

INFORMATION FROM AROUND THE PRESBYTERY **April/May 2008**

ymiLIVE Video Challenge

Have you heard about the video challenge open to our youth groups? So far Jamestown, First and Kenmore, Kenmore have entered their videos on the website (<http://www.ymilive.org/>). Be sure to register and vote for your favorite! Here are more details:

“Your Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Youth Group’s video should be an interpretation of the scripture verse, “Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). The scripture verse can be taken in whole or in parts, such as “Do justice.” Be creative; express your interpretation through skits, animation, interviews, etc.

Submissions are open from March 1 to May 31 and the 15 finalists will be announced on June 2. Everyone is invited to vote for their three favorite videos. From among the 15 videos with the most votes on June 2, the Youth Advisory Delegates will be invited to cast the final votes to determine the three winning videos. The winners will be announced at the 2008 General Assembly (June 21-28, San Jose, California).

The Presbyterian Foundation Group will establish three \$25,000 endowment funds at the Presbyterian Foundation to support youth ministry at the churches with the winning videos.”

Parish Nursing news

On May 8 some of our Parish Nurses will be attending a conference titled “Finding the Abundant Life, Even in the Face of Death.” The grief that accompanies one’s journey for departure from this life for self or a loved one is a very difficult part of living that all of us will eventually face... At some time... in some way. The purpose of this conference is to assist the participant in identifying ways of maintaining a balance of belief, hope and reality as one travels these inevitable life transitions. You are encouraged to speak to your Parish Nurse about the program and its benefits.

Grandbaby news!

Dear Friends: We are pleased to announce that a baby boy was born to Amy and Peter McConnell Friday, April 12 at about 7:15 p.m. in Kaiser Hospital in California. His name is ***Eben Malcolm McConnell*** and weighs 7 lbs., 6 oz. (Peter's birth weight). Mother and son are doing well. We rejoice and thank God for Eben's safe arrival. Love, **Lynn and Dick McConnell**

Celebrations

Be sure to congratulate the following folks on these occasions:

Ordination Anniversaries

Hyun Jin Kim	4/12/88
Kenneth "Rocky" Munson	4/6/60
Lance Brown	5/24/70
Wendy Heinz	5/14/86
Ellsworth Jackson	5/10/50
Joyce Sirianni	5/16/99
Hal Tyson	5/15/59
Angus Watkins	5/1/70
Lucille Weaver	5/22/88

Wedding Anniversaries

Bronwen & Howard Boswell	4/27/85
Peggy & Lance Brown	4/5/97
Laura & Stuart Buisch	5/2/98
Marianne & Jim Burton	5/27/89
Kathleen & Greg Hall	5/27/78
Ginnie & Ed Sprague	5/30/59
Cynthia Wickwire & Rick Lundquist	5/27/00
Dorothy & Frank Wright	5/18/56

Birthdays

Nancy Bassett	4/27	Stephen Devine	4/8
Dennis Duling	4/7	Marilyn Hale	4/14
Banu Moore	4/6	Robert Peck	4/25
Joyce Sirianni	4/27	Mark Woodward	4/20
Bill Collen	5/15	Carolyn Grohman	5/2
Amy Jelensperger	5/30	Carl Lenz	5/2
Dorothy Pearman	5/19	Jon Rieley-Goddard	5/12
Art Webster	5/25		

Quilts & Shawls –

I know many of our churches have Prayer Shawl and Quilt groups who share the products of their time and prayers together with others who need the comfort they bring. Recently members of **Hamburg** Presbyterian Church had their picture included in the newsletter for Aids Family Services because they have donated quilts for AFS clients. Way to go ladies!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Help

Another group of church folks, this time from **Youngstown**, went to the Gulfport to work on Katrina relief. The folks that went in January gave a nice presentation at the April 5 Presbytery meeting, and I've heard of still more that have gone back. Others are planning more travels to help PDA where they are needed. Thank you all for being a part of the largest group to help with Katrina recovery.

Silver Bay Sr. High Youth Conference

July 8-12. For current 8th through 12 graders. Cost \$365.00-420.00 per person (depending when you register- by 4/1, by 5/15 or after 5/15) plus about \$75.00 pp for transportation. **EACH PERSON MUST REGISTER ON THEIR OWN.** We have the adult drivers from Kenmore and North Presbyterian Churches, so we can take you and your youth! For registration forms and more information, see <http://www.silverbaypyc.org>. There may be some funds from Presbytery, but we won't know for sure until May or June. **THIS EVENT IS EXPECTED TO CLOSE OUT BY MID MAY, SO DON'T WAIT!** Contact Richard Lash from North, Williamsville, at richardlash@roadrunner.com for more details.

Job Openings around town....

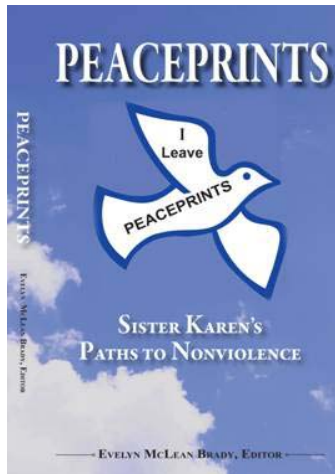
MacAlpine Presbyterian Church (Buffalo) is seeking a *church secretary*. Part time, 2 days. Must have computer skills and be a team player. Call 893-0208/fax 896-1449.

Beechwood Continuing Care, a not for profit senior care community in Amherst, NY, serves 337 nursing home and assisted living residents and is currently searching for a *Director of Pastoral Care*. Our previous full time chaplain recently moved to Florida. A competitive salary and benefit plan is offered including health, life and dental insurances, 403b pension, holidays, vacation and personal days. Candidates must have attained a Master's of Divinity degree, or a closely related discipline, from an accredited seminary or divinity school. Must be ordained and be eligible for Association of Professional Chaplains membership. Must be a licensed driver with a functional, personal automobile. Please submit your resume to Kathy Duke, Director of Human Resources, 2235 Millersport Highway, Getzville, New York 14068, kduke@beechwoodcare.org.

Second Saturday Concert

Saturday, May 10 at 7pm **First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown** is presenting *ThymeLass* for an evening of Celtic music. The public is invited, refreshments will follow, and a free will offering is accepted.

PEACEPRINTS



Includes *Apostle of Peace*, Emmy-nominated DVD

Stories, interviews and poetry celebrate Sister Karen Klimczak, SSJ, Buffalo's champion for nonviolence, who dedicated (and lost) her life giving sanctuary to ex-offenders and bringing hope to the people of Buffalo.

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New Hymnal Committee Now Forming!

The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, in consultation with the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the Office of Theology & Worship, is currently accepting applications for the new Hymnal Committee. Persons with a deep love for the song of the church, who can think theologically about music and musically about theology, who have experience in worship planning and leadership, who are able to work collegially, and who are able to make a commitment to attend all meetings of the Hymnal Committee are encouraged to apply. Candidates under the age of 25 are encouraged to apply.

All application forms and completed reference forms must be received by PPC before July 11, 2008. The Hymnal Committee will be named August 15, 2008, and the first meeting of the Hymnal Committee is scheduled for September 22 and 23, 2008, in Louisville. The Hymnal Committee is expected to meeting four times each year over the next four or five years.

You can find a copy of the application and reference form at www.ppcbooks.com. Please mail your completed form to Hymnal Editor David Eicher at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, 100 Witherspoon Street, Room 2001, Louisville, KY 40202-1396; e-mail it to deicher@presbypub.com; or fax it to 502-569-5113.

Do you recognize the guy behind the podium?



It's our own **Rex Stewart**...leading the New York Thruway Alliance commitment ceremony on February 13. Commitment was made to three major upstate issues...jobs, healthcare and youth...when the New York Thruway Alliance (NYTA) was officially launched Feb. 13 in Rochester with five faith-based member organizations joined by other religious, labor and governmental leaders.

Two years in the making, NYTA is composed of five well-established community organizations representing over 110 congregations and 40,000 voters in cities and rural areas including Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo and Niagara County.

It is the first time that two national faith-based networks—the Gamaliel Foundation (www.gamaliel.org) and PICO National Network (www.piconetwork.org) have partnered to take on the challenges of a region like upstate NY. And it is the first time that grassroots organizations across upstate have developed a common vision and agenda aimed at reshaping that region.

The NYTA's five member organizations include:

ARISE (Albany)
ACTS (Syracuse)
Interfaith ACTION (Rochester)
NOAH (Niagara County)
VOICE Buffalo.

The two-day conference in Rochester ended with a keynote address by the Rev. Geoffrey Black, NY conference minister of the United Church of Christ and president of the NYS Council of Churches, and a *commitment ceremony led by the Rev. Rex Stewart, Moderator, Presbytery of Western New York and Co-President of NOAH.*

Companeros, a Spanish word for companions, was Stewart's theme. "For new life and new hope, you need new companeros," Stewart said as he led each group attending in their individual verbal commitments.

The idea for NYTA began in October 2005 with a phone call between two community organizers. In 2007 each of these organizations conducted a listening campaign with members of their congregations that reached 4,000 people. On that basis the issues were selected:

Job creation, training and local hiring
Youth jobs and violence prevention
Expanding access to health care for children

Issue Committee chair, the Rev. Dr. M Bruce McKay, of Voice Buffalo, emphasized, "We are looking to rebuilding upstate New York by systematically engaging our members in the public arena where decisions are made that directly impact their lives.

"We plan to accomplish this by utilizing our strong local organizations, identifying common concerns across the region and engaging local and state decision makers to develop policies and invest resources that improve our communities."

The organizations agreed to hold Citizenship Sundays with emphasis on voting and NYTA's issues, issue hearings, and non-partisan candidate forums all across upstate. A Voter Guide will be produced based on written answers from candidates to NYTA questions.

Other judicatory and religious leaders participating were Rev. Marlowe VN Washington, pastor the host church, Baber AME, and the **Rev. Clint McCoy**, *Executive for Partnerships, Synod of the Northeast, Presbyterian Church, USA.*

Sharing Information

This quick information sheet will be sent out monthly, as time allows. To have information included, please send it to the Presbytery office, attention Jan. Email it at JanT@pbywny.org, fax it to 835-8072, or mail it to 2450 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214. **The deadline for the next mailing is May 22.**