

VISIONS June 2010

It was ten years ago this week that Juan and I got married. Of course, getting married and starting a family is life-changing for anyone, but in our case, we each married someone from another country and another culture. It's been a learning curve for everyone. In 1999 I made my first trip to Colombia. On that trip I met Rev. Dr. Alice Winters who is one of our mission co-workers in Colombia. Alice has served in Colombia since 1977 and is a Professor of Biblical Studies (Hebrew Bible) at the Reformed University which is our partner school on the North Coast of Colombia. But when I went in 1999, Alice was stationed out of the capital city of Bogota, where Juan's family lives, and so I got to know her on that first trip. Of one of many coincidences in our lives, Juan was educated from kindergarten through high school at the Colegio Americano in Bogota, which is one of a few major mission schools founded by the Presbyterian Church in Colombia. When we went to visit the Colegio back in 1999 we ran into another friend, Alba Arrieta, who today is a leader in human rights work for the church in Colombia, but she was Juan's grade school teacher when he was a child!

In the years since, Juan and I have followed the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Colombia, known by its acronym of IPC. The IPC is comprised of three Presbyteries (Central, North Coast, and Uruba), and our own denomination, the PC (USA) has maintained mission partnerships with the Presbyterians in Colombia for over 160 years.

However, in 2004 things in Colombia began to take a dangerous and painful turn for the IPC. One of the leaders in the church, Rev. Milton Mejia found out that his name was on a Colombian "death list", meaning that he had been marked for death along with some of his colleagues. The IPC has mission partners in the area of human rights, as they serve the increasing numbers of internally displaced persons (refugees) in Colombia. To this day, the country of Colombia remains in the grips of armed conflict; partial statistics show that at least 21,000 (that is not a typo) people have been killed as a result of the violence in Colombia from 2002 through March of 2010. The reasons behind the conflict in Colombia are highly complex, and are not just the result of the drug trade. After eleven years of studying about and travelling to Colombia I still do not feel I understand the situation in the country at a complete level. But the IPC has found itself, especially in the last decade; right in the middle of the conflict because they have taken the prophetic stance that they will be the church of peace and the church that will stand up for the dignity and human rights of all persons. In not choosing sides, they have become targeted by many.

Eventually my friend Milton, his wife Adelaida (also a minister) and their two young children were moved out of Colombia by the PC (USA). They studied at McCormick Seminary in Chicago, and also were offered a year of hospitality in the Tres Rios Presbytery in Texas. It was a painful time for the church, and especially for the Mejia family who struggled with their new, and for the most part, unwanted life in the United States as political refugees. It was also around the same time that the Accompaniment Program was born. Before Milton left Colombia he sent a request to our headquarters in Louisville, KY that the IPC would like unarmed, nonviolent pastoral accompaniment to provide "cover" and safety to the IPC and their many mission partners. By having accompaniers (observers from the United States), the IPC felt that they would be provided the safety and security they needed so that they could continue to carry out the ministry that God had called them to in the midst of the brokenness around them. After long deliberation, the PC (USA) officially said that they



couldn't do it. It would cost too much money, the insurance to underwrite these sorts of short-term mission workers would be impossible to get, and besides, no one would want to undertake such a task. My friend, Rick Ufford-Chase was the Moderator of the PC (USA) at the time and he decided that since Louisville was going to take a "pass" on a great need from longtime partners in ministry that the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship would undertake the task. And they did. In 2005 the first pastoral accompanier went to Colombia, and over the last five years the Peace Fellowship has trained 101 accompaniers (myself being one of them, I served in November of 2006), and has deployed 75 to Colombia. Louisville decided that since the Peace Fellowship would do most of the work, they'd underwrite our insurance and provide some limited staff support. The program has operated always with money in the bank, and on the shoe-string budget of \$15-\$18,000/year! In 2007 I attended the meeting of all the Mission Networks deployed around the world on behalf of the PC (USA). The then new director of Worldwide Missions had our table of returned accompaniers from Colombia stand up. He pointed at us in front of a packed ballroom of guests and said these words I will never forget, "This is the model of ministry and mission that will take all of us into the future. Colombia and the Accompaniment Program is an example to all of us." We were floored by the recognition, surprised, and humbled.

All of this led to my trip this past April. In the years since, I have become increasingly involved with the Peace Fellowship, deeply grateful for their ministry of presence in our beloved Colombia. Two years ago I began service on the board of the Peace Fellowship and this spring was asked to take over leadership as a board member of the Accompaniment Program. My dear friend, Anne Barstow, who has led the program for the last nearly six years with incredible skill and love, is officially retiring (at just over 80 years of age!). Anne is an inspiration to me. We maintain a part-time staff person who does the day-to-day work and organization of the Program, but as the new volunteer Director of Colombia Programs, it's my job to be sure everything works correctly and we keep in contact with our partners in Colombia, Louisville, and throughout the United States. In April our delegation from the United States travelled to Colombia to meet with a delegation of the IPC and our partners to evaluate our ministry together over the last five years. The evaluation was positive and the program will see expansions in the next five years. The Mejia Family returned to Colombia last August and is in the process of re-adjusting to their life in Colombia. The rich and vital ministry of the church goes on, and our partnerships continue.

One final story. Last week I got my first taste of the painful aspects of the work we do. On Wednesday we received notification that a

farmer who was working in the area of Sucre, Colombia for Lutheran World Relief (one of our ecumenical partners in Colombia) was murdered by one of the many armed groups in Colombia. His name was on one of the infamous "death lists". He was working with displaced farmers and their families to return to their land and resettle it peacefully. This is work that the IPC is heavily involved with. My friend Milton and another leader in the church, German Zarate went with one of our U.S. mission co-workers who is now stationed in Colombia, Rev. Richard Williams, to accompany the funeral and be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Christ in Sucre. While at the funeral they noticed that someone was photographing everyone at the funeral and that intimidation was happening. They quickly got in touch with us and the Peace Fellowship and the leadership of the PC (USA) sent letters and began communication with our State Department, Embassy in Colombia, and elected officials to request ongoing protection for our partners. Yesterday we learned that a



man who I accompanied back in 2006 and saw just this past April, (another farmer resettling land) is now on one of the “death lists”, and we have increased our accompaniment and protection around him. This Sunday May 30th is the Presidential elections in Colombia and it is clear that violence is increasing around this political event in Colombia. It has been a scary week for our partners in Colombia, and we have been doing everything we can to offer help, friendship, prayer and protection in these difficult times. Richard sent an email last week that offered these words of thanks to all of us here in the United States who are engaged in this ministry of presence: *“Friends - A quick note to let you know that German, Milton, and I are back in Barranquilla, safe and sound. The events of the past few days were quite moving for us, and we will be writing and sharing more in the future about the situation, funeral, and ways our church can help. **As I returned to an email chain 15 replies long, ending in a letter with clarity, concern, and strength with our Stated Clerks' signature, I am reminded a bit of why we are Presbyterian. We are a connected people, and we care about this world. Thanks to all for your part in connecting and care. One chant from the funeral procession today was ‘not for one minute will we be silent about injustice.’ You all have made that truth.”***

It continues to be a great honor that as part of my ministry I am part of the ministry of the IPC and the Peace Fellowship. I do it because I know that it is the sort of ministry Jesus would have us do, and I do it because I love Colombia—it is the country of my husband and my daughter. It is ministry on the edge, but it is the ministry that Jesus calls us to. I hope that you will join me in prayer for our sisters and brothers in Christ in Colombia. Below are some websites if you’d like to learn more about the much longer story I have only briefly shared with you here.

Peace,



Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Information about Accompaniment in Colombia

www.presbypeacefellowship.org/colombia

Blog of Rev. Richard Williams and Rev. Mamie Broadhurst, PC (USA) Mission Co-Workers in Colombia

www.calledtocolombia.org

Information about the Mission of the PC (USA) in Colombia

www.pcusa.org/worldwide/colombia

JUNE WORSHIP

June 6th:

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: 1 Kings 17: 17-24 &
Luke 7: 11-17

Sermon: "A Second Chance"

June 13th: **Choir Recognition Sunday**

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11: 26-12:13 &
Luke 7: 36-8:3

Sermon: "Transparent Gifts"

May 16th: **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Scripture: Acts 16: 16-34 &
John 17: 20-26

Sermon: "The Problems of Participation"

June 20th: **Father's Day**

Celebration of Church School Teachers and
Children in the Church

Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52 &
Psalm 25

Sermon: Youth Elder Patrick Ronk
preaching

June 27th: Edwin Estevez, Jr. Preaching

THANK YOU

To all the saints at Watchung Avenue:

Greetings from Princeton! Thank you for all the wonderful gifts you gave me at the conclusion of my student placement with you. The stole is beautiful, and the Book of Common Worship and the home Communion set will help me, serve for a whole lifetime of ministry. It has been such a joy worshiping with you, and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

In Christ's Love,
Andrew Scales

CONGRATULATIONS EDWIN



Congratulations to Edwin Estevez who officially became a Candidate for Ministry at the May 2010 Presbytery of Elizabeth meeting. Edwin still has another year of studies at Princeton Seminary and another year before he is fully eligible for ordination. This is an important milestone and we offer our celebration and thanksgiving to God for Edwin's journey towards Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Edwin will be preaching at Watchung Avenue on Sunday June 27th when Pastor Shannan is away conducting a wedding for a friend from college. **Don't miss this special Sunday in worship!!!!**

CIRCLE OF JOY

We will meet at **Giovanna's 6pm on Thursday June 3rd**. Please call Beverly Krausse if you are planning to attend.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

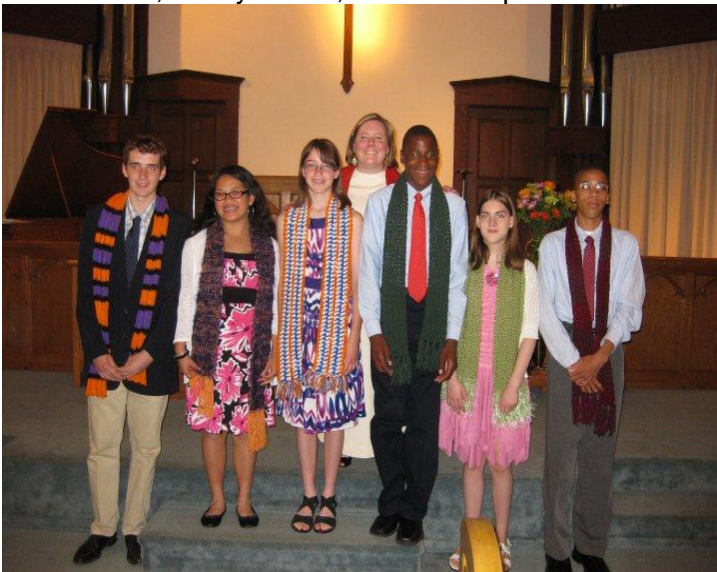
We will meet at **Giovanna's 5:30pm. On Wednesday June 9th**. Please call Faye Steinau if you are planning to attend.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to help out with a new local mission, we will be partnering with Crescent Avenue on the third Thursday of each month to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. You can be a cook (who prepares food ahead of time and drops it off), a server, a helper, or all three! This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Ellen Velasquez who is the Elder co-chair of our Mission Committee at: 908-757-2929

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2010 CONFIRMATION CLASS!

Shelby Watters, Michael Piel, Lily Durick, Ryan Thomas, Jenny Jones, and Christopher Piel!



CONVERSATIONS LEADING UP TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be taking place during the first week of July 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our next church newsletter will feature lots of information about this important event. One of the topics that will generate a great deal of conversation and press will be decisions the PC (USA) is making around our ministry and advocacy in the Holy Land. To that end, the Global Peacemaking and Mission Group of Elizabeth Presbytery has invited two local speakers to come and talk to us about this complex and complicated issue so we can be better informed and have faithful conversations with each other.

Please see the flyer in this month's Visions for information and please attend both of these conversations. We are very lucky—they are being held at our church—so you don't have to travel far at all! See you there!

2010 PER CAPITA AMOUNT

Our assessment from the PCUSA for 2010 is \$30 per member. If each member pays their share, it will free up money for other purposes. Place your \$30 in the per capita envelope in your envelope packet.

Our Youth Group Thanks PW for Their Support

Our youth room has two pool sticks and two new games because of the generosity of PW. We were happy to have them on our first game/celebration day last week. As we use the funds we will remember that what we purchase will be used by the many youth groups who will follow us.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Since the ministry began last October, 16 prayer shawls have been completed and presented, eleven to church members and the remainder to friends or family members who were in need of comfort. Recently, individualized scarves were created and blessed with prayers for the confirmands and presented at the Confirmation ceremony on Pentecost Sunday.

We will continue to knit and crochet prayer shawls during the summer, and are also working on warm winter scarves for clients of a local Soup Kitchen. If you would like to participate, but the thought of creating an entire shawl is daunting, why not try a scarf? Contact Gwyn Gronlund for information, patterns and yarn choices.

Our summer meetings will be on Tuesday, June 15, Tuesday, July 13 and Tuesday, August 10, from 7:15 to 9:30 PM, locations to be announced. We hope you will join us!

YOUTH FOCUS ON MISSION, JULY 14, 15, 16.

Now that our mission to improve the youth room is nearing completion and summer is approaching we have time to accomplish some of our group's mission goals. We want to help people who have less than we do. We want to be role models for little children and we want to help feed the homeless. We will cook a meal and serve the homeless at the Plainfield WMCA, spend a day with three and four year olds enjoying the kids and helping with their summer barbeque. We will help at the Food Bank for a morning and afternoon. We are using WAPC as our base, with an overnight on, Thursday evening, July 15th.

Be sure to keep an eye out for our next big event.

We hope to raise some funds to help pay for our future missions, maybe even a fun summer event to celebrate who we are and who we are becoming.

***Our Youth Need You
Become a Go-to- Person
It would be very helpful if we had a
list of members
Who can help us in very specific
ways.***

Sign up at the coffee table, WAPC@verizon.net,
Jbotzan@embarqmail.com, Tell Shannon, Judy B.
Corey P., Walter & Jennifer R

Will you share on occasion?

Computer skills in Photo Shop
Searching Craig's list for items we need
Chaperone a mission trip.
Carpentry Skills
Use of a truck
Someone with a bus driver's license
Help with publicity
(news papers/internet news media)
Fundraising

MOTHER'S HELPER

An Almost 17 year old female is looking for a job as
a mother's helper/ babysitter, during the summer.
Has completed a child care class at High School.
Call Krausses at at 908-757-6654.

WOMEN'S CRAFT GROUP

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects
and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a
break from your busy week. We meet on Friday
evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the
church library and sometimes at someone's house.
We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join
us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund
(908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-
753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we
will be meeting that week!

iGIVE.com

Would you like to help the church with some extra
income while you shop online? Follow these easy
steps:

1. Go to www.igive.com
2. Create a free account for yourself
3. Designate Watchung Ave Presbyterian
Church as your charity (using their
navigation menu, go to NJ and then
Religious/Spiritual Institutions)
4. Every time to shop online, first go to
iGive.com and then go to your shopping
sites FROM their website
5. Donations are automatically generated at
NO cost to you (what this means is that
vendors like LLBean, Amazon.com, etc.
then give a % to us)
6. You can watch your shopping history and
donations generated by your shopping on
their calculator

Take a look at iGive's list of vendors! They have
over 700 and counting—and almost all are popular
websites you are probably already using. Ask your
family and friends to sign up and help out our
church! Thanks!

BROADCAST TEXT MESSAGING

WAPC is proud to announce that we now have a
broadcast text messaging system available to our
members and their families. You now can receive
text messages for important church sponsored
events, activities and other messages/
announcements. Signing up is fast, easy and
free! To participate, simply email the church office
(wapc@verizon.net) with your mobile phone
number and carrier. Participation is voluntary and
you will receive only messages sent by WAPC -
unwanted advertising, and/or other spam
messages are illegal. Normal text messaging rates
apply per the individual plan you and others who
sign up have.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

March 18, 2010 through March 21, 2010

Jacob Paul Watters

Before I begin, I would first like to apologize for not having written sooner. There is no excuse for my procrastination. With that said I would like to thank all of you for making this experience possible for me. If it were not for you, I would never have learned some extremely valuable lessons, as well as making some very good friends. Again I thank all of you, family and friends included, for your donations.

I arrived the first day, unsure of what to expect and nervous out of my mind. I was surrounded by other nervous teens as well. After I was settled in, my bags taken care of and my goodbyes said, I was shown to a room filled with other young leaders. We began with a few exercises to get ourselves introduced. I was nervous at first but soon became very open and friendly. After everyone became fairly well acquainted, we were divided into our own personal groups, whom with we would be spending the rest of our time with. I enjoyed my group. Everyone was kind and fun to hang around with. My leaders were cool too. We all seemed to be well connected with the same ideals.

On our first day, we were introduced to the key reasons for being there. We were introduced to the topics we would be covering. These topics included group support, correct feedback techniques, active listening, goal setting, decision making, group dynamics, presentation skills, appreciating diversity, and conflict resolution.

Each day was split up into different workshops. During each workshop we developed our leadership skills. Our group leaders made learning them both entertaining and simple to understand. I felt very confident about my ability to grasp the concepts of each workshop. However, the only one that I was uncertain of was my presentation skill workshop. Everyone had five minutes to think up a topic and devise a plan to present it in a thirty second speech. I felt extremely nervous, but everyone thought I had done very well. Then we had the chance to watch ourselves because our leaders were recording us. This was to help us learn the do's and don'ts of presenting. I felt as if I had truly learned a lot.

Aside from working all day, we ate meals three times a day. The food was good and I enjoyed the company of my group members while

we ate. We also joined committees while we were there. There was a committee for presentations, newsletter, talent show set up, and graduation day set up. I was part of the presentation committee. In my sub-group within the committee we were told to choose a topic and present to any other teens that chose to be our audience. We were allowed two chances to present. After each presentation we discussed how it went with our supervisors who gave us feedback and suggested ways to make it better. I really enjoyed doing that.

The talent show was also a big hit. While I did not participate myself, I enjoyed all of the acts I witnessed. There was singing, instrument playing, and a comedy routine. Graduation day was another interesting event. Each group had one or two members deliver a speech. They were very moving. I was upset to have finally been done with the conference, but my new friends and I promised to keep in touch.

Therefore, I would like to thank all of you once again for all of your support in allowing me to attend this exhilarating and important event. I have gained some extremely useful skills that will help me achieve my goals and propel me further in my life. Once again I thank you all, friends and family alike, for granting me the chance to become a better, more equipped person.

THE FAITH GARDEN

Our gardening project with St. Joseph's and Holy Cross churches is off to a great start. On May 16th we blessed our new garden (see pictures below). The garden has a website where we will post updates and information: www.thefaithgarden.com We are always looking for more garden volunteers, if you would like to help with our garden that will feed the hungry in our community this summer fresh veggies—let Shannan know, we'd love to have you as part of our shared mission!

Photo:

Sue Durick blessing the garden with holy water.



CONTRIBUTING ELECTRONICALLY TO WAPC

Ok, a quick show of hands – who pays their bills and does their banking on line? I know, I know you're reading this; I just wanted to get your attention.

Did you know that when paying your bills on line you can also make your contribution to WAPC that way too? It is true. If you use your bank's on-line site and pay monthly bills you can also make your contributions to WAPC that way.

It has certain advantages too:

- No catch up contributions – it insures that your contribution is made even if you miss a Sunday or two.
- Helps budgeting for both you and WAPC with an even flow of contributions
- It makes you "Greener" as you no longer use envelopes – next year we will not order envelopes for those that want to use the on-line payment method.

It's easy. Just set up WAPC in your bill paying module, key in the WAPC mailing address and schedule the payments for the frequency you prefer. (Monthly is probably best). Your bank will then send a check to WAPC for the amount.

If we get enough people participating we can also give out our banking info for a transfer of funds.

Please keep this in mind.

Thanks and peace to you all.

Garrett Hansen

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of healing for the *White and Gronlund Families*. Bruce and Gwyn Gronlund's nephew, Chad White, died in a motorcycle accident.

Prayers of healing for *George Parliman*.

Prayers of healing for *Bob Goellner*.

Prayers of healing for *Betty Lou Divin*, Fran Young's sister.

Prayers of healing for *Bob Hildebrandt*.

Prayers of healing for *Colleen Parliman* recovering from surgery.

Prayers of healing for those in *Haiti and Chile*.

Prayers of healing for *residents of the Gulf Coast and animals of the oceans*.

Harry Krausse, at home.

Mary Wirth, Frank Dell Bene's mother and Pat's grandmother.

Amanda Lake, prayers of strength and courage.

Agnes Marinelli, JoAnn Hoppe's Mother.

Frank Dell Bene, at home.

Vi Krieg, at home.

Alberta Vosburgh, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.

Helen Stagg, in Cranford Extended Care Facility.

Helen Miller, at home.

Edwin Estevez, Jr., our Seminarian.

July Birthdays

John Langan, Sr.	7-Jul
Amanda Weiss	8-Jul
Kelsey Hoppe	9-Jul
Karen Krausse Polera	9-Jul
Olivia Rose Menziuso	9-Jul
Alayna Langan	10-Jul
David Lyttle	13-Jul
Lee Taylor	13-Jul
Brooks Smith	15-Jul
Bojana Blagojevic	15-Jul
Erin Slattery	19-Jul
Shawn Watters	21-Jul
Kate Kennedy	24-Jul
George Parliman	24-Jul
Jamie Langan	27-Jul
Alexa Rocco	30-Jul
Helen Stagg	30-Jul

Worship Services & Regular Meetings

Regular Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship
10:20 a.m. Church School
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

Weekly

Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m. in Lounge
Wednesday Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.-Lounge

Monthly

1st Sunday Holy Communion
1st Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection
1st & 3rd Sunday Confirmation Class(12-1:30)
2nd Sunday Healing Service
2nd Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.
3rd Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
2nd & 4th Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.
4th Sunday Men's Breakfast
4th Monday CHATS - 7:15 p.m. in Library

WAPC Schedule of Regular Events

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Worship
10:20 am Church School
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship

Monday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
2:30 pm ASP
7:15 pm CHATS (4th Monday)
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

Tuesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)
2:30 pm ASP
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey
Parish Hall & classroom

Wednesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
10:00 am Bible Study
2:30 pm ASP
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
2:30 pm ASP
7:30 pm Bible Study

Friday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
2:30 pm ASP

Saturday Schedule

7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey
Parish Hall & classroom

Visions is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the **Summer** newsletter is: **Monday, June 21, 2010**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*
Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*
Director of Music: *Sam Chapin*
WAPC After School Program – 908-755-8202
ASP Director: *James Winston*
Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

Key Cards

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards. Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

Presbyterians slash all church expenses

March 2, 1933

Special to the New York Times

Here's a blast from the past care of the church archives! Some things never change! Take a read through this report on the General Assembly of our church from 1933, what will be our headlines in 2010 after this year's General Assembly! --Beverly Krausse

Philadelphia, March 1, 1933-In an economy drive here today the General Council of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America ordered cuts in all departmental budgets, voted a blanket salary reduction of 10 per cent for all officers and employs of the general assembly and its departments, and decided to hold the one hundred and forty-fifth annual meeting of the assembly on May 25 at Columbus, Ohio, instead of Fort Worth, Texas.

The council refused to act on a proposal to reduce the number of general assembly commissioners, of whom there are now 1,000. Instead the meeting place was changed to Columbus, which, it was said, would result in savings of \$30,000. Additional economies in the general assembly program may save another \$30,000. The per capita tax for assembly purposes was reduced from eleven to ten cents.

Reductions in the appropriation for the offices of the assembly for the fiscal year beginning April 1 total \$15,000, but savings in the church program generally, exclusive of salary cuts, was estimated at about \$163,000 for the coming year.

The salary cut, affecting employees of all departments, was the second within a year. It was understood that missionaries would be dealt with individually with respect to their salaries and that a number would be dropped.

A saving of \$80,000 will be effected through curtailment of the work of the committee on program and field activities. The committee's headquarters will be transferred from New York to this city.

It was voted also to discontinue publication of the Presbyterian magazine after the issue for June to effect a saving of about \$18,000.

J. Willison Smith of this city, chairman of the budget and finance committee, reported that the official boards of the denomination had accomplished a reduction in annual expenses of \$2,000,000 during the last two years and a reduction in annual overhead of \$600,000.

Summer Youth Group @ WAPC

YOUTH
MISSION
TRIP



June 4th, 11am-1:30pm — Preparing and delivering meals for homebound church members. We will also have lunch together.

SAVE THE DATE—DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN Summer Mini-Mission Trip

Wednesday July 14th

Serving the YMCA of
Of Plainfield, NJ

9:30am—Arrive at Church
10am—Bible Study on
Mission with Pastor Shannan
11:30-5:30pm—Lunch at
Church, Fellowship,
and preparing food
6-7:30pm—At YMCA
7:45pm—Pick up @ YMCA

Thursday July 15th

Serving the Elizabethport
Center Day Care

8:30am—Arrive at Church
9am—Depart
9:30-4pm Serving at
the Center
5pm—Return to WAPC
Sleepover Night at
WAPC: Food, fun, movie,
and rest

Friday July 16th

Serving the Somerset County
Food Bank

8am—Breakfast @ WAPC
9am—Depart
9:30-10am--Orientation
10am-2pm—Serve at Food Bank
3pm—Back at WAPC—debrief
4pm—Parents to pick up youth

Total cost of Trip is \$30/youth. Fee includes all meals, transportation, activities, and overnight at WAPC on July 15th. Scholarships are available. To register, please bring a check for \$30 to Kathleen at the church office no later than June 25, 2010.

Late August — Day trip either to the beach or an amusement park—watch for information!!!!

Questions?

Contact Elder Judy Botzan @Judy jbotzan@embarqmail.com or Pastor Shannan @ svanceocampo@yahoo.com

June 2010 Church School Activities



We've got lots of great things going on in June! Our children are leading worship on Sunday June 20th. All parents are being emailed an MP3 of "The Butterfly Song" to practice at home with your children in preparation for worship. Our youth elder, Patrick Ronk, will preach this Sunday.

Summer is just around the corner!!!! For the months of July and August, church school will have the theme of "Water in the Bible". We're looking for teachers!!!! Get in touch with Cori Peloso at coriandsteve@hotmail.com to sign up for a Sunday to teach.

Don't miss out on Vacation Bible School this summer! We are having a Green VBS with Crescent Avenue and our children are also invited to participate in St. Joseph's VBS. See info in Visions to sign up your children.

See you in church school!!!!!!

	June 6 th	June 13 th	June 20 th	June 27 th
Theme and Scripture	Luke 7: 11-17 A Second Chance with Jesus	Luke 7: 36 – 8:3 Giving Gifts to Jesus	Children Leading Worship	Galatians 5: 13-25 The Fruits of the Spirit
Younger Children	Making cards and writing prayers of forgiveness Planting seeds	Acting out and discussing scenes of helping other people—including people who no one likes	Children Leading Worship	Making fruit collages and learning about fruits of the spirit
Older Children	Making cards and writing prayers of forgiveness Planting seeds	Acting out and discussing scenes of helping other people—including people who no one likes	Children Leading Worship	Making fruit collages and learning about fruits of the spirit
Special Information	Don't forget to sign up for VBS this summer—Info in Visions!!!!	Practice after church for worship leadership next week!	Recognizing and Celebrating all our Teachers and Children	Parents: Sign up to teach summer church school. Our theme for the summer is "Water in the Bible"

Conversations about Peacemaking in Israel/Palestine



Thursday June 10th @ 7pm

Conversation with **Noushin Framke**. Noushin is a Middle-Eastern Christian & Elder in the PC(U.S.A.). She is active in committees of our General Assembly, and was part of the writing team for *Steadfast Hope*. Noushin lives in New Jersey.

Wednesday June 30th @ 7pm

Conversation with **Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb**, cofounder of Shomer Shalom and co-leader of the Community of Living Traditions at The Stony Point Center, NY; one of the conference centers of the PC (U.S.A.). Rabbi Lynn lives as part of this cooperative community in Stony Point, NY.

Sponsored by the Global Peacemaking/Mission Committee of Elizabeth Presbytery
For prayerful reflection on these issues before the 219th General Assembly

Both Events will be feature conversation and refreshments in the
Sanctuary of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

170 Watchung Avenue North Plainfield, New Jersey

RSVP to: 908-755-2781 or

wapc@verizon.net

Logo from Israel/Palestine Mission Network



+RENEW



Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

JUNE 28 - JULY 2

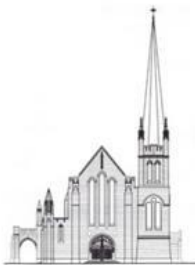
5:00PM—7:30PM

PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE

Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church and Watchung Ave Presbyterian Church invite you to be a part of the 2010 Vacation Bible School. Based on Jesus' parable of the sower, our VBS bring together Bible learning and environmental stewardship.

What better time than now to teach your Child about the wonderful gift of the world around us, given to us by God.

REGISTRATION BEFORE MAY 31 - \$25
REGISTRATION AFTER JUNE 1 - \$30
SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE!



We need your help! Volunteer to be a Teacher, Assistant, Decorator or a member of our Kitchen Crew!

Contact Barbara Martin
for Registration or to Volunteer
(908) 412-0391

CAPC ~ 518 Watchung Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060

VACATION BIBLE FUN

SPONSORED BY THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

JUNE 28 - July 2, 2010 (Monday - Friday)

9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM*

Location: St. Joseph Church/Parish Hall
41 Manning Ave, No. Plainfield

FUN

MUSIC

GAMES

FAITH

FRIENDS

(Open to children starting Kindergarten through 5th grade)

Fees: \$30 - 1 child, \$50 - 2 children, 3rd child free

Name of Child/Children: _____

Grade/Grades in Sept. 10 _____

Church/Parish: _____

T-shirt size/sizes: _____

Small Medium Large X-Large

Home Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Activity help needed - Snacks Music Crafts Games Skits - Circle one or two choices

Volunteer Name: _____ Church/Parish: _____

Contact Info: _____

Phone No.

Email address

Children Starting Grade 7 and up are welcome to sign up to help out! We need you!! Parents are welcome to volunteer also - we need you too! Volunteers will be asked to attend planning/training meetings in May. As in the public school system, the Diocese of Metuchen requires fingerprinting and background checks of all those over the age of 18 who regularly come in contact with minors. In addition, attendance at the Protecting God's Children Awareness Session is mandatory. No fees involved.

*We will only hold this program if 25 children register, and we get enough volunteers.

Questions ??? - Contact Mrs. Giannone (908) 230-0061 or maryann@sjnp.org

**REGISTRATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED UNTIL
MAY 15, 2010**

PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2010
CRISIS PLAN: STUDENT INFORMATION

Child's Name _____ Grade (Sept. 10) _____
Student's Home Phone # _____

Father's Name _____
Work or Cell Phone _____

Mother's Name _____
Work or Cell Phone _____

In case of emergency, list the name and phone number of ONE local person, other than the parent, who is authorized to pick up your child. This person must be available during VBS time.

Name _____ Phone _____

With Whom Does the Child/Children Reside?

_____ Mother & Father
_____ Mother only
_____ Father only

If a custodial agreement exists, please attach a copy to this registration form.

-----**Medical information**

The only medicine that will be allowed to be self-administered by a student is an inhaler or Epi Pen - treatments used for potentially life-threatening conditions. Please indicate if your child would require use of either of these medications? _____
Yes ____ No

If you checked yes, we will contact you in reference to filling out the necessary paperwork.

DOES YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN HAVE ANY ALLERGIES? ____Yes ____No

DOES YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN HAVE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF? Please explain.

Parent Signature

Date

*"Engaging together as a community
to build a positive, safe, nurturing environment
so that our youth of TODAY
can be the leaders of TOMORROW"*

PROJECT HOPE
Interfaith & Community Coalition
to End Violence in Plainfield

presents a forum on

Violence & Our Youth:

Addressing the Causes and Possible Solutions

THURSDAY
June 3, 2010
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

First Unitarian Society of Plainfield (Unitarian Universalist)
724 Park Ave (& 7th Street) • Plainfield NJ 07060
(Parking available across the street in the Municipal Lot)

FORUM PARTICIPANTS:
Plainfield Municipal Representatives
Educational Spokespersons for Plainfield
Grass Roots Organizations
Youth participants
and

YOU All are welcome
to participate in this
important forum.



FREE
admission
(seating limited)

Light refreshments & Entertainment

For further information contact:
First Unitarian Society of Plainfield (908) 756-0750



Celebrating over 60 years and still growing

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

*We grow the plants to help your organization grow
their funds!*

Shop at Parker Gardens between
March 15th and June 15th and
we will donate **10%** of all the proceeds directly to
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

Just in time for all your spring plantings.
Whether you're looking for annuals, perennials, trees or
shrubs, water gardens, furniture and accessories, or landscaping
service, Parker's 14 acres of greenhouses & garden center
presents the area's **largest** selection of top quality plants and
services with **expert advice** that is second to none!
Voted Top 100 Revolutionary Garden Center 5 years in a row.

**Just mention that you are from Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church at the time of sale
and we will log the sale into your organization's account. At the end of the fundraiser,
10% of the total proceeds will be forwarded to your organization.**

Parker Gardens

1325 Terrill Road Scotch Plains, NJ
(908) 322-5552

www.parkergardens.com

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.

