

in the KNOW

The weekly communication of Providence Presbytery

| Lancaster | Union | Chester | Kershaw | York |

Guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to equip, support, and connect our congregations as they faithfully serve Jesus Christ in a changing world.

December 7, 2009

Volume 5, Number 46

“A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes... and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent. “

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#)

Congratulations!

Art and Betts Gatewood as you welcome your fourth grand-daughter, Harper Delaney Gatewood, on November 30th. We celebrate with you, this wonderful addition to your family!

***For your Bulletins...* Don't Miss this Great Training for Church Volunteers and Staff!**

E3 is earlier this year and we don't want anyone to miss out! Workshops are available in all areas of church ministry. Avoid the long lines and insure you get your workshop of choice...register online today! Visit www.providencepres.org and click on the E3 logo.

Special Music help needed

Uriel Presbyterian Church is looking for someone who plays the penny whistle and/or the bodhran to play for 11 am worship on Sunday, December 20. Please contact Fred Powell at phledd@truvista.net or by phone at 803 209-5807.

The Palmetto Master Singers - South Carolina's Musical Ambassadors will present **A Concert of Christmas Music** on Thursday evening, December 17th @ 7:30pm at **Purity Presbyterian Church, 135 Wylie Street, Chester, SC**. Come enjoy this holiday gift presented by 65 of South Carolina's best male voices. Free admission.

Have you registered for Bethelwoods Youth Christmas Retreat?

For grades 1-12, join us for a wonderful time of fun and celebration at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. Your favorite counselors will be here leading you in crafts, games, food and worship as we explore the true meaning of Christmas. Contact Jaquie at Bethelwoods 803-366-3722 for registration information.

Are you bringing your youth with you to E3?

This year there are Free workshops for both adult youth advisors as well as youth in grades 6-12 that you would like to see build some leadership skills at the **E3 event** on Sunday, **January 10** at Rock Hill First Presbyterian. Adult youth leaders can attend a workshop on spiritual practices for youth as well as one on teaching faith and human sexuality in the church. Youth in grades 6-8 can participate in a hands-on Mission workshop as well as learn some recreation activities that they can take back to their church and lead. Youth in grades 9-12 will also participate in a hands-on Mission workshop, and

then learn more about planning and leading worship. Registration and more information are available online at:

http://www.providencepres.org/Communications/Events/e3.10/e3.10_Registration%20for%20Web.pdf. If you register online, you will receive a confirmation email. Please contact Kathryn McGregor at kmcgregor@providencepres.org if you do not receive a confirmation.

Watch for Presbyterian Times

Presbyterian Times will arrive in your mailbox by Friday of this week. All members of Providence Presbytery churches should receive this publication. If you do not receive your copy, please email iglasgow@providencepres.org to update your address in our system.

Calvin Center to Offer Interim Pastor Training in January

Come to the Calvin Center in Atlanta for training to become a more effective interim pastor January 11-15. Level 1 Track is for those new to the experience of interim pastoring, Level 2 track is available for those looking to enhance their skills in the area. There is also a spouse track available. [Find out more online.](#)

Second Harvest Partners Organizational Meeting Next Week!

Join the 2009 Second Harvest volunteers on December 15 at 6:30 at Union Baptist Church as we review the year's progress, and plan for 2010. Kay Carter, Executive Director of Second Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte will attend. The organizers would like to present Second Harvest with a check from churches, civic groups, corporate offices, schools, small businesses, and individuals to help defray the cost of 2101 York County Second Harvest deliveries. We will provide a time during the meeting on December 15 for persons and groups to present contributions. For more information, call Dot Killian at (803) 517-7870 or e-mail Dot at dot@providencepres.org. Checks should be made payable to Second Harvest Food Bank with the notation Second Harvest Partners-York County. Checks can be mailed to Providence Presbytery, 515 Oakland Ave. Rock Hill, S.C. 29730.

Around the Presbytery

- **Carmel Presbyterian** is honored to be on the *Chester County Historical Tour* to be held on Sunday, **December 13th**. The tour begins at 2PM and will visit Carmel at 4:30PM. The final stop on the tour will be First Baptist in Chester at 5:30PM where refreshments will be served. For more information on the tour and Carmel's participation, contact W.T. Holmes at Carmel.

Check out the events below on the [Presbytery Calendar](#)--for event details, click on the event!

2010 Presbytery Meeting Schedule

3/18	Presbytery Meeting 10AM (Van Wyck)
5/23	Presbytery Meeting 2:30PM (Tirzah-Lancaster)
8/15	Called Presbytery Meeting at Clinton College (Hosted by Hermon)
10/17	Presbytery Meeting—2:30PM (Grace-Lancaster)

This Week in Providence Presbytery

12/7	Resource Center Preschool Bookmobile—9AM (Lancaster First)
12/8	Presbytery Holiday Open House —11AM-3PM (Presbytery Office)
12/9	Resource Center Preschool Bookmobile—11AM (Allison Creek)
12/10	TTT to Biltmore Estate —9AM (Meet at Bethelwoods)

Coming Next Week

12/15	TTT Gift Exchange with David Bender—10:30AM (Bethelwoods)
12/15	Second Harvest Partners Planning—7PM (Union Baptist)

12/19 Prayer Fellowship—9:15AM (Presbytery Office)
12/19-20 [Bethelwoods Youth Christmas Retreat](#) (Bethelwoods)

Mark your Calendar!

1/10 [E3 Training Event](#)—2:30-5:45PM (Rock Hill First)

Please submit articles to jill@providencepres.org with In the Know and the date you would like your article to run in the subject line by Friday at 5 PM for the following Monday's issue.

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“An infatuation with the Dalai Lama is the Goldilocks solution for a culture that finds its traditional religion too hot and atheism too cold.” [Read the entire article.](#)

[Alan Roxburgh](#)

In thinking about Advent...

Read Ed White's Christmas 2009 Reflection entitled Outcasts as Neighbors. White is and Alban Institute Author. [Find it online.](#)

Don't Miss this Great Training for Church Volunteers and Staff!

E3 is earlier this year and we don't want anyone to miss out! Workshops are available in all areas of church ministry. Avoid the long lines and insure you get your workshop of choice...register online today! Visit www.providencepres.org and click on the E3 logo. ---If you have registered online, but not received a confirmation, please register again. We have been having some technical difficulties with the registration form. It is corrected now. We apologize for the inconvenience. If you are planning to register as a group, please go ahead and submit your registration ASAP so that we can plan appropriately. Thanks!

Our Video Christmas Cards are online!

Several groups in Providence Presbytery prepared a Christmas Greeting just for you. Check out the cards online at www.providencepres.org click on “**Don't miss our Video Greeting Cards!**” to view and listen to some fun greetings. Many thanks to all who participated in this first annual event! If you missed it this year, start planning for next!

Special Music help needed

Uriel Presbyterian Church is looking for someone who plays the penny whistle and/or the bodhran to play for 11 am worship on Sunday, December 20. Please contact Fred Powell at phledd@truvista.net or by phone at 803 209-5807.

Need appropriate music for your choir that is theologically and musically sound?

Providence Presbytery choir directors, musicians, and choir members are invited to a FREE workshop at the **E3 event** on Sunday, **January 10** at Rock Hill First Presbyterian with Dr. Don Rogers, Director of Music at Rock Hill First. This workshop will identify some resources to assist church musicians in choosing music that is appropriate for the average volunteer church choir. Registration and more information are available online at: www.providencepres.org. Next to the E3 logo, Click on “Pre-register by January 5th” to register. If you register online, you will receive a confirmation email. Please contact Kathryn McGregor at kmcgregor@providencepres.org if you do not receive a confirmation.

Have you registered for Bethelwoods Youth Christmas Retreat?

For grades 1-12, join us for a wonderful time of fun and celebration at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. Your favorite counselors will be here leading you in crafts, games, food and worship as we explore the true meaning of Christmas. Contact Jaquie at Bethelwoods 803-366-3722 for registration information.

Presbyterian Times Info

Presbyterian Times arrived in around 4,700 mailboxes late last week. If you did not receive yours, please contact Inez in the Presbytery Office to update your address. All members of Providence Presbytery churches may subscribe. Inez's email is iglasgow@providencepres.org. Please place Presbyterian Times Address Correction or Subscription on the Subject line.

Did you have fun solving the Kid's Times Puzzle in Presbyterian Times this month?

Check your answers here: Prince of Peace, Jesus, Savior, Friend, Emmanuel, Wonderful, Counselor, God with Us, Good Shepherd, Redeemer. Phrase: Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

Second Harvest Partners Organizational Meeting This Week!

Join the 2009 Second Harvest volunteers on Tuesday, December 15th, 6:30PM at Union Baptist Church as we review the year's progress, and plan for 2010. Kay Carter, Executive Director of Second Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte will attend. For more information, call Dot Killian at (803) 517-7870 or e-mail Dot at dot@providencepres.org. Checks should be made payable to Second Harvest Food Bank with the notation Second Harvest Partners-York County. Checks can be mailed to Providence Presbytery, 515 Oakland Ave. Rock Hill, S.C. 29730.

"For Such a Time as This" Pastoral Residency Program has New Director

The [Office of Vocation](#) is pleased to announce that Marilyn Johns, a certified Christian educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has been named part-time coordinator of *For Such a Time as This*, the innovative [pastoral residency program](#) recently launched by the [General Assembly Mission Council](#). *For Such a Time as This*, a new, pilot program designed to serve underserved congregations and develop missional pastors, seeks to pair rural, small town or urban congregations with recent seminary graduates in a two-year pastoral residency relationship.

Mark Your Calendar

The Committee on Ministry: Committee on Preparation: Permanent Judicial Commission Training Event will be Friday Evening and Saturday, January 29 and 30, 2010; White Oak Conference Center. More Information to Follow!

Does Your Church Need...

...Pew Bibles, Hymnals or two Tall Christmon Trees? First Presbyterian Rock Hill has all of these items to donate to a church or organization that needs them. Contact [Tai Magette](#) by email or phone (803) 328-2467.

Educational Opportunities

Emergence NOW Event! The Reformation was a long time ago, or was it? Are post modern/emergent/missional conversations signs of a new reformation? What other signs are we seeing or yearning for as we seek to be faithful 21st century disciples? Come join these prominent thought leaders for conversation and workshops. Jan. 26-28, 2010 (\$265 includes two lunches). Find out more at [CTS website](#).

Conference on Reformed Theology and Ethics to be held at Davidson College, February 22-24, 2010. This wonderful (and inexpensive) continuing education opportunity is entitled "The Lord's Prayer in Theology and Ethics." The keynote speaker is David Bartlett, Professor of New Testament at

Columbia Theological Seminary and co-editor, with Barbara Brown Taylor, of *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary*. Concurrent seminars will discuss the relevance of the Lord's Supper for various aspects of preaching and pastoral care. For more information or to register, please visit Davidson college's Religion Department web-site at <http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x3733.xml>

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This Week in Providence Presbytery

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12/15	Second Harvest Partners Planning—6:30PM (Union Baptist)
12/19	Prayer Fellowship—9:15AM (Presbytery Office)
12/19-20	Bethelwoods Youth Christmas Retreat (Bethelwoods)

Coming Next Week

12/23-25	Presbytery Office Closed
12/25	Christmas

Mark your Calendar!

1/10	E3 Training Event —2:30-5:45PM (Rock Hill First)
1/15	Application Deadline for 2010 Presbytery Mission Trips
1/26-28	Emergence NOW Event CTS

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December 21, 2009

Volume 5, Number 48

“The liturgy of Advent...helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an ‘advent’, a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come and who comes continuously.”

[Pope John Paul II \(Dec. 2002\)](#)

We will not publish In the Know next week...we will resume publication on January 4th. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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New Ways for New Days

The Association of Smaller Congregations of the Synod of South Atlantic PC(USA) invites you to attend the 23rd Annual Conference, themed “New Ways for New Days.-- Equipping, Educating, and Empowering smaller congregations in new times.” The conference will be held May 3-5, 2010-- Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. For details about speakers and workshops, [see the brochure online.](#)

Is your Church Technologically still in the 20th Century?

Join Jill Wilson and Rev. James Platt at the **E3 event** on Sunday, **January 10** at Rock Hill First Presbyterian. They will be leading Free workshops that will give you information on websites and online Bible Study Resources to get your church into the 21st century. Registration and more information are available [online](#) at: www.providencepres.org. If you register online, you will receive a confirmation email. Please contact Kathryn McGregor at kmcgregor@providencepres.org if you do not receive a confirmation.

Webinar for Church Leaders offered by Presbyterian Outlook

Mainline churches have suffered a long and relentless slide. But it can be turned around. Join OUTLOOK columnist, **Tom Ehrich**, to find out about The Multichannel Church on Thursday, January 7th at 2PM. In this Webinar, the writer, pastor, and founder of the Church Wellness Project will describe a convergence of research and experience that led him to see that moving beyond Sunday mornings can put the church in touch with a changing world. The introductory fee for Webinars is **\$9.95**. Register for this event by [clicking here](#) or calling Gillian at 800/446-6008 before Wednesday, January 6. To participate in the webinar you will need access to a telephone and the internet.

The Thoughtful Christian Maintaining Lower Subscription Rates

New subscriptions are \$195, and renewals are \$150. Churches qualifying for the Small Church Discount (weekly worship attendance under 100), may subscribe at the \$150 rate. Check out their website to see all of the different studies your youth and adults could be benefiting from at www.thethoughtfulchristian.com

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12/25	Christmas

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- 1/10 [E3 Training Event](#)—2:30-5:45PM (Rock Hill First)
- 1/15 Kids Night Out 6-10PM (Bethelwoods)
- 1/15 Application Deadline for 2010 Presbytery Mission Trips
- 1/19 Third Tuesday Together (Bethelwoods)
- 1/24 Worship 4 YOUth (Bethelwoods)
- 1/26-28 Emergence NOW Event CTS
- 1/28 Third Tuesday Together goes to Discovery Place 11AM-3 (Bethelwoods)

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