

Presbyterian Provides Unarmed Protection in Columbia

By Ann Moore

Susan McNutt, member at **Olivet, Glendale** served as an accompanier, an unarmed body guard, for threatened members of the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Columbia. She accompanied church workers who were at risk of assassination, serving as a visible presence of international involvement. "When a Columbian is murdered, the international press does not report it. If a U. S. citizen is murdered in Columbia, it makes headlines," said Susan.

Susan is fluent in Spanish from living in Mexico, then Guatemala in the 1970s. She is a nurse practitioner, now retired. "I have many friends whose primary language is Spanish, and never pass up an opportunity to practice," she said. She also has a satellite dish that beams Christian programs into her home in Spanish.

"I was truly blessed in my time in Colombia, working with and learning from some of the finest Christians I have ever met. Part of my work was to protect them but a very large part is to be their voice to the world about

what is happening in Columbia," she continued.

Colombia is a rich country, where many people die of hunger and violence. It is caught up in a battle for land to grow coca for cocaine trade, to cut down the mahogany forests, to develop oil fields. It has laws but little law enforcement so it lives by the rule of the gun. Civilians are caught in the middle and many are being killed. Over 3,000,000 displaced persons live in wretched camps. If Colombians try to help, the government declares they are the enemy and puts them on death lists. The Colombian Presbyterian Church decided that it must speak out against the killing and offer help to the homeless. With cooperation of Catholic groups, it set up a Center for Human Rights in Barranquilla, where the headquarters are, and began working in the displaced persons camp."

It wasn't long before the death threats and arbitrary arrests began. Pastors had to go underground or even leave the country. Armed men stand outside Presbytery headquarters



Susan McNutt

and invade worship services. The Colombian church refuses to use weapons. They asked the PCUSA for help. Susan read in Presbyterians Today about the need for fluent Spanish speakers to volunteer.

PCUSA sponsors the program under Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.

Summer Conference Deadline Extended



Late registration for Summer Conference has been extended to June 17. The conference, sponsored by Cascades, Olympia, and Eastern Oregon Presbyteries, and by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians will be held early this year – June 24-29, at Reed College in Portland.

"Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century," is the focus of keynote speaker, Dr. William P. Robinson, President of

Whitworth College. Classes offer the opportunity to explore the theme further, touch base on one's creative side in music, visual arts, writing, or delve into a variety of biblical and theological topics.

Therefore, it is imperative to register now so adequate planning can take place. The complete registration brochure is available online at www.cascadespresbytery.org.

One can also register and pay online.

POINT Is For All Congregations

By Mary Wright Gillespie

POINT is an acronym for Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching. In Cascades Presbytery there are four volunteers, one in each region, who are able to share information about the resources the Presbyterian Church (USA) produces.

In January at the annual training, Rodger

Nishioka from Columbia Seminary spoke to the group. His emphasis was on reformed theology, and he was persistent in pointing out that we need to understand what that means and to use the resources that support our beliefs. The POINT team has developed an evaluation form to use in selecting curriculum that reflects our theology. That piece is available to any congregation for the asking.

One of the most popular and newer resources is the Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study. The edition for 2007 is still available and makes a valuable tool to use as a Summer Church School resource with a focus on mission. Call 1-800-524-2612 to order or

visit the website at www.pcusa.org/mission-yearbook.

POINT volunteers are:

- Northwest region: The Rev. Anne Stewart Miller, 503-228-7331 anne@fpcpx.org
- Northeast region: The Rev. Sarah Coakley Lewis, 503-285-5348 sarcoakley@netscape.net
- Central Region: Katy Ailstock, 971-237-5553 katailstock@hotmail.com
- South Region: The Rev. Mary Wright Gillespie, 541-857-6083 mwgillespiervm@charter.net

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Presbytery of the Cascades
Will Have a Stated Meeting

Friday and Saturday, June 22-23, 2007

Valley Community Presbyterian Church
8060 SW Brentwood Street
Portland, OR

A mailing will be sent prior to the meeting with more details. Information on the docket and on the pre-presbytery workshops is posted on the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.

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2007 Deadlines

July 16	Aug/Sep Issue
September 17	Oct/Nov Issue
November 19	Dec/Jan Issue

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John Casper's Death Noted

The Presbytery's office received notice on May 1 that the Rev. Edwin John Casper (HR), died in Vancouver, Washington at the age of 84.


"Ed" was born in Monticello, Iowa on June 16, 1922 and was raised and schooled in that area. He attended Lennox College in 1942 and received a BA degree from the University of Dubuque in 1945. He provided an interesting list of work he did in his early years: farm worker, sash-and-door company worker, book binder, barn painter, meat packer, salesman for funeral insurance, and clerk.

He received a BD degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1951 and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister on July 2, 1951 by Cedar Rapids Presbytery. Ed served in pastorates to churches in California, Washington, Illinois, and Wisconsin. He also

served as a chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In 1969, he received an MA degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling from McCormick Theological Seminary.

Ed moved to Vancouver, WA in 1977 and was received as a member of Cascades by transfer from the Presbytery of John Knox in June, 1982. He was a participant in the life and ministries of **Columbia, Vancouver**, where his son is a member. During his years in Cascades, he served on Cascades' Christian Education Committee and on the New Church Development Committee. It was on his birthday in 1987 that Ed was granted the status of Honorably Retired by the Presbytery of the Cascades. In retirement, Ed was interested in lapidary work, beekeeping, and gardening.



Omnibus

Omnibus is published six times a year by the Presbytery of the Cascades for distribution to churches and individuals. Information about the Presbytery is also available on the web site: www.cascadespresbytery.org. Omnibus welcomes news and views of the churches of Presbytery and all its readers. Send all communications to Kathy Waugh, Omnibus editor, 85 South Holly, Medford, OR 97501, tel. 541-772-4874, email omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org. Omnibus retains permission to modify submissions for clarity and space limitations. The Presbytery Communications Team is the editorial board.

Presbytery Worship Takes a New Turn

A new and somewhat rare opportunity for us to join together in worship in a way that strengthens our Presbyterian community from east to west and north to south will be offered at the June Presbytery meeting. A slight shift in format will allow the Friday evening service, which has been the "preaching service," to be

Media Resource Director Awarded Scholarship

Maureen O'Rourke, director of the Media Resource Center has just been awarded her third scholarship to attend the National Training Center for Resource Center Directors. She is working to become nationally certified as a Resource Center Director.

The Training Center, which was at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, recently moved to Montreat, NC. Each scholarship is worth about \$600, which includes room, board and cost of the classes. Other costs are covered by the Media Resource Center budget, which is under the work of the Professional Support Committee and is funded by the Presbyterian Partnership Giving of our local congregations.

"The Professional Support Committee appreciates Maureen's initiative in seeking certification and in improving her skills as a Resource Center Director, so that she may better serve the Presbytery," states Hugh Anderson, Co-Executive Presbyter.



Maureen O'Rourke

lengthened to include Word and Sacrament.

No business will be conducted in the evening so that worshipping God in this service becomes the presbytery's focus. The Saturday morning service, as well as those at the opening and close of presbytery, will be briefer services modeled on the form for Daily Prayer. "One hope in this shift is that Presbyterians in the area where the meeting is taking place will be drawn to this Friday evening worship service," Jeff Sievert, member of the worship design team, states.

For over ten years Presbytery's worship has been prepared by the Worship Design Team, formerly a subcommittee of Theology, Spirituality, and Worship. It is now lodged

with the Stated Clerk's office because it has to do with meeting preparations.

The architects of the original four-service format envisioned it as expression of the four-fold pattern of worship – Gathering, Word, Eucharist, and Sending. Hence, preaching on Friday evening and Communion on Saturday morning. There is a faithful elegance in this thoughtful construction, of which the team does not want to lose sight. Yet it is hoped this gentle modification will invite an even fuller expression of our common worship life. The plan is to practice this pattern for a year and then review it. Your comments are encouraged.

Presbytery of the Cascades

MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

The Media Resource Center is located in Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, 5441 SE Belmont, Portland.

You may reserve videos in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-5:00 (please call first); by phone at 503-445-4999 or 866-200-5660, or by linking through the presbytery website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.



In mid-April I had my first visit to Montreat, NC - a Presbyterian conference center. I connected with and learned from other resource center directors from around the country. There were 12 of us: three Methodists, one Roman Catholic and eight Presbyterians.

It was the last seminar put on by the "grande dame" of Presbyterian resource centers – Jo Bales Gallagher. She is 80 years old now and decided it was time to retire. Very worthwhile and spiritually uplifting!

New resources available for your spiritual growth and edification:

Where 20 or 30 are Gathered-Leading worship in the small church - book: 113 pages. Authors: Peter Bush and Christine O'Reilly. Small churches, beset by financial stress, societal disinterest, internal weariness, and unproductive patterns, have tended to hunker down and wistfully hope for a miracle. But there is another way. They can claim their identity, exert their power, and love their way toward the Kingdom. This is a powerful and affirming book for small churches! (from the Alban Institute)

A Generous Presence-Spiritual Leadership and the Art of Coaching - book: 346 pages. Author: Rochelle Melander, pastor, life coach and founder of LifeRhyme Coaching (www.LifeRhymeCoaching.com). While executive coaching has become commonplace in work settings, it's still a novelty for clergy and other ministry professionals to seek this kind of support. The author gives the reader an inside look at an appropriate coaching relationship as well as providing important theological reflection. (from the Alban Institute).

Michael the Visitor - video 30 minutes: Clay-animated adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's tale, Truths We Live By. Simon, a poor shoemaker, discovers a young man by the side of the road. He becomes Simon's invaluable assistant and helps strengthen his faith. When it comes time for him to leave, he reveals he is an angel. This inspirational story for young and old reminds us of God's faithfulness to all who trust God. Made in 1996, but is a recent donation to the resource center.

Everyday Creativity by Dewitt Jones - DVD 20 minutes + PowerPoint presentation on CD-ROM, leader's guide and participant workbook. Dewitt is a photographer for National Geographic magazine. This DVD will help you look at the ordinary and see the extraordinary. It's truly amazing, as he shows you his first photograph versus his second and third finely tuned ones.

See you at the June Presbytery gathering, where you may return borrowed items to save postage.

Maureen O'Rourke – Resource Center Director



Cascades Viewpoints

By John Huenink, Stated Clerk

I learned at a recent conference that Cascades' nearly 26,000 members make it the 17th largest presbytery of the 173 in the PCUSA. Once again, Cascades is in the "Top Ten." I had known that statistic, but I also learned something I did not know: that Cascades' 375+ minister-members ranked Cascades as the fourth or fifth largest presbytery in the denomination in the number of ministers on its roll. The presbytery with the largest number of ministers reported 422 and has over 40,000 Presbyterians in its congregations. With only 122 congregations and one NCD in its bounds in three states and with relatively few ministers serving in multiple-staff church relationships, that means that Cascades has a large number of ministers in non-parish ministries, as at-large members or in Honorably Retired status.

Could it be that ministers choose to retire in Cascades so that they might celebrate the beauty and delights of what we know as God's Country? Perhaps – perhaps even probably. Perhaps it might be also that Cascades enjoys a reputation as "a good presbytery" (however that might be defined). Cascades is a presbytery with many activities and programs and

services offered – far more than are available in even some synods. That has been a part of our history and tradition and is a source of amazement to ministers coming into Cascades.

You need to know, however, that there are costs associated with Cascades' sometimes-taken-for-granted excellence in programs and ministries – not only in program and administrative financial costs, but also in the fatigue and stress experienced by Cascades' officers and staff. (You should know that Cascades is somewhat unusual in its staffing, for many presbyteries have only a single executive presbyter (or even none at all) and a single part-time stated clerk. A growing number of presbyteries are combining those offices in a single person – a practice which I think unfortunate for the roles are different and distinct and are intended to be in "creative tension" with each other and a person exercising both functions must be a bit schizophrenic in roles).

Cascades has chosen as its staffing pattern to have three full-time co-executive presbyters serving the 65,000 square mile area of the presbytery from three regional offices and having a part-time clerk serving the whole of the presbytery. The commitment of Cascades' elected staff (the "E-4") to work as a deployed

team requires that there be intentional coordination of very busy schedules (and no small amount of time on I-5). It requires both flexibility and collegial interaction in which the dominant principles are "What is best for Cascades?" and "How can we together do what needs to be done?"

Staffing will be at a somewhat reduced level during the summer of 2007, for two members of the E-4 will be on sabbatical. John Mahon will be on sabbatical June-July-August and Hugh and Aleida will share responsibilities for providing interim services for the committees and programs in his portfolio of responsibilities. I will be away from early July to mid-August as the first half of my sabbatical (with the second half to be taken in 2008) and Associate Stated Clerk Janet Wylie will be serving as Acting Stated Clerk in my absence. Study, reflection, renewal, and "battery recharging" is needed on an ongoing basis, but the demands of Cascades' programs and people and congregational transitions often make that nearly impossible. It is the hope that the E-4 Johns will return from time away with renewed perspectives and energies to serve Cascades in the ways that it needs ... and deserves.

'Elder as Spiritual Leader – Reclaiming the Call'

The Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Council are sponsoring the 2007 National Elders Conference, August 29–31 in Nashville, Tennessee. This first national training and networking event is for some of the most important leaders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – the elders in our congregations.

Up to 500 other elders will experience an event featuring opportunities for worship, education and fellowship. In order to encourage participation from as many of our 11,000 congregations as possible, through June 30 we ask that no more than two elders register from any church.

The registration fee is \$250, which includes five meals, from dinner on Wednesday through breakfast on Friday. Lodging is available at the Renaissance Hotel at the special conference rate of \$99 per night plus tax.

Notable elders of the PC(USA) will provide leadership.

- **Worship** – Melva Costen is a widely recognized authority on music and worship. She has just retired as the Helmar Emil Nielsen Professor of Music and Worship at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta. She was chair of the committee that created the 1990 PC(USA) hymnal. Melva's latest book is *In Spirit and In Truth: The Music of African American Worship*.
- **Prayer and Spirituality** – Ann Weems is the author of a number of books of poetry including *Kneeling in Jerusalem*, *Putting the Amazing Back in Grace* and *Psalms of Lament*.
- **Teaching the Bible** – Freda Gardner is professor emerita of Christian education at Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1999, she was elected Moderator of the 211th General Assembly. In 1991, she was named Educator of the Year, and in 1994, she was a recipient of the Women of Faith award.
- **Leadership** – Gov. William Winter was elected governor of Mississippi in 1979. He is an author and historian and was a member of the President's Advisory Board on Race in 1997-1998.
- **Mission** – Corey Schlosser-Hall was ordained in 2001 as an elder at Mt. Baker Park Presbyterian Church in Seattle while serving as communications director for Seattle Presbytery. He is currently serving a call to lay ministry as North Puget Sound Presbytery's executive presbyter. Corey was listed in 2004 as one of the Presbyterians under 40 to watch.

Preachers will be Joan Gray, Moderator of the 217th General Assembly (2006) and Moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, and Eric Hoey, Director of Evangelism and Church Growth for the General Assembly Council.



Ask the Clerk

Q: The responses to my Ask The Clerk article in the April-May edition of Omnibus ("Why Does Our Church Have To Pay For An Audit Each Year?") were many and far-reaching. Quite a few of Cascades' congregations – and several other governing bodies as well – requested copies of the two-page paper on "Full Financial Review" to which I made reference in the article. As a follow-up to that article and exchange, I have been asked, "What does a session need to do with the report of an audit committee?"

A: While G-10401d requires that a

congregation have "a full financial review of all books and records relating to finances once each year by a public accountant or public accounting firm or a committee of members versed in accounting procedures," there are many session records which are "dinged" in the presbytery's annual review of session records for failure to report that such a financial review was conducted. While it is adequate for the purposes of session records review for there to be note that a review was conducted, it is not adequate for the health and welfare of the church to simply note that fact alone. What is needed by the session in its full and appropriate exercise of its responsibilities for financial oversight of church finances is to receive the report of the audit and to give consideration to the recommendations made in the review. If deficiencies in reporting or procedure are noted, the session should make note of the corrections recommended and exercise its authority and responsibility to determine what is to be done with the issues raised in

the financial review report. It is the session which must take into consideration whatever might be reported as "areas for improvement" and determine what corrective action may be needed. It is not enough to simply report that a review was done, for a session has responsibility also to do whatever may be needed to ensure that financial records are maintained accurately and that the officers of the church exercise appropriate fiduciary responsibility with funds given to the church for its ministries. A financial review which notes deficiencies should be given thorough review by a session and appropriate action to correct deficiencies should be taken. A responsible session will not exercise financial review only annually when a financial review report is received; it will do so on a more frequent basis. Those who contribute to the life and ministries of a congregation deserve no less than that their officers assure "that all offerings are distributed to the objects toward which they were contributed" (G-10.0102h).

Positively Presbyterian

Northwest Region

by Jeanne Rich

Curiosity got the best of me. After reading a few of the Northwest church newsletters for this rendition of Positively Presbyterian, I was struck by the frequent occurrence of one word. It appeared 63 times. In one issue of **Southminster, Beaverton**, it was found eight times. It may be that the season of Easter would prompt the use of the word "invite;" however, the idea of "inviting" was taken a further step as it was examined by several newsletter writers.

Pastor Michael McCall of **Hillsboro** wrote in preparation for Easter Sunday, "Where are the guests? God is counting on YOU to make your guest list, pray for them, and invite them to come. Studies show 80% of Oregonians have no church affiliation; 52% could imagine becoming active; 63% said none of their friends had ever invited them. It seems we are the key."

At **Orengo, Hillsboro**, Pastor Mark Rainey remarked, "Just as those first century Christians told others about what Jesus had done for them, we now have both the privilege and the responsibility to tell others what the same Jesus did for us....Invite... to hear the Good News....Go tell them that He lives today!"

Excerpts from a recent article by Elizabeth Duffen, "Lent for the Non-Liturgical," were shared in a **Lake Grove, Lake Oswego**, article by Pastor Matt Hilgaertner in which it was suggested that church members reach out by giving Easter invitations to friends and neighbors. This challenge was proposed: "The most enthusiastic among you can aim for one invitation during each day of Lent."

In **Reedville, Aloha**, an ongoing centennial celebration embraces the theme of "inviting" as members receive the invitation to participate in planning an "enriched array of faith formation activities" and "to connect with Reedville's community ministries."

Don Ludwig, Coordinator of Congregational Development at **Southminster, Beaverton**, widened the door to this thought of invitation as he wrote, "I am thinking of one word in particular that I will *dare not to say*, just yet....we are called...to give an opportunity for people to connect spiritually with God and to each other....Then, why is it so difficult for folks to think or act on that vision and extend an invitation to others...? Why is it taboo for us (ok brace yourselves---here comes the word) to talk about *evangelism*?Maybe a softer word is more amenable---how about *out-reach*?"

It seems there are many in the pews struggling over this concern, so it was a joy to read in the **Plymouth Crossing, St. Helens**, about the outcome of one invitation. The April issue highlighted the faith journey of member Corrine Humbird and concluded with her words, "Thanks to my good friend, Lorna Bradley, who invited me to visit Plymouth Presbyterian Church, I finally found my church." It was good to read this. How many others would share the same conclusion to an invitation?

Reaching out in other ways, churches in this region are impacting our world. **First, Newberg**, has reached a 5-year anniversary with its Coffee Café, an Equal Exchange Fair Trade project in which much coffee, tea, cocoa mix, and even chocolate bars have been sold.

Valley, Portland, session approved

participating with Presbytery in its "Joining Hands" partnership, which supports Bob and Julie Dunsmore's work in Bolivia.

In a newsletter from **St. Andrews, Portland**, two full pages of photos of member Chuck Stilson explained how he links the "Lighthouse Kids" program with children in Yamaranguila, Honduras. He recently returned from a trip to Honduras with Medical Teams International and shared stories with St. Andrews children as they assembled boxes of personal hygiene items, school supplies and toys for "Operation Shoebox." One photo showed children in Honduras opening shoeboxes delivered by Medical Teams International, and another photo of several children was captioned, "Although impoverished, the children were always immaculate." Chuck had joined a group largely from **Calvin, Tigard**, for this mission effort, which a writer for the Calvin Hilltop News called, "the ongoing effort of building a campus for medical, educational and spiritual care." Finally, it was noted that the **Calvin, Tigard**, church also donated its 14 passenger van to P.R.O.P.S. (Preparing Released Offenders Pursuing Success), a generous sharing of the 1988 "Cal-Van."

Central Region

By Bruce Smith

Congratulations to **United, Brownsville**, which celebrated its 150th anniversary of the founding of that congregation. The festivities were April 22 with worship, an open house and tour of the century old building. The Reverend Robert Robe founded the Brownsville church a few years after starting **Central, Eugene**.

The **Central, Eugene** Puppeteers had their opening show for the 2007 season April 1. Featured was a short drama, "The Ten Brides," loosely based on Mathew 25:1-13.

In April, fifteen individuals completed a faith deepening, spiritually enriching experience in a 10-week Alpha course at **First, McMinnville**.

Summer is just around the corner which means VBS will be offered by a number of churches. **First, Bend** is scheduling a VBS adventure called the "Great Bible Reef" with a nautical orientation, where children will explore Bible themes. **Westminster, Salem** is planning their VBS with a western theme of cowboy boots and hats, saddles, wagon wheels. **Community, Redmond** is planning a VBS with a theme of "Son Force Kids" patterned after a "Mission Impossible" approach where detective work is used.

At **First, Salem**, there are two weekly classes on "Write Your Life" where the "students" come to learn how to chronicle significant or not so significant milestones in their lives.

The 2007 Mission Day Event was held at **John Knox, Keiser** May 5. Dr. Steven Koski, **First, Bend** was the inspirational worship leader who responded to the theme, "Here I Am, Lord." Others on the program were the Rev. Dr. Sariat, pastor of the "Happy People" Church in Thailand and Mark Hare, international volunteer with PC (USA).

From **McKenzie Valley, Walterville** comes news of Terri Laughlin, missionary in Guatemala, who told of her recent medical work there. **First, Lebanon** had a team of four who spent two weeks the first part of May in Cambodia to meet with the Cambodian Hope Organization. **Westminster, Eugene**

hosted missionaries from India to share a meal, discussion and preaching from the pulpit. Not so far from home, the **Koinonia Center, Eugene** students spent time with some Oregon State students at Holden Village at the head of Lake Chelan, Washington. The Beavers and the Ducks joined forces and assumed the name, "The Platypi," as a likely combination of the two mascots.

Presbyterian Women held two gatherings for fellowship and worship. The first was at **First, Corvallis** with a theme of "Creation! Celebration!" Rev. Roula Alkhoury, **First, Bend**, was the keynote speaker. Roula is to attend Drew University in New Jersey in the fall to begin a three-year program to earn her Doctor of Ministry degree. **Community, Redmond**, held a women's retreat at Suttle Lake for two days with leader Kristen Sutherland on the topic, "Go Out With Courage; On The Pilgrim's Path."

Building and expansion plans are underway for a number of churches. **Westminster, Salem** has been working for a year to develop a master plan for building expansion. **John Knox, Keiser**, put together the funding to replace their roof that has had water issues since 1968. The total cost is \$144,000 of which \$64,000 has been collected - an astounding effort by a small congregation. The **First, Corvallis** session has approved moving forward in building an educational wing with a chapel, educational unit, and a kitchen. **Community, Redmond** is working with an architectural firm on a Master Plan for remodeling and expansion.

Northeast Region

By Jan Noller

Small groups are becoming the back bone of Mt. **Scott Park, Portland** with eleven groups currently.

Encouraging her congregation to experience the outdoors, the pastor at **Piedmont, Portland** shared this motto, "No child left inside."

Mt. Tabor, Portland has a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced called DivorceCare. People from all over Portland come.

Becoming a missional church is changing **Gateway, The Dalles** in at least 13 ways. They sum it up in these words, "The church does not exist for the sake of the church - it exists for the sake of the world."

Adults took home a Talk-Listen Card from a class on listening at **Milwaukie** church.

Kenilworth, Portland is renewing their building with several ramps especially to make it more accessible to the handicapped.

A graduation gift of a study bible will be given by **Community, Moro** to the seniors of Sherman County High School.

Do you want to know how to respond to Mormon missionaries or Jehovah's Witnesses who knock on your door? **Cascades, Vancouver** is offering an adult class with some approaches.

Program of Care Centers benefit from **First, Oregon City**. On Mother's Day members take home baby bottles to fill with cash and checks and return them to the church on Father's Day.

St John's, Camas, distributed 15 A-frame signs in their neighborhood on Saturday afternoon telling passersby when and where services are. They are retrieved after services on Sunday.

(Continued on page 5)

KATRINA: GETTING THINGS DONE

By Tam Moore

Three Cascades congregations were among dozens from the PC(USA) sending work crews this spring to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. They came back with a message that there's a lot to be done.

"Homelessness and marginalization continues" long after the August, 2005 storm, says Frank Morrell of Medford. He and his wife, Vera, worked for a week with a volunteer crew helping the Ophelia Jones family make a dwelling in Gulfport, Mississippi, habitable by hanging drywall and painting the restored living areas. The Morrells and Tam and Ann Moore were sponsored by **Medford, Westminster**.

"We came back wanting to work with our church, and other churches to tell them to put other mission projects aside and get down there and get things done," said Heather Hellman, leader of a group of 17 teenagers from **Portland, Multnomah**. "We'll definitely be back."

Hellman contrasted the complex Katrina restoration work with the one week construction of simple dwellings her group built on Mexico mission trips. The Multnomah crew worked on three different home jobs during the week at Diamondhead, Miss., while skilled adults from Michigan, Wisconsin and Oregon



Part of the Katrina assistance crew from Portland, Multnomah shares the day's experience in a camp behind Community Church in Diamondhead, Mississippi in late March.

Photo by Tam Moore

handled other jobs laid out by Presbytery of Mississippi's Disaster Assistance coordinator.

As Omnibus went to press, a group from **Grants Pass, Bethany**, worked at a PDA site in New Orleans. Bright blue T-shirts are available as work shirts for volunteers. White lettering says "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Out of Chaos, Hope." Everywhere we went, people said thank you. Merchants offered discounts as we purchased small items for our jobs. After worship one Sunday, a Diamond-

head member said "FEMA has let us down, the insurance companies have let us down, the churches have delivered."

**Want to serve?
Presbytery of Mississippi
Disaster Relief
1304 East Pass Rd
Gulfport MS 39507**

Final Celebration Works Concert Features Film and Music

The fifth season of Celebration Works, First Portland's series of recitals and art exhibits, ends with an interesting program of film and live music by Third Angle New Music Ensemble on Sunday, June 3 at 3 p.m.

"Animated Rhythm" seeks to show that behind every great cartoon is a brilliant musi-

cal score. The program will present film clips ranging from Walt Disney to Stan Laurel and musical scores from J.S. Bach to Carl Stallings.

Third Angle brings together some of the finest musicians in Oregon in promoting their vision: dynamic, world-class performances of contemporary chamber music that educate,

challenge, and entertain the community.

Founded in 1985, Third Angle New Music Ensemble, led by artistic director Ron Blessinger, has become a primary creative force for the presentation of new music in Portland and the Pacific Northwest. Third Angle maintains a roster of five permanent musicians with a revolving roster of distinguished guest artists, and consistently features the very best players from top performing institutions in Portland including the Oregon Symphony, Florestan Trio, and Chamber Music Northwest.

The concert is in the Sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church, 1200 SW Alder, in downtown Portland. Tickets are sold at the door. Adults: \$10. Students/Seniors: \$5. Parking in the underground garage at SW 12th and Morrison is free.

Positively Presbyterian

(Continued from page 4)

Does your congregation have a policy for handling conflict? **Smith Memorial, Fairview** has a policy based on Matthew 18.

To help start a family business in the Philippines, **East Woods, Vancouver** is shipping out a sewing machine and bags and bags of material and notions.

Laurelhurst, Portland had a "Free Stuff Swap," a celebration of recycling.

Springwater, Estacada is focusing on global warming with a four-week study on "The Cry of Creation."

The deacons at **Rose City Park, Portland** support Sisters of the Road, a cafe serving hot meals to low income and homeless people.

Colonial Heights, Portland lifted up Serious Mental Illness Awareness Sunday.

Ensenada, Mexico is the destination for **First, Vancouver's** youth mission trip, July 28 through August 5, repairing homes and making living improvements.

In June, the youth of **Westminster, Portland** are headed for Kalispell, Montana to work with the Flathead Valley Habitat for Humanity.

South Region

By Ann Moore

Peace Memorial, Klamath Falls prepares a free community breakfast the first Sunday of each month before the 10:00 a.m. service. The program started several years ago as a service to the community. Pastor Larry Bunnell reported there are regular break-

fasters, including a homeless person. Nearly half who attend are not church members. Seasonal food is offered such as pancakes and strawberries in the spring and summer. Other times there's French toast, scrambled eggs and breakfast meat.

Mt. Laki Community, Klamath Falls' congregation celebrated Memorial Day by meeting at the Mt. Laki Cemetery, about two miles from the church. They remembered past members of the church back to the chartering in 1909. They planted placards with the name of each person by the gravesite; Pastor Rich Christensen read verses from the Book of Common Worship, and those attending shared stories about as many persons as they could remember. At the end of the day the placards are removed.

First, Medford will be sponsoring a team for Medford's Relay for Life event. The event is a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Team members will walk continuously around the oval at South Medford High School from noon, June 2, through 8 a.m., June 3. "We have so many folks in our congregation affected by cancer, so we thought this to be a worthwhile project," Josie Metz, chair person stated.

Olivet, Glendale's Susan McNutt served as an accompanier, an unarmed body guard, for threatened members of the Inglesia Presbiteriana de Columbia. She accompanied church workers who were at risk of assassination, serving as a visible presence of international involvement. (Editor's note: see article on page one for more details.)

PEACEMAKING INTERGENERATIONAL CONFERENCE

2007 Peacemaking Program
Intergenerational Conference
Jesus: Proclaiming Peace
July 3 to 8
Montreat, NC

Jesus: Proclaiming Peace will be held in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina where one can experience the warm hospitality of Montreat Conference Center. The conference theme centers on Luke 4 where Jesus proclaims "The Year of the Lord's Favor." Participants will be challenged to connect to the spirituality of the Sabbath and peacemaking and to claim and celebrate God's Eternal Jubilee in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

<http://pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2007.htm>

Practicing Our Faith Every Time We Eat

By Rev. Leah McCullough, United Campus Ministry/Westminster House

During Spring Break 2007, a group from United Campus Ministry at Westminster House at Oregon State University and Lewis and Clark College embarked on a journey to learn more about our food system. During the week, we worked in community gardens and on farms with Bridgeport United Church of Christ, Portland Community Gardens, Zenger Farm, and the Janus Youth Program Food Works Farm on Sauvie Island.

We sorted products in the warehouse at Birch Community Services, a gleaning ministry that provides food for the working poor. We visited with Hugh Gray, the owner of Big City Grocery, a market in inner city Portland that provides vegetables fresh from the farm to residents who would otherwise have difficulty getting nourishing and quality food. In Hood River, we met individuals building relationships of trust, working for the good of the commons, and creating innovative solutions to environmental and communal problems. We also listened as Farmer Tim shared his passion for farming, as well as the many challenges he faces everyday to maintain his livelihood.

In addition to our work, we purchased, prepared and ate our own meals mindfully. Each meal had certain parameters – prepare

dinner with food that comes in an emergency food box, purchase food for dinner on a restricted budget, shop only in grocery stores within walking distance, or serve only products grown or raised within one hundred miles of Portland. By eating in these ways we learned more about our own food choices and how we take access to food for granted. We became more aware that as Christians we are called to be good stewards of all God's creation, and that eating responsibly is an act of stewardship. We recognized that we do practice our faith every time we eat.

Student Matt Dawson said this of the trip. "I learned I ought to be more aware of the food I eat, the manner in which it grows, the people who cared for it, and how it came to be on my table. These were notions I did not pay much attention to before. But now, when I pick up my weekly groceries, it is unavoidable. When I take a bite from my apple in March and it does not taste all that great, I know now that apple has probably been in cold storage since September, when a farmer in Washington was paid a few cents a pound for their harvest. When I peel the "Costa Rica" sticker off my banana, I cannot help but know that it was probably grown via monoculture on a corporate plantation and transported the thousands of miles to Corvallis by ship and truck. I can enjoy my



Matt and Britta shop for fresh vegetables at Big City Produce, an inner city market in Portland

food more if I buy items locally and in season, pay the growers a fair price, and advocate for fairer trade policies at home and abroad. Being a poor college student, I cannot make the transition to locally-produced food overnight, but I can work towards that goal by being aware and practicing advocacy."

We are grateful to Jenny Holmes of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Presbytery Staff's Restoring Creation Enabler for coordinating our service learning experiences.

Youth Reach Out to Help Alleviate Hunger



Guitar students of Raul Pena share their gift of music!

When **Christ's Church, Monmouth's** outreach committee met last fall, one of the newest members said, "I have an idea. God has been waking me up at night, saying; get the youth involved, and get them involved in serving, maybe musically." So with that wonderful seed, the "Youth Make a Joyful Noise" concert was conceived.

It was held on the Sunday after Easter. Several youth bands responded affirmatively to the invitation to play at the festival. Guests were asked to bring a non-perishable food item, and a free-will offering was collected. Over \$400 was collected to donate to the food bank. In addition, two large boxes of food were received.

The groups who said yes to the invitation were: The VIP Strings, The Praise Assembly Band, piano students of college student, Melissa Jordan, guitar students of Raul Pena, and "Socratic Meltdown." "A small band of delightful high school youth who worried about being too loud also participated," Jo Ann King, member of Christ's Church, stated. Another student was master of ceremony, and others were ushers and helped serve refreshments.

"We may just start a new tradition. What a fun event! There were over 80 people in attendance, pretty good for a small church," King added.

Flair vs. Function! Can you have both?

Leon Bolen – *OPENING DOORS* Task Force

It popped up, as advertising on the computer often does, about a 2007 automobile ready for your checkbook.

What I got out of the advertising pitch was this: If you buy a particular vehicle you could have "flair" (all those eye-popping and don't need kinds of add-ons) and still get amazing performance – "function" – all in one vehicle. Amazing, the statements used in advertising to grab consumer interest.

Your church can have the "flair," i.e., fine pastoral leadership, well-designed and age-oriented programs, solid financial operations, strong lay leadership, etc., but if there are conditions about your church which make access to participation difficult if not impossible, i.e., the "function," how meaningful can the "flair" be? A growing and effective church that ministers to everyone must have both – flair and function!

Our Presbytery's *OPENING DOORS* Task Force goals are to challenge, advise, support and assist local churches to make their facilities and programs accessible to folks with disabilities of all descriptions. From the standpoint

of accessibility the *OPENING DOORS* Task Force can help get your church's "function" working at top speed.

Chances are there are few churches in the Presbytery which are fully accessible in all respects. Rest rooms can't accommodate wheelchairs, large print hymnals are lacking for sight-impaired persons. There is no ramp to make entry from the sidewalk to the church interior easy for wheelchair users and others using walkers or canes. The sound systems are not working at top efficiency. No assistive hearing devices are available. Just to name a few of the more common barriers facing people with disabling conditions.

A top priority for congregations should be to become aware of the opportunities to make your church more accessible. If we don't know or recognize the problems, we can't do anything to correct them. But even if we are aware, sometimes dollar constraints discourage dealing with them. Please read on.

Help is on the way: The *OPENING DOORS* Task Force is ready and able to help your congregation on all counts: (A) We provide printed material which informs how the lack of access discourages folks with disabling

conditions from attending worship and participating in other aspects of congregational life. Suggestions are provided as to how to deal with problem areas. (B) Qualified architects on the *OPENING DOORS* Task Force are available to participate in an on-site accessibility survey with representatives of your congregation to identify problem areas and discuss possible solutions. (C) When your church is ready to tackle accessibility problems, the *OPENING DOORS* Task Force has limited matching funds to help light the fuse – build a ramp, get large print materials, revamp the restrooms, get the bugs out of the sound system, purchase an assistive hearing system, or install a chair lift or elevator.

Most important, available is a do-it-yourself checklist for local churches to help identify possibilities for making facilities and programs more user-friendly for people with disabling conditions.

OPENING DOORS Task Force is geared up to help and support you in making your facilities and programs more user-friendly to everyone. All you need to do is ask; email us at openingdoors@cascarespresbytery.org. We'll make sure to give you a call.



Prayer Calendar

The Professional Support Committee is pleased to present this Prayer Calendar for Cascades Presbytery. Every congregation, minister member, candidate and committee is listed on a day appropriate to them. You are invited to use this list in your daily devotions. Please contact the South office if there are any additions or corrections.

July 2007

- 1 Forster W. Freeman, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1994
- 2 Jan Noller, Certified Christian Educator
- 3 Elwyn G. Tesche, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1981
- 4 John W. Goff, ordained this day in 1971
- 5 First Presbyterian Church, Central Point - chartered this day in 1908 • First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove - chartered this day in 1855
- 6 Eugene C. Kinney, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1988
- 7 Barbara P. Rolph, ordained this day in 1985 • Donald A. Gibbs, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1991
- 8 Cascades Presbyterian Church, Vancouver - chartered this day in 1979 • Kathleen J. Waugh, installed as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Medford, this day in 2001
- 9 Oakville Presbyterian Church, Shedd - chartered this day in 1850 • Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1909
- 10 McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, Waltherville - chartered this day in 1988 • Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1988
- 11 Leigh P. Taylor, granted Honorably Retired status month in 1994
- 12 Community Presbyterian Church, Moro - chartered this day in 1887 • Judy E. Marshall, ordained this day in 1981 • First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville - chartered this day in 1851 • Richard S. Landrith, ordained this day in 2005 (ECUSA), serving as stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Lakeview
- 13 Community Presbyterian Church, Malin - chartered this day in 1924
- 14 Victoria G. Curtiss, ordained this day in 1980, serving as co-interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis
- 15 Edward L. Neuenfeldt, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1993
- 16 Springwater Presbyterian Church, Estacada - chartered this day in 1889 • First Presbyterian Church, Merrill - chartered this day in 1905
- 17 Mark A. Duntley, ordained this day in 1983, serving as Dean of the Chapel, Lewis & Clark College • Benjamin M. Paroulek, ordained this day in 1977, serving as stated supply associate pastor of Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 18 Donald A. Schwab, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1975
- 19 Warm Springs Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1874
- 20 First Presbyterian Church, Bend - chartered this day in 1903 • Daniel P. Myers, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, North Bend, this day in 1986 • Steven C. Mabry, ordained this day in 1980
- 21 Terri J. Jimenez-Sutton, ordained this day in 1991 • Marilyn K. Allen, installed as pastor of Plymouth Presbyterian Church, St. Helens, this day in 1996 • Denise Y. Mosher, ordained this day in 1996
- 22 Robert A. Gruwell, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1991
- 23 Carolyn S. Hampton, ordained this day in

- 1978 • David C. Hampton, ordained this day in 1978
- 24 Kathleen E. Owens, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis
- 25 Cynthia M. King-Guffey, ordained this day in 1993
- 26 Seung K. Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1989
- 27 Anitra Kitts, candidate for the ministry, Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 28 Mark A. Smith, ordained this day in 1982 • First Presbyterian Church, Gold Beach - chartered this day in 1912
- 29 William J. Kirkman, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1995, serving as parish associate of First Presbyterian Church, Ashland • C. Michael Rinkin, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2005
- 30 C. Donald Krug, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1986 • Cheryl A. Bourne, installed as pastor of Prineville Presbyterian Church, Prineville, this day in 2000 • Kenneth E. Campbell, installed as pastor of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Camas, this day in 2000
- 31 John P. Neal, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2004 • Albert "Jack" Chan, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1998 • David B. McCracken, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2004 • Linda C. Stewart-Kalen, installed as pastor of Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2005 • Bruce R. Silver, ordained this day in 1994

August 2007

- 1 John L. Goodenberger, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1987 • Cheryl Anderson, business manager, Presbytery of the Cascades
- 2 Community Presbyterian Church, Cannon Beach - chartered this day in 1930
- 3 First Presbyterian Church, Roseburg - chartered this day in 1873
- 4 Norman F. Few, ordained this month in 1958, serving as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Creswell
- 5 First Presbyterian Church, Coos Bay - chartered this day in 1890
- 6 Robert B. Goodin, candidate for the ministry, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 7 Jay Dee Conrad, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2003
- 8 Clayton F. Rice, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1988
- 9 John O. Hasenjaeger, ordained this day in 1987
- 10 Diane Wells, bookkeeper, Presbytery of the Cascades
- 11 Nichole S. Perrine, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Ashland
- 12 Brian C. Craker, candidate for the ministry, Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego
- 13 Bill A. Eaton, installed as pastor of Clatskanie Presbyterian Church this day in 2006 • Richard C. Lang, ordained this day in 1975, serving as Campus Pastor at Southern Oregon University
- 14 Timothy S. Cayton, ordained this day in 1983, serving as re-entry chaplain, Oregon Department of Corrections

- 15 Committee on Representation of Presbytery of the Cascades - Mary Jo Emmett, Chair
- 16 Richard K. Smith, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1985
- 17 Gregory S. Tatman, candidate for ministry, Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene
- 18 Joshua D. Dunham, inquirer for the ministry, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 19 Joseph E. Kurtright, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1998, serving as parish associate at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton
- 20 Kathy Waugh, *Omnibus* Editor
- 21 Kenneth D. Henry, ordained this day in 1988
- 22 Heather Chase, candidate for the ministry, Tualatin Presbyterian Church
- 23 Ronald W. Kincaid, ordained this day in 1981, serving as pastor of Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 24 Richard C. Neese, installed as pastor of Chapel by the Sea, Lincoln City, this day in 1997
- 25 Kent M. Organ, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2004, serving as co-interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis
- 26 Sandra L. Larson ordained this day in 1979, serving as co-stated supply pastor of McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, Waltherville
- 27 Joan M. Pierson, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2002
- 28 First Presbyterian Church, Ashland - chartered this day in 1875
- 29 First Presbyterian Church, Phoenix - chartered this day in 1875 • Brian R. Boisen, installed as pastor at Hope Presbyterian Church, Rogue River, this day in 1999 • J. Spencer Parks, installed as associate pastor of conference ministries/Menucha Executive Director, First Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2004
- 30 C. Nolan Huizenga, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 31 John W. Hubbard, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2005

Presbytery of the Cascades Current Status of Open Churches

VACANT

Dallas, First
Lakeside, Community
Medford, Westminster (Associate)
Pacific City

SEEKING INTERIMS OR STATED SUPPLY

Woodburn

PREPARING TO ACTIVELY SEEK

Coos Bay, First
Portland, Calvary
Reedsport, United
Salem, Westminster (Associate)

ACTIVELY SEEKING A PASTOR

(CIF submitted to Louisville)
Merrill, Community
Portland, Chinese
Portland, Sunset (Associate)
Redmond, Community (Associate)
Vancouver, Columbia

Voices

Applications for General Assembly Youth Advisory Delegate Due Now!

By Hyun Kim

The presbytery nominating committee is encouraging youth ages 17-23 to apply as Youth Advisory Delegates to the 218th General Assembly June 21-28, 2008. An endorsement from their session is required and the application deadline is Aug. 1, 2007. Young people interested in applying may contact Vicky Brown, First, Roseburg, for applications. Hyun Kim who was our presbytery's YAD at the 217th G.A. has written the following paragraphs about his experience

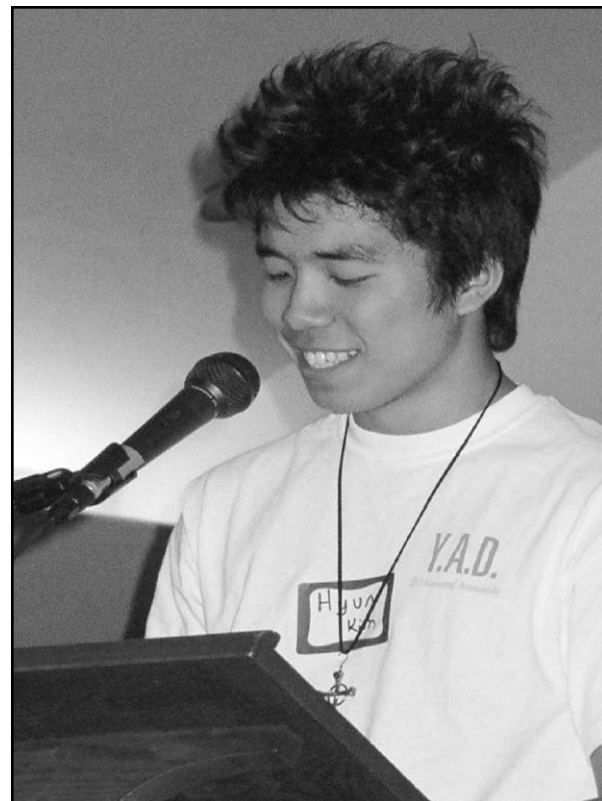
Hi. I'm Hyun Kim, a Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) for the previous General Assembly (GA). Let me say that the General Assembly experience is one that is so unique that it is really hard to compare it with anything. Our church is a very large church and having all our diversity in one room worshiping, discerning, and praying is, at times, unbelievable. It is so unreal because one realizes just how massive this church is. How alive it is. How every part of it is intelligent and passionate, however different it may be. Two commissioners who literally went to war on the committee floor would later be seen joyfully grabbing dinner together later in the evening, putting all their theological and political differences back in the committee room, and instead, just fellowship with a fellow brother/sister in Christ. That is the living body

of Christ. That is our church.

Sometimes as church goes, we naturally associate certain attributes to what "church" is and often forget that sometimes it may just be one view, one perspective, and just one of many ways of doing very biblical things. However, once you arrive at the GA, all this diversity hits you, and you truly realize just how large our denomination is.

As a YAD, I must admit I was initially intimidated to say much. To talk against a pastor of 30 years who knows tons more theology and has mounds more of experience than me on a subject about which he is so well read and passionate was not something I could bring myself to do very often. (Actually, I don't think I butted heads with any of them. However, I did vote against them, for what that's worth.) Several of my YAD peers did stand up, but they did not get up there and just waste time. They made their presence known. Some delivered powerful, convincing statements. Some contributed insightful comments. Some told tear jerking stories. Some even made a fool of themselves. Having full vote in the committees, these YADs not only contributed to the GA but they also grew in leadership and faith themselves as they explored our church's direction and problems with a heart of discernment.

Being a YAD is a lot of work. It certainly isn't a revival church retreat. But it also is not all business and no fun. They organize the YADs and house them all together so you meet awesome people from across the country with whom you can befriend and network. The hard work makes the playing that happens after the long day all the more satisfying.



Hyun Kim, Cascades' Youth Advisory Delegate, shares reflections at Presbytery meeting about his experience at General Assembly

Like I said in the beginning, there is truly no other experience like being a YAD. If you are honestly considering applying, take a while to digest what I wrote. It is not even 20% of what you'll discover about being a YAD, but it is a peek into it, so read it over and think about it. Then pray. If it still sounds good, I fully encourage you to give it a shot and apply. You're only young once, so the window for applying as a YAD is rapidly disappearing; don't miss it.

Mission Day Event Highlights Work Done in Thailand and Haiti

Some 60 people met at the **John Knox, Keiser** church May 5 for a one-day conference with the theme, "Here I am, Lord, Send me." The day began with Dr. Stephen Koski from **First, Bend** leading the morning worship with a dynamic, inspirational message challenging participants to be ready to answer God's call.

The Rev. Dr. Sirirat Pusurinkham of Thailand and Mission Worker Mark Hare described two overseas mission programs. Sirirat is a tiny but dynamic woman pastor who oversees the administration of the orphanage, pastors her church and still finds time to serve the denomination by taking part in the World Council of Churches and other organizations that address the issue of sex trafficking and responsible tourism.

Dr. Sirirat provided a stirring story of her efforts working in the hill country of Thailand running an orphanage for children whose parents have died of AIDS. The orphanage is a building next to the church she pastors. These facilities and staff are made possible by donations and funds Sirirat raises in speaking tours. This summer the orphanage will add a second wing to the building, thanks to a grant from the Presbyterian Women Birthday offering. They will be able to

house more orphans and have separate wings for boys and girls.

Sirirat also works with hillside tribal women creating an economy based on their sewing skills. She described how many many young girls have been sold into prostitution by their parents to become sex slaves for tourists and others in Bangkok. Because of the economic base developed in this village by Sirirat, women are not as easily lured or sold into prostitution. Available for purchase at the event were handmade items made by the women in her village.

Mark Hare is a forester and environmentalist who is a member of the Amesville Presbyterian Church in Ohio. He spent six years in Nicaragua working with families to diversify their farm activity with vegetables and other crops surrounding each family home. He told of his experiences working in Haiti. Haiti has a population of over six million. Poverty is rampant with overworked land and political instability. He was there with a farm organization of cooperatives. The people are hard workers, can fix anything, are friendly, and love their children. He worked with a crew to develop a small area of land where they managed goats and chickens, and also established

fruit producing trees, vegetables, and California red worms. They focused on growing a Moringa tree, whose leaves are a good source of low-cost protein, which has proved to be effective in reducing malnutrition in some West Africa countries.

In the afternoon, there were questions and answer sessions where the speakers were able to meet with attendees to go into further details about their experiences. Planning team members were Nancy Smith and Judy Alford who also provided lay leadership at the event. **John Knox, Keiser**, the host church, provided lunch and snacks for the participants.

Highlights of May 28 Meeting of Presbytery Council

The draft minutes of the May 28 meeting of Cascades' Presbytery Council are in the packet of background papers now being collated and mailed to presbyters. Several significant reports are in those draft minutes, and presbyters are encouraged to read them with care before the presbytery meeting to be held on June 22-23, 2007 at Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Portland. Significant issues for consideration will be:

- Recommendations of the Council's "Task Force on Receiving Minister Members" (created in response to an item of new business presented in July, 2006) which proposes some clarification and revision of how Cascades' receives ministers into its membership.
- Recommendation of a process to be followed should a congregation seek to withdraw from being a PCUSA congregation.
- Report on the establishment of a new committee to evaluate the presbytery's current structure.

Council will be presenting nominees for election to service on Cascades' Presbytery Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee does not nominate its own members and it is Presbytery Council (ordinarily on the recommendation of the regional vice-moderators) which makes those nominations.

Exploring Our Reformed Faith

Dr. John L. Thompson will present the 2007 Exploring Our Reformed Faith seminar on Friday and Saturday, September 21 and 22 at **Tualatin Plains, Hillsboro**. Dr. Thompson serves as professor of Historical Theology and is the Gaylen and Susan Byker Professor in Reformed Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary.

The first seminar session is Friday evening from 7 - 9 p.m. Saturday sessions run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with continental breakfast and lunch provided to registrants. Because of a gift to the congregation for the funding of the seminars, the cost is only \$35 which covers the meals and printed materials. Group rates are

available as well as a special rate for retired ministers and their spouses. Call the church office at 503-648-9573 for details.

Dr. Thompson's areas of interest are Church History through the Reformation with an emphasis on John Calvin, gender issues and historical theology. He spent several years on staff with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship in Washington and California. An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), he enjoys working closely with students preparing for ordination. Dr. Thompson has written books and numerous articles centering on Calvin studies and gender issues.