

VISIONS September 2010

September is upon us and for many of us that means back to reality. Summer might still officially be “in season” for a few more weeks, but September is when most of us kick back into our “normal” schedule. Of course, we are also gearing up for another great programmatic year at WAPC, filled with great offerings for spiritual growth, education, mission, and worship. There is a lot going on!!

Another year of **church school!** We have some great and fun activities to learn about God this year in church school and we’re always looking for more people to join in to help! The crib room will have even more of our littlest church members in it this year—and we’d love to have some more volunteers to help out. You don’t have to have a child who is church school age for these volunteer opportunities, just to be willing and able to serve our children and their families. See Cori Peloso during coffee hour in September to sign up!!!

The **Youth Group** has all sort of exciting things planned for this year! A renewed focus on mission in our community and beyond, intentional time every month for spiritual conversations, and the youth group will be helping with worship leadership once a month as scripture readers, call to worship leaders, etc. We are also planning for a youth mission trip in Summer 2011 with Crescent Avenue—more details to come in October!

This month we will be welcoming our **Seminary Students Henry Coates and Kori Phillips** from Princeton Seminary. Read on in this newsletter to get to know a little bit about them before they begin their ministry among us on September 19th!!!

As always, our **Adult** Bible study classes begin again this month. You can join any class you’d like, and beginners to Bible Study are always welcome! Wednesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 7pm. We also have a joint **adult education night** with St. Joseph’s this month and will be working on adding more opportunities like this during the year. Kori and Henry will also both teach a short-term adult education class this year!

Opportunities for **Fellowship** abound...Presbyterian Women is open to all women of the church, and this is a great opportunity for friendship and fellowship. We also have a picnic coming up this month for the whole congregation, a trip to the Camden Aquarium for children, youth, and families, and more activities on the way this year!

We are growing in our **mission and outreach** to our community! The Community Garden got off to a beginning start this past summer, and we are going to be retooling the garden (and finding a way to lovingly stop all groundhogs!) for 2011—this is a project that we intend to keep working on in the years to come. We continue to collect food every week for FISH, our local food pantry, and are starting to serve every month at the Plainfield YMCA mission to the homeless in our community. Mission will continue to expand this year as we get ready for our Christmas baskets and other activities!

We have so much going on at our congregation—it is amazing and exciting to see how much ministry that we are able to do and how God’s Spirit works in all of our lives. **Watchung Avenue has a great story of faithful ministry to tell, and I hope that you will take this newsletter and give it to a friend or a neighbor—tell them about what we are doing and invite them to join us!** I look forward to this next “year” of ministry together!

Peace,



Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

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219th General Assembly Updates

This summer the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met in Minneapolis, MN. As always, there were many, many things that happened at GA and decisions were made that affect all of us as Presbyterians. We have placed the GA round-up booklet on the information desk in the Mission Room at the



church for all who are interested to pick up. Below are some weblinks that you can go to get information about some of the most discussed and debated topics that came before the General Assembly this summer. The full listing of information can be found at: www.pcusa.org/ga219

There will be a full report from the Elizabeth Presbytery group that attended General Assembly at the Elizabeth Presbytery meeting on Tuesday September 28th which will be held at the United Church in Plainfield, NJ. Of course, I'm happy to talk with anyone at any time about GA and the actions that are before us. –Pastor Shannan

The Belhar Confession

<http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.pdf>

This is a proposed new Confession to be added to our Book of Confessions. It will be coming to all Presbyteries for a vote. I will be preaching a sermon series on the Confession in October.

Civil Unions and Marriage

http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/civilunion_final_FAQ.pdf

Middle East Peacemaking

http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/civilunion_final_FAQ.pdf

Ordination Standards

http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/ordstandards_final_FAQ.pdf

This new proposed language will be coming to all Presbyteries for a vote for this proposed change to the Book of Order

Same-Gender Benefits with the Board of Pensions

http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/same-gender_bop_final_faq.pdf

Form of Government

http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/FOG_final_FAQ.pdf

This new proposed language will be coming to all Presbyteries for a vote for this proposed change to the Book of Order

Middle Governing Bodies Commission

http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/MGB_final_FAQ.pdf

Response to Arizona Immigration Law

http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/AZ_immigration_FAQ.pdf

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Sept 5th: Labor Day/Christian Vocation Sunday

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Jeremiah 18: 1-11&
Luke 14: 25-33

Sermon: "Letting Go of Everything"

Sept 12th: Church School Kick-Off Sunday

Scripture: Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 &
Luke 15: 1-10

Sermon: "Celebrating the Good with the Bad"

Sept 19th: Welcome Kori Phillips & Henry Coates

Scripture: Psalm 79: 1-9 &
Luke 16: 1-13

Sermon: "Divided Loyalties and
Confused Souls"

Sept 26th: Taize Worship Service

Scripture: Psalm 91, 1 Timothy 6: 6-19 &
Luke 16: 19-31
Taize Readings-"Unfinished letter"

Sermon: Reflections on "The Way"

Welcome to Henry And Kori



Hello all, Kori and I have been asked to write up a brief introduction of ourselves to your community to let you know a bit about us. I am a New Jersey native, born in Princeton and raised in a small town called Hightstown. I studied history and religious studies at Drew University where I received a BA. From Jersey I traveled down to New Orleans for a year where I built houses with Habitat for Humanity's Katrina Relief projects. From Louisiana I headed over to Nairobi, Kenya, where I served as a Young Adult Volunteer through the PC(USA). I worked with an organization called Church World Service, and it was my job to travel around the eastern African region taking photos of and writing up fund raising letters for CWS to send back to the States to raise money to continue to work with people in need. From Africa it was back to Princeton, for I feel strongly that God is calling me to pursue the vocation of ministry.

I am very excited to serve with WAPC and under Pastor Shannan. I am excited about what God has in store for us all in this coming year. I know I have much to learn, yet at the same time I am confident that with God's help your community will help me journey forward in my walk of Faith.

Henry Coates (henry.coates@ptsem.edu)



As I begin my second year of seminary, I look forward to serving with WAPC! Your focus on mission, community outreach and ecumenical relationships among the community is exciting and I hope to learn from all of you this year as we deepen our spiritual journeys and ministries together.

I'm originally from Dayton, OH; but, as Mother Jones (a labor organizer in the 19th-20th cent.) once said, "My address is like my shoes. It travels with me." After receiving a BFA from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2005, I signed up for the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer program and served in Lima, Peru 2006-2007. Since my YAV year, I've worked, volunteered and traveled throughout the US and Latin America. From these experiences I've felt my call to ministry grow stronger, leading me to seminary, and now to your congregation.

I look forward to our time together as we learn and pray together, continually strengthening ourselves to be God's hands and feet in this world.

Kori Phillips (kori.phillips@ptsem.edu)



BIBLE STUDY

In Opening the Bible Thomas Merton said "There is, in a word, nothing comfortable about the Bible - until we manage to get so used to it that we make it comfortable for ourselves. But then we are perhaps too used to it and too at home in it. let us not be too sure we know the Bible...just because we have learned not to have problems with it. Have we perhaps learned...not to really pay attention to it? Have we ceased to question the book and be questioned by it?"

Bring your questions for thoughtful discussion to one of our Bible studies beginning the week of Labor Day and continuing through the year:

1. Wednesday, September 8, 2010 - 10:00 am in the Lounge.
2. Thursday, September 9, 2010 - 7:30 pm in the Lounge.

All are invited and your thoughts are welcomed.

CIRCLE OF JOY

Circle of Joy will met at the home of Louise Thul on Thursday, **September 9th at 7:30 PM.**

ALL CHURCH PICNIC



Where – Green Acres Park, Rockview Ave. North Plainfield

When – Sunday, September – 12th starting @ 2 PM. In case of rain, we'll meet in the Parish Hall.

What to bring – A picnic supper, including beverage for your group plus an appetizer, salad or a dessert to share. We will provide charcoal for cooking.

Bringing sports equipment, games, chairs etc. also will be appropriate and desirable.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. It will be helpful to know how many are coming.

Let's make this gathering a kick-off for the new church year.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY FALL MEETINGS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls.

Our Fall meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, Sept 14th at the home of Leslie Hansen
Tuesday, Oct 12th at the home of Fran Young
Tuesday, Nov 9th at the home of Gail Smith

All meetings are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm. We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join.

You may speak to Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

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

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All young people age 11 to 17 are invited join our WAPC Youth Group

Join us at our first meeting. Visit our newly refurbished Youth Room

September Schedule:

September 12th , 11:30 before the church picnic. Kick off meeting with Parents and Youth, 2010-2011 Calendar Presented.

September 26th Trip to Adventure Aquarium, Camden.\$20.00(12-6pm) RSVP with \$10 deposit to church office by September 12th .

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

At our September 25th PW meeting (9am in the PH) we will be collecting donations for the Resource Center of Somerset County. This year they are requesting women's and children's slippers of all different sizes. In addition, they have requested umbrellas. If you have questions, please contact Fran Young. Thank you very much.

MISSION PROJECT HELP A CHILD

School Kits are desperately needed in many parts of the world. School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. As you buy school supplies for your children this fall, please pick up a few extra items to donate.

PW will be collecting the following items to be assembled into School Kits for Church World Service:

Blunt scissors (rounded tip)
70-count spiral notebooks
30-centimeter (12") rulers
Hand-held pencil sharpeners
New pencils with erasers
Large erasers
24 count boxes of crayons

Baskets will be placed at the Sanctuary doors the first 3 Sundays in September for collection of school items. Thank you for helping a child to learn.

SAVE THE DATE

October 10, 2010—Blessing of the Pets at Noon—
Bring your furry and feathered friends!!!

SAVE THE DATE

38th Crop Walk, October 24th.

2010 Fall Dinner & A Movie Series: Parables of PIXAR.

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church announces the theme of the **2010 Fall Dinner & A Movie Series: Parables of PIXAR.** Every Sunday evening from September 26th through October 24th, join us for a light meal, the viewing of a movie, and a time of discussion. The movies (in date order) are Toy Story; Monsters, Inc.; Cars; Wall * E; and UP.

You are invited to join us at Trinity United Church, 118 King George Road, Warren, NJ for this very special event:
"The Confession of Belhar: What We Need to Know to Vote Prayerfully"

The Rev. Janet McCune Edwards, Ph.D., Co-Moderator of "More Light" Presbyterians, will be at Trinity United Church on Saturday, **September 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** for a presentation and discussion on the Belhar Confession.

The Belhar Confession has now been sent to the presbyteries and needs a 2/3 vote to move on to approval at the 2012 General Assembly for becoming the 12th document in the Book of Confessions. It is a wonderful cry from the heart of the mixed race Reformed Church in 1986 during apartheid in South Africa. One of its central themes is "Unity." Explore the very Presbyterian reasons for why this belongs in our Book of Confessions.

There is no fee to attend, but reservations are required.

Please email: theseecretary@trinityunitedchurch **by September 9, 2010 to reserve your seat.**

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!

Fair Market Gold Buyers, LLC

Fair Market Gold Buyers, LLC will be at WAPC on Saturday, October 9, 2010 - 10:00 - 3:00 as a fund raiser for Presbyterian Women in WAPC. Bring your old gold jewelry (please remove precious stones first) that day for purchase at current market price by Fair Market Gold Buyers. PW in WAPC will receive 15% of the day's proceeds to put toward upgrades in the kitchen such as new refrigerators. Check out your jewel boxes for unused, unneeded jewelry that can be changed for cash. Tell your friends so that they can come, too!

*Our Youth Needs You
To 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 Shannan,
Judy Botzan, Cori Peloso, Walter & Jennifer
Rodriguez.

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

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.

CORRECTIONS to DIRECTORY

Please make the following corrections in the Directory:

Bunnell email - jsbunnell@verizon.net.

Mullen email – Juliemullen1@verizon.net

Lake email – lakee@live.com, Tyler (Goodman)



**GreenFaith, The Green Seminary Initiative
Drew Theological School and Watchung Avenue
Presbyterian Church**

invite you to

Save the Date!

Ground for Hope-New Jersey

Environmental Education and Leadership for
Clergy, Laity, Seminarians, and Seminaries

Sunday, Nov. 14 – Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church,
N. Plainfield

Monday, Nov. 15 - Drew Theological School, Madison

- Resources for environmental leadership in faith communities
- Environmental Justice Tour
- Connect with other religious-environmental leaders

Stay tuned for information on speakers, workshops and opportunities to get involved

ADOPT A FRIEND!

Two friendly kitties are looking for homes because their owner will be getting a new apartment

and can't take them along. Please consider sharing your home with one or both of these cats:

Simon – domestic, short-haired, indoor cat, female, black and white, spayed, 7 years old.

She is a gentle, sweet cat, shy at first, has lived with cats and a dog, very good with children of all ages.

Chunk – domestic, short-haired, indoor cat, male, tabby, neutered, 7 years old. He has a nice, friendly personality, very loving, good with cats and dogs, very good with children of all ages.

These cats are very special to me, as I have been around them since they were born. We are looking for loving homes who will welcome a cat into their family. Both cats belong to my daughter (Jill), but Tim and I can't take them since we already have two cats.

If you are interested, please call Marilyn Cortright at 908-753-2859 (home) or 908-295-4754 (cell).

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!

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of healing for *Bernice Squier*, hospitalized.
Prayers of comfort for *JoAnn Hoppe*, whose mother passed away on Sunday August 29, 2010
Prayers of comfort for *Pat Dell Bene O'Mara and famil*, on the passing of Frank Dell Benne.
Prayers of healing for *Elwood Whitely*, in rehab.
Cards may be sent to his home, 54 Norwood Drive, Plainfield, NJ 07060.
Prayers of healing for *Harry & Dot Hooker*, recovering at home from a car accident. (153 Norwood Ave., North Plainfield, NJ 07060)
Prayers of comfort for *Chris and Anneli-Terry-Nelson*, whose father, a Christian aid worker, was killed in Afghanistan. Chris is a friend of Shannan's.
Prayers of strength and courage for Shannan's friend, Antonio and family, in hiding in Colombia.
Prayers of healing for *Bob Hildebrandt*, recovering at home.
Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the cessation of gun violence.
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 *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, Pat Dell Bene O'Mara's grandmother.
Amanda Lake, prayers of strength and courage.
Vi Krieg, at home.
Alberta Vosburgh, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
Helen Stagg, in Cranford Extended Care Facility.
Helen Miller, at home.
Henry Coates and Kori Phillips, Our Seminary Interns who will begin September 19th.
Edwin Estevez, Jr., our Seminarian.

October Birthdays

Ellen Lake	1-Oct
Amy Cortright	3-Oct
Nancy Krausse Rackham	5-Oct
Michael Slattery	5-Oct
Mary Anne Ronk	6-Oct
Joshua Ralston	10-Oct
Juan Gabriel Ocampo Valle	12-Oct
Shirley Ferri	13-Oct
Zamea Smith	15-Oct
Tim Young	18-Oct
Steven Smith	22-Oct
Ryan Strasko	26-Oct
Susan Langan	29-Oct

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 **October** newsletter is: **Monday, September 26, 2010**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*
Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*
Student Pastors: Henry Coates & Kori Phillips
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.

September Church School

This year we are structuring our Kids Church School program in a simple and easy format, specifically designed for different teachers to pitch in every week.

We know the kids like this format and the feedback had all been positive. We will also have a craft project one Sunday each month so be sure to check our schedule for the dates!



We do need your help – here’s how:

1. Fill out a registration form so we have your contact info and anything else we might need to know.
2. Sign up! Teach one Sunday or 2! If we get 15 people to teach twice a year, we are covered. And we love having adults who are not parents of kids teach! Just let us know!
3. If you are the parents of a post-confirmation youth who wants to help, please talk to Cori for ways to help out!
4. This years Kids Offering Mission is going to be decided on by the kids. 50% of what they offer will go to support the congregation and the other 50% will support a mission project they vote on. We did great last year – lets keep it going!!
5. Feel free to bring a friend – we have plenty of room!

Cori Peloso- Elder Church School

coriandsteve@hotmail.com

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
Scripture	Revelation 22	Luke 15: 1-10	Luke 16: 1-13	Psalms 146
Theme/Lesson for the Day	Learning about the River of Life Focus on water, life, and new life in Jesus	Finding Things that are Lost Lost and Found Games Making Sheep Decorations for our Rooms at Home	Taking Care of God’s Good Gifts Learning about Stewardship and Giving	Gifts of God A craft focused on God’s Good Gifts and being Thankful for them
Important Information	Sign-Up Day for Camden Aquarium Trip!!!	Official Kick-Off Sunday for Church School Don’t forget your offering!!!	Welcome to Kori and Henry, our Seminary Students!!	Children, Youth, and Families trip to Camden Aquarium! Don’t miss out!!!

2010-2011 Crib Room and Church School Registration and Consent Form

Children in Your Household:

Child # 1: _____ Grade in 2010-2011: _____
Known Food Allergies? _____ Special
Needs: Y/N (please explain on reverse)

Child # 2: _____ Grade in 2010-2011: _____
Known Food Allergies? _____ Special
Needs: Y/N (please explain on reverse)

Child # 3: _____ Grade in 2010-2011: _____
Known Food Allergies? _____ Special
Needs: Y/N (please explain on reverse)

Child # 4: _____ Grade in 2010-2011: _____
Known Food Allergies? _____ Special
Needs: Y/N (please explain on reverse)

Name of Mother: _____ Father: _____
Resides with? Both Father Mother Primary Language Spoken in your Home: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address of Parents: _____

*It is important to give us your email address as that is the primary mode of communication with parents as we try to keep our postage costs to the minimum.
Please let us know if you do not have an email address so that we can contact you by phone/regular postal mail.*

Emergency Contact (If for some reason we cannot get you on a Sunday morning):

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Relationship: _____

I am the parent or legal guardian of _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____,
_____ Date of Birth ____/____/____, _____ Date of Birth
____/____/____, _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____, _____

Date of Birth who is/are enrolling as a participant in church school at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church; North Plainfield, NJ. My signature below these provisions indicates that I agree with, accept, and acknowledge the information contained in this document. I understand that all Church School students are expected to follow rules of common courtesy, show respect for property and others, and must follow the instructions they are given by pastors, teachers, and staff. I understand and hereby agree that my child may be subject to dismissal from the church school program for violation of these rules. I understand a parent or guardian is normally expected to be present in the church or on the church grounds while their child is attending church school. In the event of an injury or medical emergency to my child that occurs when a parent or guardian of my child is not present at church and otherwise cannot be reached despite reasonable attempts by teachers and staff, I hereby authorize the teachers and staff of the Church School to obtain all necessary emergency treatment. I hereby authorize the attending physician to administer any emergency treatment which is deemed necessary. I acknowledge that I am responsible for any charges incurred in the treatment of my child. I also acknowledge that the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church is not responsible for any medical bills incurred for any medical treatment provided to my child while in attendance at church school. In the consideration of the benefits to be derived by enrollment in the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church school, I hereby release and hold harmless the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, its officers, employees, volunteers, or agents, and any medical treatment personnel or facilities selected, from any and all liability or damages which may result from the participant's voluntary enrollment in the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church's church school.

Parents/Guardians Signature: _____ and _____
Date: _____

I authorize Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church; North Plainfield, NJ to photograph/video my child(ren) for in church use including publicity about Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church (newsletters, brochures, print articles, website). It is the policy of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church to notify you if/when your child's photograph will be used that will allow for opt outs by situation as well. Y/N

If you have any further medical/behavioral concerns or other restrictions pertaining to your child, please put them in writing and speak to the Pastor or Church School Elder. Thank you.

Changing the wind

McLaren: movements and institutions need each other

by [Jerry L. Van Marter](#)
Presbyterian News Service

MONTREAT, N.C. — Institutions and movements — secular and religious — need each other to retain their vitality, even as they frustrate each other, cutting-edge theologian Brain McLaren told several hundred Presbyterians gathered here last week for "[Church Unbound](#)."

The annual "Church Unbound" conference, now in its third year, is billed as "*for lay leaders, clergy, commissioned lay pastors, seminary students, and all who wish to take part in fashioning a new vision for the church.*"

"Institutions are organizations which seek to conserve the gains made by past social movements," McLaren, a Washington, D.C. are pastor told the conference, which is co-sponsored by the Montreat Conference Center and The Presbyterian Outlook. "Social movements, on the other hand, are organizations which seek to call current institutions to make progress toward new gains."

Movements — he cited the civil rights struggle in the U.S., the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, and the Protestant Reformation as examples — and institutions "are frustrated with each other," McLaren said, but they need each other. "Otherwise," he said, "institutions stagnate and movements evaporate."

And movements, he added, "either inject their values into the institutions they challenge or they create new institutions."

Throughout history, churches and movements have reacted to each other in different ways, McLaren said. For instance, the Catholic Church, being inclusive, "has found a way to keep its movements within the institution, but has figured out how to neuter them. Protestants, on the other hand, being protestors at heart, when a conflict arises or a movement arises, just create a new institution."

Where one resides in the tension between conservation and progress depends very much on one's place within the society or institution, McLaren added. "There's a great difference between being at the bottom and seeking liberation or being at the top and seeking the preservation of power."

Citing several biblical examples, McLaren insisted that salvation as Jesus saw it "is about power structures and economics as much as it is about personal transformation. Part of our struggle ... is overcoming false dichotomy between 'social gospel' and 'personal spirituality/piety.'"

Since the enlightenment, the "secular zone" of life where there's no perceived spiritual dimension has steadily expanded, McLaren charged. "We must rediscover the presence of Spirit in all of life. Do we believe the God we worship is the God that liberates slaves and sanctions the powers that be? If we believe God is active on the side of liberation of slaves, then you don't have those intermediate zones where spirituality doesn't exist. God is imminent in every struggle."

Turning to the church, McLaren said "unbinding the church is a very different thing than church growth. The church as an instrument of social power and control is very different than the church as an instrument of transformation of individuals, communities and power structures."

Mainline churches seem obsessed with institutional survival, McLaren said. The same occurs in government, he added, where the argument goes that Washington can be changed by electing new congresspersons. But as Sojourners founder Jim Wallis has said: when we elect new people, they soon proceed to act just like the ones they replaced — "following the way the wind's blowing."

The solution, McLaren said, again citing Wallis: "We're just going to have to change the wind."

The Rev. Adan Mairena, a Philadelphia pastor, said that as pastor and as a Latino, he's "thought of this before. We have to be movements within the institution. I get mad at mad at the church and I get mad at myself. But at least we're talking about it," he said. "It comes with remaining in the institution."

Joslyn Shipman, an African-American student at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Va., agreed. "I get so mad at the institution, but I feel deeply called to be a movement within the institution. I struggle to be part of both," she said. "There's always a sense of being on the outside looking in, but I feel hope because I can be more a part of the new thing that is happening."

The Rev. David Jahnke, a pastor in Fanwood, N.J., says the Reformed tradition – "reformed and always reforming" – gives him hope. "I don't want to sweep the rug out from under people, but we must bring something new and fresh that will speak to people out there who have not yet responded to the gospel. The institution always resists, but it must reform."

Press Release

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

[Parsons to join Office of Public Witness in webinar on general assembly issues](#)

Contact:

Annette Greer, (202) 543-1126

Stated Clerk Grady Parsons will join the staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness (OPW) for a webinar on Thursday, September 16 from 11:15 a.m. until noon. The webinar will present the public policy-related Overtures approved by the 2010 General Assembly. The webinars periodically conducted by the Office of Public Witness provide an opportunity for Presbyterians at the local level to learn about and share in the development of priorities for the office and the larger church. The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Director of the OPW, has invited representatives of local congregations and presbyteries to participate in the webinar through their computers. Log-in information will be released on August 23rd.

In addition to Dr. Nelson and Dr. Parsons, other presenters will be Catherine Gordon, Representative for International Issues, and Leslie Woods, Representative for Domestic and Environmental Issues in the PC(USA) Washington office. Each of them will discuss the Overtures approved in their areas of expertise, responding to questions from the audience and describing how the Overtures relate to initiatives likely to be considered in the current Congress and the upcoming session of Congress (2011-2012), which will convene in January.

Webinar Link

https://www2.gotomeeting.com/en_US/island/webinar/registration.tmpl?Action=rgoto&sf=2

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Youth & Children's Committee

Summer is almost over....But the Youth Group is setting up their first activity for the 2010 / 2011 calendar year.

Date: Sunday, September 26, 2010

Place: Adventure Aquarium, Camden NJ

Hours: 12:00 to 6:00PM

Price: \$20.00

RSVP: Please RSVP (with \$10 deposit) by September 12, 2010, to church office.

A minimum of 5 people needed for the trip to take place.



Adult Education Evening—Mini Road-Trip!!!

Monday September 27th

The Road to Peace: The Wisdom of Gospel Nonviolence from Jesus to Henri Nouwen

We'll be joining up with adults from St. Joseph's in North Plainfield to travel together to Drew Seminary in Madison, NJ to hear John Dear speak at 7:30pm. The group will be co-led by Father George Farrell and Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo. It is our hope that this will be a night for our two churches to have time of fellowship with each other as we reflect together on our shared Christian journey and what peacemaking today means for us.



It is a real treat to have John Dear nearby (since he lives in New Mexico). He is a Jesuit priest who has been active for many years in the peacemaking and nonviolence movement in the United States, is former Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and served after 9/11 as a Chaplain at Ground Zero. His website is www.johndear.org

We will gather together in the parking lot of St. Joseph's (Watchung and Jackson Avenues in North Plainfield) to carpool to Drew Seminary, enjoying a light dinner together on the way. **We will depart at 5:30pm.** You can also meet us at Drew Seminary if you prefer not to carpool with the group.

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday September 22nd to let us know if you will be able to attend and if you are able to help drive. The cost of dinner will be no more than \$20/person. The lecture at Drew Seminary is free. Bring a friend and join us!!!

Peace,
Pastor Shannan and Father George



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
September 1st and December 30th and
we will donate **10%** of all the proceeds directly to
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Just in time for all your fall plantings.

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service, Parker's 14 acres of greenhouses & garden center
presents the area's **largest** selection of top quality plants and
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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.

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Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.

PeaceWorks' 58th Nicaragua Aid Shipment



“open the sky over this country so
flooded in tears”

**Join Our 58th Leap of Faith
10 AM — 4 PM**

Saturday, October 2

**United Presbyterian Church,
525 East Front St., Plainfield,
NJ**



Our Journey of Sharing And Friendship

Our work in Nicaragua began during the 1980's and continues with hopes and dreams inspired by the sacrifice and example of our partners in Nicaragua. We are fortunate to work with Nicaraguan non-governmental organizations that translate our good intentions and assistance into life affirming services and projects. Our aid not only helps people rebuild their lives and communities, it sustains a people's hope

*— a lullaby for a country so flooded in tears — as beckoned by Nicaraguan poet Gioconda Belli. Here are some glimpses of how our Nicaraguan partners put our aid to work, how we organize our aid collections in New Jersey, and how you can take part in fun, sweat, and sharing. **A Leap of Faith.** Each shipment begins with a leap of faith that we will collect enough aid to fill a 45 foot cargo container, that we will raise the \$10,000 to pay overall shipment expenses, and that the aid will get to our friends in Nicaragua. The folks in the picture above (volunteers from the 7th and 8th grade youth*

group at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship) are packing materials at May 8th's shipment at United Presbyterian Church, part of the effort that starts with people clearing out their closets, students gathering school supplies, and ambulance corps workers collecting crutches and walkers; ending with the aid keeping children in school or playing ball, allowing young women to leave glue sniffing and exploitation for independent lives and brighter futures, enabling Nicaraguans to rebuild their communities and livelihoods, sharing hope and sustenance.

Our aid affirms life and community, bringing life to hopes, to dreams, to futures. *of people, sweat, strategy, and energy go into the loading of* **Our Nicaraguan Partner Organizations. Masaya Without Frontiers** distributes its aid throughout Masaya and puts our desks, file cabinets, typewriters, computer systems, sporting goods, and more to work in their offices, technical school and other programs. **Inhijambia** works with Managua's street children, putting our aid to work on the streets providing clothing and hygiene supplies to the kids; in their offices training youths on donated sewing machines and computers; in their independent living sites offering young people the household supplies with which to start a new life — their staff is fearless, the kids' stories heartbreaking, the results inspiring — utilizing every scrap of aid donated by so many.

The Masaya Women's Collective and **Axayacatl Masaya** use school supplies for literacy sessions, give our tools to women involved in projects to enable women to grow food for their families, for self-sufficiency and independence, while bicycles enable literacy trainers to reach rural communities and help women market their goods. **FEDICAMP**, puts our garden tools and other supplies to work re-greening Nicaragua, protecting watersheds, planting organic gardens, fostering an integrated, community agriculture of life, sustaining their network of eleven community organizations in the draught-plagued north.

PeaceWorks, 6 Dumont Place 2nd Floor, Morristown, NJ 07960 • (973) 765-9102 • peaceworks@peaceworks.org • www.peaceworks.org

School Supplies

Help fight illiteracy and make education accessible by sending school supplies — notebooks, pens and pencils, crayons, paper, rulers, colored pencils, scissors, water color paints, and more. Scour your home and ask your neighbors for unused supplies. Look for sales at office supply stores. Gather materials at yard sales. In the picture to the left, a young boy writes “*I want to change my life.*” in an Inhijambia literacy class for huelepagea's or glue-sniffing young people to help restore them to a secure, safe, and productive place in society.

Sewing Supplies

Collect sewing machines, fabric and supplies. This young woman is using a sewing machine

sent in one of our aid shipments for an Inhijambia training program, building life and job skills.

Garden & Household Tools

F E D I C A M P, works to re-green northern Nicaragua. **C o l l e c t r a k e s**, shovels, pitch forks, and other garden tools to help them **p l a n t l i v i n g**, working forests and organic gardens. FEDICAMP loved this wheel barrow and could use many more. Donation of household tools are encouraged also. The women's collectives also promote farming for food security.

Guidelines on Packing Aid Supplies

We take steps to help avoid the theft of our aid supplies while in Nicaraguan customs. So use generic boxes or boxes that do not indicate that valuable items might be inside. Do not write down the contents on the boxes — attach an inventory. Try not to mix items such as tools with school supplies. Pack boxes tightly. Put clothing in small plastic bags — we pack them between the nooks and crannies to better utilize space.

General Aid Supplies

air conditioners and fans,
household and kitchen items,
summer & fall clothing, toys

Office Supplies & Equipment

file cabinets, folders, paper, pens

Medical Supplies

vitamins, aspirin, first aid items,
wheelchairs, crutches, walkers

Computers

Our Nicaraguan partners use computers in their programs and offices. This photo shows Inhijambia's computer classroom. **Please donate Pentium IV's or newer.** Send only complete computer systems in good working order — no old monitors — flat screens are better.

Help On The Loading Day

P l e a s e c o m e t o t h e U n i t e d P r e s b y t e r i a n Church in Plainfield on October 2 to help us pack boxes, stuff bags of clothing, and load the cargo container. We need volunteers to work from 10 in the morning into the evening. If you know of a church or scout group, bring them to help. United Presbyterian provides us with the space to work and rest, snacks and plenty of coffee. It is a wonderful day to accompany so many people

working so hard, all asking the same question — will we be able to get all of the stuff into the cargo container/ Call Jim Burchell at (973) 765-9102 to let us know you are coming.

Visit www.peaceworks.org to learn more details on how to help collect, pack, label, and load.

Bring On the Bikes

We will accept bicycles in good condition — please, no rusty relics.

Instruments to Keep Music Alive

Collect guitars, **a c c o r d i o n s**, drums, trumpets, any instrument you can strum, blow into, or bang upon for community music groups struggling to give young people a chance to create and continue Nicaragua's rich musical tradition. Breathe new life into seldom used or never played musical instruments by sharing them with others who are eager to perform.

Sports Equipment

Nicaraguans love baseball, to put it lightly. Soccer is preferred in some areas. Basketball is played on many **s t r e e t c o r n e r s**. **V o l l e y b a l l** is enjoyed by many. The desire is there — for people of all ages, for girls and boys, women and men — but they often lack the basic supplies. Think of all the unused sports supplies throw away by community sports leagues and by school athletic programs. Think of all the bats, balls, gloves, and other equipment collecting dust in people's garages, closet's, and basements. Well, go out and gather them, putting them to good use. *The boy in the picture above is using a stick for a baseball bat — let's send him and many others real bats, balls, gloves, and more for the joy of sports.*

PeaceWorks, 6 Dumont Place 2nd Floor, Morristown, NJ 07960 • (973) 765-9102 • peaceworks@peaceworks.org • www.peaceworks.org

For all church organizations/Friends of WAPC

We are currently setting calendar dates for the coming year and want to give you the opportunity to schedule your events now.

Please list below all the dates from now until June 2011 that you/your organization will request use of space at WAPC and return the sheet to the church office before the end of July.

WAPC members/organizations will be given first consideration. All other requests will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis.

Be aware that a new application is in use for those who are not members of WAPC.

We are happy to be able to offer use of our facilities to you.

Church Usage

Name of Organization _____

Contact Person _____ phone # _____

Month (s)/Day(s) Requested _____ Times _____

_____ Times _____

_____ Times _____

_____ Times _____

Room(s) Requested _____

Please return this form to the WAPC office by September 15, 2010.

WAPC Activities and Events—September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am—Bible Study	2 7pm—Bible Study	3 7:30pm – Craft Group	4
5 Worship—10am Communion	6 Labor Day— Church Office Closed	7	8 10am—Bible Study	9 7pm—Bible Study	10 7:30pm - Craft Group	11
12 Worship—10am 11am—Youth Group meeting 2pm—Church Picnic	13 First Day of ASP and HeadStart	14	15 10am—Bible Study	16 Evening at Plainfield YMCA—Homeless Ministry 7pm—Bible Study	17 7:30pm - Craft Group	18 10am—Presentation on Behlar Confession, Trinity Church—Warren, NJ
19 Worship—10am Welcome to Kori and Henry!!! 1-6pm—Session Retreat	20 7:30pm—Trustees Meeting	21	22 10am—Bible Study	23 7pm—Bible Study	24 7:30pm - Craft Group	25 PW Meeting 9am in the Parish Hall.
26 Worship—10am noon—Youth and Children’s Trip to Camden Aquarium	27 5:30pm—John Dear Event at Drew Seminary 7pm--CHATS	28 4-9pm—Presbytery Meeting, United Church—Plainfield,	29 10am—Bible Study	30 7pm—Bible Study		