Emily Heger (Connie's daughter), and four sisters orphaned by war who are sponsored by CPU.

Pennies for Peace: Connecting the children of Sugar Land with the children of Peace Uganda

By RE Connie Esposito
First PC, Sugar Land

This summer's Vacation Bible School at First PC, Sugar Land, was filled with the Holy Spirit! The theme was “Camp Kilimanjaro, an Epic Expedition through Proverbs.” The children spent the week learning about how to use their hearts, hands, tongues, ears, and feet to honor and serve God. However, it was the mission project “Pennies for Peace” that seemed to touch hearts and resonate, not only with the children, but the entire FPCSL congregation as well.

The idea for “Pennies for Peace” came out of my recent trip to Uganda, Africa, where I was blessed to spend time with the Children of Peace Uganda (CPU), a non-profit founded by an amazing woman of God, Jane Eyaku, aka Mama Jane. Mama Jane and her team care for over 450 children of war who have been through the most unimaginable atrocities.

We introduced the “Pennies for Peace” campaign on the first day of VBS by making banks for the children to collect pennies and other loose change. We shared pictures of the children of Uganda and told age-appropriate stories of the lives of these war-affected children. Each

day we spent time talking about the differences in our lives and those of the Children of Peace Uganda. We looked at the differences in our homes, schools and daily activities, while we also discussed the ways in which they are the same: they, too, play-laugh-pray-and love Jesus!

Each morning the children were eager to put their coins into our huge donation jug, and they watched with anticipation as the collection grew throughout the week. The children understood the message and they embraced the idea of helping the children of Uganda.

We extended the “Pennies for Peace” collection to our entire congregation the following Sunday. By the end of the “Pennies for Peace” campaign, more than \$2,000 had been raised for the Children of Peace Uganda. These funds will be used to sponsor a child's education and to help with the many needs of the CPU. And, that's not all. Our adult Sunday School classes are joining forces to sponsor an additional child through the CPU. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

For more information about the Children of Peace Uganda visit www.childrenofpeaceuganda.com, or contact Jane Eyaku at jeayaku1@gmail.com or Connie Esposito at cjespo@msn.com.

and ministry



Recent fire in Jasper.

Rebuilding Community: one place at a time

By TE Cyndi Wunder, Jasper PC and Peace Beyond Understanding

It is good and right to march. It is good and right to declare that black lives matter. It is good and right to educate ourselves, develop and maintain friendships. But there comes a time when, if one is to truly stand with a community, action becomes necessary. Many wonder what they can do. Here is one opportunity.

The town of Jasper has had two alleged arson fires in two weeks. The first was at a black rural church. The second was at a black owned beauty salon in a poor neighborhood. Peace Beyond Understanding, 501(c)3, is raising money to rebuild this beauty salon. The loss of this salon was financially devastating. They had no insurance. We plan to assist this family in rebuilding. We are recruiting teams of builders from local churches. We are recruiting professional plumbers and electricians to donate a day of labor. We are soliciting funds to rebuild. We intend to do our level best to help this

family out, to support them.

The church has been offered access to First Presbyterian Church, Jasper, so that they may continue to worship and study scripture together while they figure out what they want to do long term. Peace Beyond Understanding, along with the Presbyterian church, will continue to support them as best we can.

I am asking that you consider a donation to support this good work. Any proceeds that are in excess of building costs will be dedicated to insurance. We want to see Jasper become a thriving, healthy community and we believe that together we can achieve this. If you are able to ask for a special offering at your church, please consider doing so. Together we can make great things happen! How wonderful it would be to let this community know that they do not stand alone, that we see them, we value them, and we stand with them.

<https://life.indiegogo.com/fundraisers/1382350/x/10858396>

Presbytery Meeting

The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be Saturday, November 17 at St. John's PC, Houston.



youth @news

Young Adults at Mo-Ranch

Join other young adults, ages 22-39, from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana at Mo-Ranch (near Hunt, TX) September 18-20 for a Young Adult Weekend. Participate in thoughtful keynote presentations, meaningful worship, ample free time, and wonderful fellowship over the course of the weekend. Come for a chance to reconnect with God and friends, relax at Mo-Ranch, and recharge your spirit!

<http://www.moranch.org/Camps-Conferences/Conference-Calendar/Young-Adult-Weekend>

Conference for youth workers

REFOCUS, a three day conference to be held October 5-7 at Austin Theological Seminary in Austin, is designed for people who lead and work with youth in a Presbyterian congregational setting. REFOCUS provides youth workers time to learn, fellowship, worship, and nurture their call as a youth worker. Participants will spend time in plenary session, small group discussion, personal reflection, and spiritual direction. Encourage the adults who work with youth in your church to attend this event.

The cost (\$105) includes registration, lodging, and most meals. Registration information can be found at: <http://www.austinseminary.edu/page.cfm?p=3214>. Contact Rev. Caressa Murray for more details, cmurray@pbyofnewcovenant.org or 281-798-5993.



Youth Ministry Summit

Camp Cho-Yeh's Youth Ministry Summit, Thursday, October 22, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. is a one-day workshop designed for youth pastors from the greater Houston/East Texas area to learn, connect, grow, and enrich their ministry. Cho-Yeh's hope is to challenge youth pastors to think theologically about their role, help them connect with other youth pastors in the area, and provide them with practical tools to be more effective in ministry. Cost is \$35.

Questions? Contact Rachel Drake at RachelD@cho-yeh.org or 936-328-3200. To register, visit <http://www.cho-yeh.org/events/youth-ministry-summit>

Youth Rally! Make plans now!

This year's Youth Rally will be begin with Sunday morning worship "youth-style" Sunday, October 18, 10:45 a.m. at Spring Branch PC, Houston, followed by lunch, games, and a hands-on mission project. This event is an opportunity for youth groups in our presbytery to come together to worship, fellowship, and make a difference through mission. Middle and High School youth and their adult sponsors are invited. The event will conclude by 2:00 p.m. There is no charge for this event.

in the resource center new dvd and book resources

DVD Studies

Broken and Blessed: How God Used One Imperfect Family to Change the World

7 sessions

Beginning with an overview to introduce the study, Jessica LaGrone takes participants through a study of family as seen through the lens of the book of Genesis. The rich fabric of Genesis has much to speak to us about how God's love intersects with human life and human frailty. A picture emerges of the ways God works for good despite our bad choices and our human pain and disappointments. Designed as a study for women, the materials covered could provide fruitful conversation for families of all ages and stages. A participant's book guides students through five daily reading assignments and prayer experience that deeply enhance the 25-minute DVD sessions. Lesson plans are designed for 90 minute sessions but could potentially be pared down to an hour, or some groups might wish to spend two weeks on each lesson. A single copy of the student book circulates with the DVD and leader guide. Individual copies of the student book can be ordered from <https://www.cokesbury.com/>.

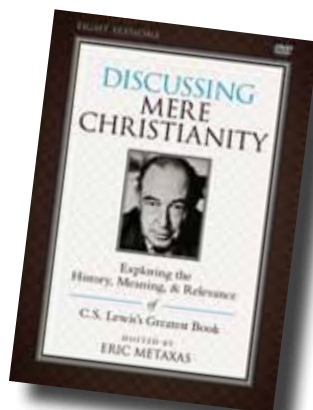


Discussing Mere Christianity

8 sessions

Many consider *Mere Christianity* to be C. S. Lewis' masterwork of the Christian faith. As timely today as when it was first written in the face of growing disconnect with faith in England during WWII, Lewis slowly builds his case, based on his personal journey of moving from atheism to theism to Christianity. The video components of this study provide an excellent context and biographical background that will make a group study of the book far richer. The leader's guide which circulates with the DVD includes excellent questions for discussion and a reading plan for approaching the book in relationship to the videos. Segments run between 19 and 25 minutes. Topics included are:

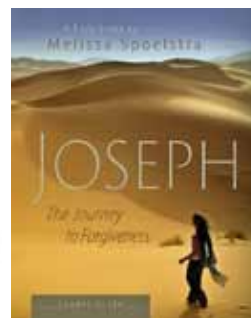
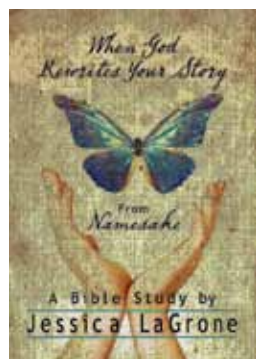
Our Sense of Right and Wrong
What's Behind our Sense of Right and Wrong
The Rival Conceptions of God
Free Will and the Shocking Alternative
Christian Behavior and the Great Sin of Pride
The Christian Virtue of Hope
God in Three Persons
Counting the Cost



Namesake: When God Rewrites Your Story

6 sessions

Using stories of people in the Bible who met God and whose lives and names were changed forever, teacher Jessica LaGrone helps women connect their life stories with these narratives of transformation. Sessions average 25 minutes in length and are augmented by daily scripture readings and prayer found in the participant's book. The leader's guide offers session plans and discussion questions relating both to the DVD and the daily readings. Additional participant's guides can be ordered from <http://www.cokesbury.com>.

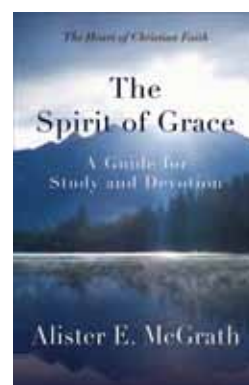


Joseph: The Journey to Forgiveness

6 sessions

Using the lens of the fascinating story of Joseph as found in Genesis, this series explores forgiveness and reconciliation and offers practical help in how to stop dwelling in the hurt, how forgiving is different from excusing, and the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. Each video segment is 25 minutes and the leader's guide offers session outlines and leader helps. A single copy of the participant's guide circulates with the study and offers suggestions for digging deeper with daily Bible study and reflection that can enhance the study, although in-class discussions could stand alone. Additional copies of the participant's guide are available through <https://www.cokesbury.com/>.

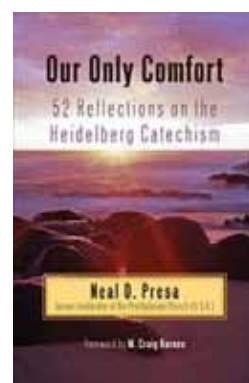
Featured books



The Spirit of Grace: A Guide for Study and Devotion

By Alister E. McGrath

This installment of the author's guide to the "Big Picture of Christianity" looks at The Holy Spirit, human nature, the doctrine of grace, and the place of the church in Christian life. Each chapter is filled with stories and helpful illustrations. This is devotional reading that helps us offer spiritual consideration of the difference our belief in God makes in the way in which we think about ourselves and the world.



Only Our Comfort

By Neal D. Presa

This series of 52 devotional readings unpack the Heidelberg catechism, along with scriptural references. Presa, Moderator of the 220th General Assembly, offers brief meditations on these questions which tie this portion of our confessional heritage with contemporary life. Segments of the book could be used to study our sacraments, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer.



Isaiah for Everyone

By John Goldingay

The Old Testament for Everyone series continues with this study of the first great prophetic book that represents the compilations of several prophetic messages to the people of Judah and Jerusalem. It includes a call for injustice to be recognized, offers a message of liberation and hope, and points to a new age of redemption and peace lying beyond the crisis of judgment enacted. Fresh translation and accessible commentary make this a helpful resource for either devotional reading or study groups.

More news!



Live Forward, Give Forward: Bringing People and Mission Together

*By Sherry Hester Kenney
Ministry Relations Officer,
Presbyterian Foundation
(South Central Region)*

“Sherry, I have on my desk a Wills Emphasis flyer that you gave me at a recent Presbytery meeting. Whenever I receive a call from a local attorney regarding the estate of a recently deceased member of the church and hear that we have received a bequest, I am motivated to show this flyer to the Session. We’d like to learn more about how to emphasize the importance of remembering the church in our wills. What’s our next step?”

My recurring answer to the question posed is this: Praise God for this generous soul! Next, I tell the caller to visit the Presbyterian Foundation’s website and download a copy of the “Live Forward, Give Forward” program kit. <http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/Resource-Files/Wills-Resources/Live-Forward->

[Give-Forward-Program-Kit.aspx](http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/Resource-Files/Wills-Resources/Live-Forward-Give-Forward-Program-Kit.aspx). This resource is a step-by-step guide for churches wanting to become more intentional in this area of their funds ministry. You’ll be guided through the process of assembling a team, creating a legacy vision, setting goals, and creating a communication plan. Some key components of your planning may be holding a legacy planning workshop and a wills emphasis Sunday (bequests under a will comprise 90% of all legacy gifts), and incorporating the subject of legacy planning into stewardship and generosity sermons.

Developing your legacy giving program won’t happen overnight. It takes time to educate and encourage church members about leaving a faith legacy. However, most faithful Presbyterians say they would be willing to consider making a bequest in their will to their church, and most, who have not, say it is because they have never been asked!

So what are we waiting for? Let’s extend the invitation.

Join in AME Bishops’ Call to Action

The leadership of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) met recently to reaffirm their commitment to move the nation to face, confront, and act on the issue of race. Founded because of racism and injustice, the African Methodist Episcopal Church is preparing to celebrate its bicentennial next year. Once again, they are committed to leading the nation on these important issues.

We are invited to join the AME Church Sunday, September 6, as they declare that Sunday as a “Day of Confession, Repentance, Prayer, and Commitment to End Racism.” They are asking that every church, temple, synagogue, mosque, and place of worship focus on race, while asking every pastor, rabbi, imam, and other leaders to preach on race, reminded that out of one blood, God created all of us to dwell together in unity

Interface-Samaritan offers healing for wounded churches

Jesus experienced the ultimate woundedness in every relationship but walked in loving mercy and grace which came from his Father. He did what he saw his Father doing and he relied on the power of the Holy Spirit to enable

him to do it. The Body



of Christ is in trauma. Between denominational schisms and leadership failures, we are a wounded people - afraid of sin and sinners, zealous to protect ourselves from the world, and weighed down by the resulting grief and loss.

Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers was created for the purpose of helping individuals and groups like churches work through their trauma by letting down their guard, sharing their brokenness, and bringing healing to their wounds. Their faith is restored and they can love and be loved again, walking in

forgiveness and restoration in all their relationships.

Whether you are part of a nominating committee, a board of Elders or Deacons, a prayer group, an organized assembly with a common purpose, or a collection of brothers and sisters who share a common concern, Interface-Samaritan is an effective resource for help, grappling with issues of the body, mind, and spirit as a group. A skilled therapist will walk your group through the maze of trauma, fears, and complexities of woundedness, forgiveness, and restoration in your Church, once rooted and grounded in God’s love.

Interface offers a safe place to talk, a safe place to grieve, and a safe place to help start over. If you would like us to help your group, please contact Anne Way, Clinical Director, at 713-626-7990, ext. 209, or Steve Duson, Executive Director at ext. 104.

Ecumenical International Seafarer Ministry: Presbyterian Chaplain Support

The International Seafarer Ministry at the Port of Houston is, and has been since inception in 1972, an ecumenical ministry. Current participating denominations are the Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians and the Houston Chinese churches. Each denomination or faith is responsible for funding its own chaplains laboring in the ministry, but all chaplains work closely together to provide the ministry to as many ships as possible that call at the Port of Houston.

Financial contributions for this ministry are placed in a designated account at the Presbytery office that is used strictly for paying the salary, housing, benefits, mileage, and cell phone expenses for one

chaplain and a limited monthly stipend, mileage, and cell phone expenses for the other chaplain. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, send a check payable to Presbytery of New Covenant with “Seafarers” on the Memo line, and send to Forbes Baker, Director of Business Affairs, Presbytery of New Covenant. 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston 77006.



2015 calendar

September 3

Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators
Presbytery Center
Houston, TX

September 17-October 23

Powerful Tools for Pastors
Interface Samaritan Counseling Center
Houston, TX

September 18-20

Young Adult Weekend
Mo-Ranch
Hunt, TX

September 24

Engaging and Forming Disciples in a New Day
Community of the Servant Savior PC
Houston, TX

September 25-27

Hispanic Women's Conference
Mo Ranch
Hunt, TX

September 29

Healthy Boundaries Workshop
Presbytery Office

September 29-October 1

Faithwalking for Pastors
Cenacle Retreat Center
Houston, TX

October 3

Faithful Response to Climate Change
Memorial Drive PC
Houston, TX

October 5-7

REFOCUS Conference
Austin Theological Seminary
Austin, TX

October 8

Healthy Boundaries Workshop
Covenant PC
College Station, TX

October 18

Youth Rally
Spring Branch PC
Houston, TX

October 19-22

Couples in Ministry Conference
Mo-Ranch
Hunt, TX

October 22

Youth Ministry Summit
Cho-Yeh Camp & Conference Center
Livingston, TX

November 17

Healthy Boundaries Workshop
Presbytery Office

what's happening ... upcoming events and gatherings

September 3

Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators

Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators will meet Thursday, September 3, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Center, 1110 Lovett Blvd. If you are a volunteer, paid staff person, teaching elder or just curious, you are invited!

The Bible is the single most important faith tool in our lives. In today's world, it seems like choices for "just the right Bible" are endless. How do we choose for our programs, for our pews, for all different ages and stages? Bring your favorite Bibles and Bible storybooks, including those your church may give to mark milestones, such as baptism, confirmation and graduation. Also, please come prepared to share how Bibles are presented in your church.

Lunch will be served, complete with a beverage and dessert. Your RSVP will assist our planning. Please send replies to anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com by Monday morning, August 31.

September & October

Save the Dates for Interfaith Ministries' Fall Programs!

Interfaith Ministries is pleased to invite you to attend a lecture series, "The Journey of Religions, a Voyage of the Human and Divine," given by the Rev. Greg Han, Director of Interfaith Relations. These lectures will take place from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, 3303 Main Street, Houston

September 29 – What is Religion? The Quest Begins
October 13 – Abrahamic Religions: An Introduction
October 20 – Faith from the East: An Introduction
October 27 – The Future of Religion: Spiritual But Not Religious



Cost: \$10 each; \$30 for four; \$12 at the door.
For more information visit <https://www.imgh.org/journey>. Register online at <https://www.imgh.org/events/join/494-the-journey-of-religions-lecture-series>.

September 19

ARTS & CRAFTS CHARITY BAZAAR

Make plans now to attend the 7th annual Arts & Crafts Charity Bazaar Saturday, September 19,

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at John Knox PC, Houston. The profits from the bazaar will benefit the following organizations: Westside Homeless Partnership, Memorial Assistance Ministries, Reach Unlimited, and Heifer International.



Iris

Special guests include Iris, a Gray Easter Screech Owl from Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition and Smash, the Houston Mounted Patrol Horse. Iris has been at TWRC since she was a baby due to the loss of one eye. Smash has one blue eye and one brown eye. He pounds the pavement of downtown Houston crushing crime and assisting citizens!



Smash

The congregation is grateful to all of the volunteers, donors, vendors, entertainers, and guest for their continued support of this outreach. See you under the big oak trees! www.johnknoxhouston.org

October 19-22

Couples in Ministry conference

Couples who both serve as professionals in a ministry setting experience unique personal and professional challenges, rewards, and successes. This Mo-Ranch conference to be held October 19-22 is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for these couples to come together to explore their calls to ministry as individuals and as a couple and talk with other couples who share their unique situation. Family and children are welcome! Childcare will be provided during conference events.



The Murray Family.

For more information contact Rev. Caressa Murray, cmurray@pbyofnewcovenant.org.

what's happening ... upcoming events and gatherings

September 13



Spring Branch Presbyterian, Houston, is hosting a Festival of Faith on Sun., Sept. 13, at 10:50 a.m. The worship service will be led by Jennifer Lord, Dorothy B. Vickery Professor of Homiletics and Liturgical Studies at Austin Presbyterian Seminary. Following the service you'll have the opportunity to learn about opportunities to grow in faith while enjoying free food trucks, snow cones, and tons of outdoor and indoor games! To let us know you are coming, visit the church's Facebook page or email the church. <https://www.facebook.com/springbranchpres> or secretary@springbranchpres.org

September 29 - October 1



Faithwalking is a spiritual formation journey that leads participants to take steps toward an integrated, missional life by developing awareness of the obstacles to such a life – personal and cultural – and overcoming them by practicing growing authenticity with God and in community. Pastors spend all their waking hours and perhaps some of their sleeping ones working with and on behalf of their parishioners in the hope of helping them go deep into their spiritual lives. Sometimes, though, they need to take a brief 'time out' to renew and restore their own faith lives.

The Professional Life Subcommittee on Ministry is pleased to present a Faithwalking overnight retreat for Presbyterian pastors that follows a rhythm of hearing presentations on missional living, spending time in solitude, and sharing experiences in a small group setting.

The retreat will begin Tuesday, September 29, at 2:30 p.m. and end Thursday, October 1, at 12:30 p.m. at the Cenacle Retreat Center, 420 N. Kirkwood Drive, Houston. Cost is \$295 per person. \$100 deposit to register with the remainder to be paid by September 18. The cost includes a single room, meals, material, and the Faithwalking staff.

Register online by Friday, September 25 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faithwalking-tickets-15427916313>



October 15

Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers to host Annual Luncheon

"God's grace is at work at Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers," says Executive Director Steve Duson. For over 40 years, the Houston- and Spring-based nonprofit has been a place "where licensed therapists provide peace for the troubled, connection for the isolated, and hope for the desperate." In 2014, Interface provided nearly 12,000 hours of mental-health clinical service, mostly on sliding-scale payment plans for clients from lower-income demographics.



On Thursday, October 15, people from all demographic groups will have the opportunity to share in Interface's mission by attending or otherwise contributing to the center's annual Seasons of Caring Luncheon at the River Oaks Country Club. For the past 16 years, this annual fundraiser has honored Good Samaritans whose personal and professional lives exemplify compassion and a strong sense of civic responsibility.

If you would like to join Interface's dedicated therapists and supporters at the Luncheon, contact Martha Doolittle at mdoolittle@interface-samaritan.com (713-626-7990, x102) to make a reservation. This year, all 2015 donations given for the Center's Sherri and David Dunn Hope Client Assistance Fund (created in 2009 to help Interface provide counseling services to those who are otherwise unable to pay) will be matched, dollar for dollar up to \$100,000.

Come be a part of this vital community service! Visit www.interface-samaritan.org for more information about services, therapists, events, and locations.

October 23-25



Drag out your kilt, shake off your bagpipes, and join Webster PC for a Kirkin' o' the Tartans during the weekend of October 23-25. Reformation Sunday is October 25, a day to celebrate our Scottish roots, the founding of the reformed church, and the history of our own congregation.

Dr. Thomas Currie, the recently retired President of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, will conduct a workshop Friday night and Saturday morning, October 23-24. He will also present a special lecture Sunday, October 25, at 10:15 a.m. during the Sunday school hour and then a second one at 5:00 p.m. that afternoon. His theme will be "Jesus Christ in the 21st Century." Dr. Currie will be working from a lecture series he offered with Brian McLaren at Montreal in 2013.

This is the perfect event for an old-fashioned homecoming. Come join us! For more information, contact TE Helen DeLeon at hdeleon@websterpresby.org or call the office at 281-332-1251.

November 6

Free the Captives presents Moscow Ballet's GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER

Free the Captives is a faith-based anti-human trafficking 501(c)(3) non-profit that fights the exploitation and trafficking of Houston's youth.

Free the Captives is presenting Houstonians with the opportunity to see the world renowned Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker in a completely unique and amazing way Friday, November 6, 7:00 p.m. at Dunham Theater at Houston Baptist University.



A portion of each ticket sold in Houston benefits Free the Captives in their fight against teenaged human trafficking in Houston. Tickets range in price from \$28.00 to \$175.00.

Learn More <http://www.freethecaptiveshouston.com/survivor-care/sex-trafficking/> Purchase tickets <http://www.freethecaptiveshouston.com/moscow-ballet-gala-tickets/>

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

TE Scott Harbison, St. Luke's PC and family – Scott's mother, Mary Ann Harbison, died June 18, 2015.

AnneMarie Wallace and John Knox Flato were married June 20, 2015, at First PC, Houston. AnneMarie is the Executive Director of the POP Ministry (Prayers for the People).

RE Chuck Johnson, St. Philip PC, Houston – Chuck is dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

Family and friends of RE Jane Wood – Jane died June 29, 2015. Jane was active with the Central America Partnership (CEDEPCA) and served on the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship National Committee in the 1990s.

RE Forbes Baker and family, Westminster PC, Houston – Forbes' daughter Susan died June 30, 2015. Forbes is the Director of Business Affairs and Finance for the Presbytery of New Covenant.

Family and friends of Valeri Alexander -TE Connie Alexander's sister-in-law – Valeri died July 23, 2015.

Family and friends of RE Charlie Pesak, St. Paul's PC, Needville – Charlie died June 12, 2015.

Family and friends of Rebecca Howard, Pinecrest PC, Houston – Rebecca died July 3, 2015. Rebecca served as the Director of Criminal Justice Division of Women in Action, which later was known as Women for Justice.

Family and friends of RE Rubye Everett, Pinecrest PC, Houston – Rubye died July 19, 2015. She served as a Moderator of the Presbytery, Chair of Presbytery's Racial/Multicultural Committee, and a PW Enabler.

RE Dan MacLemore (now in Oklahoma City) – Dan's father died July 15, 2015. Dan is a former Moderator of New Covenant Presbytery and served on various Presbytery committees.

Family and friends of RE Jim Clemens, St. Thomas PC, Houston – Jim died July 20, 2015. He served on the sessions at St. Thomas PC, Houston, and New Hope PC, Katy.

RE Krista Kleinman Langley and Troy Langley, Indian PC, Livingston – Teagan Kamora Langley was born July 21, 2015. Teagan is the granddaughter of CRE Debbie Battise Kleinman, Indian PC, Livingston.

Family and friends of Ruling Elder T.P. Boyett, Christ Church, Bellaire – T.P. died July 23, 2015. He served as ruling elder and deacon. He and his wife, Burnette, joined the former Bellaire PC in the 1950s.

RE Johnna Cormier, Trinity PC, Port Neches – her sons were involved in a serious car accident in San Antonio August 16. Johnna is currently in the Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) process.

HR = Honorably Retired | TE = Teaching Elder (Rev.) | RE = Ruling Elder



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NEW COVENANT**

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