

ARMSS

Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors

Quarterly Newsletter

April, 2008

Volume 13, Issue 2

MEET US IN INDIANAPOLIS!

Ella Banton, Convention Chair

I am excited about our conference, June 12 -15, 2008! Steve Crane, director of the Westminster Neighborhood Ministries assures me that he is also excited that we will be having lunch at their facility on Friday, the 13th. It is the day for the children in their summer program to be on a field trip but Steve will be able to share with us the extent of their year round ministry.

We will NOT miss out on their children, however. Some of their small groups are scheduled to provide entertainment for the banquet on Saturday evening. I understand that there is dance and music.

Friday afternoon will also offer the opportunity to visit one of the premier Children's Museums in the country. Children of all ages find things of interest there. Among the items mentioned on their



Radisson Hotel North, Indianapolis, Indiana

web site are *Fireworks of Glass* (a permanent display of blown glass), *All Aboard!* (takes you back to the age of steam), *Space Quest Planetarium*, and *Carousel Wishes and Dreams* (don't forget to ride it)! There is also a large shopping center near the museum or if you wish you can simply return to the hotel to rest.

We have some great leaders coming to speak with us on the subject of PEACE. We are meeting in a vibrant city in the heart of America's farmland. Please register NOW and enjoy what may be a new location for many of you. It really is the home to a lot more than the INDY 500!

Inside This Issue

Meet Us in Indianapolis	1
Message from the President of ARMSS	2
2008 ARMSS Convention Workshops	3-4
We Need Your Help	4
ARMSS - Cuba Focus	4
Why It is Great to be a Member of ARMSS	4
Convention Registration	5
Membership Application & Pledge Form	6
Two Service Opportunities	7
Contributions	7
A Prayer for a Fresh Start	8

ARMSS Quarterly Newsletter

This Newsletter is distributed quarterly by the Association of Retired Ministers,
Their Spouses or Survivors.

For more information contact:

James Reese, President
139 Willow Brook Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Email: j.f.reese@worldnet.att.net
or
Ginny Nyhuis, Support Staff
124 S. 2nd St.
Oostburg, WI 53070
Email: gnyhuis@verizon.net



A Message From the President of ARMSS

James F. Reese

A Coming Together

It is great when a plan comes together!

On June 12-15, 2008, the 12th Annual Convention of the Association of Retired Ministers, the Spouses or Survivors meets in Indianapolis, Indiana. Two great interests, desires, destinations, journeys will come together.

The theme of the convention, *Peace: A Dream and a Possibility* has the attention of the church in every generation.

It is in the promise of God

(Leviticus 26:6)

“...I will grant peace in the land, and you shall lie down and no one shall make you afraid.”

It is in the words of Jesus

(Matthew 5:9)

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

It is in the words that Paul spoke in the cities of Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Rome, and Philippi

“peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

It is in the opening words of Revelation (Revelations 4:3)

“...peace from him who is and who is to come...”

The biblical call for peace is in nearly every book and many,

many, many chapters.

Throughout our denomination the concern for peacemaking is so strong and necessary that it has survived every restructure!

We will have speakers, workshops, small groups and worship to make peacemaking a possibility.

The other part of our plan that comes together is the choice of our meeting city: Indianapolis. Physically it is just about as close as you can get to being a central city of the USA and often thought of as “the crossroad of America.” Three interstate highways go through and around the city. Inside the city are museums, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indiana State Capitol, Library and State House, Soldiers and Sailors Monument, NCAA Hall of Champions and Eli Lilly and Company.

A central theme of peace in a central city named Indianapolis.

You can come to Indianapolis and enlarge your vision of peace, receive inspiration for your activities, and become a better peacemaker in the family, church, community, USA and the world.

You will not have to do this alone. There will be 50-100 other persons exploring, learning and sharing with you.

Add to the above the words of persons who came last year and found it a time for:

“meeting old friends, making new ones”

“making friends and taking

home new ideas”

“conferences always refresh, rejuvenate and inspire”

And the evaluation response, “next year’s peace theme has real possibility.”

In the central city of Indianapolis the central theme of peace will move from a possibility to a reality.

Join us!

James Foster Reese

“We have attended seven ARMSS Conventions over the years and have looked forward to each one. It is an occasion to enjoy friends we have made from all over the country and to have our minds stretched by keynote speakers on various topics of importance to our faith. We encourage you to consider attending this years convention in Indianapolis on the topic of "peace" which is of special importance to times in which we live today.”

Alyce and Bill Gannaway
ARMSS Members

Due to a generous gift from an anonymous donor, we are able to waive the \$100 registration fee for eleven **newly appointed** ARMSS Presbytery or Synod Representatives, and ARMSS Presbytery Representatives who are attending the ARMSS Convention for the **first time**. This offer will be honored on a first-come first-served basis, so be sure to register early!

2008 ARMSS Convention Workshops

Peacemaking: The Journey Continues - This workshop provides an opportunity for conversations about peacemaking ministries within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). How is the church on all levels responding to God's call in Christ to "seek peace and pursue it?" Participants will have the opportunity to share their peacemaking concerns and efforts.



Rev. W. Mark Koenig serves as the Coordinator for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Presbyterian

Church (U.S.A.). He preaches, provides workshops on public policy advocacy and various issues related to peace and justice, writes and edits publications and resources for the program, and provides the content for the program's web page.

Mark has served as the Peacemaking Program's Associate for Resources and Education. Prior to joining the Peacemaking Program staff, he served as the Associate for Antiracism Training. He remains involved with antiracism ministry on behalf of the Peacemaking Program. He has served on the staff of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, working in the areas of hunger, peacemaking and justice and has been co-pastor of churches in Iowa and Ohio.

What Should We Do About Immigration? In this workshop we will discover and discuss information every American citizen

should know about the current immigration system in the US and its effects on the church. We will look at the role of the church in the current immigration debate and discuss ways as Christians and Presbyterians we should respond to the current immigration situation in our day and time.

Julia Thorne is Manager for Immigration Issues, for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This office is located in Constitutional Services in the Office of the General Assembly. It is her privilege to resource and advise presbyteries and churches regarding immigration law and other immigration issues. This Office also works with presbyteries, churches and interfaith partners on education on immigration issues that effect our churches and our nation and advocacy for the reform of current immigration policies, procedures and laws in accordance with General Assembly policy. Since graduating from college, Julia has worked with people from all over the world as a Foreign Student Advisor, College Instructor, Campus Minister and Private Immigration Attorney.



Volunteering from A to Z - Have you ever thought about being a volunteer in missions but didn't know how to begin? where you may be needed the most? what the opportunity may require? Come and learn the answers to these questions and more.

Nancy Cavalcante has been responsible for volunteer recruit-

ment while serving the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in her position as Associate for National Volunteers. Nancy has recently accepted a new role in which she is in charge of all recruitment for mission within the PC(U.S.A.). Nancy brings her years of experience to help explain the A-Z steps involved in becoming a volunteer in mission.

Christians and Muslims in the Middle East: Engaged Critically in the Dialogue of Life - In this workshop Samuel Rizk will speak about interfaith relations between Muslims and Christians in the Middle East, giving examples from Egypt, Lebanon and other countries. Sam will engage with the participants in the workshop about the quality of these relations and the processes of dialogue that are reflected in these relations, their status and their future in light of the current tensions in the region.

Samuel Rizk is currently in his second year of PhD studies at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University (VA). He is a graduate of Hanover College in Indiana and has been a member of Presbyterian peacemaking teams multiple times. He is currently on academic leave from his position as the Executive Director of the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD) - an NGO in Beirut which he helped establish, and which focuses on community empowerment, conflict resolution, and interfaith dia-



(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

logue. Previously, he worked with the Middle East Council of Churches as program officer for the Justice, Peace and Human Rights program, and as Assistant to the General Secretary for International Linkage.

We Need Your Help

Your ARMSS Executive Committee plans the annual convention and some other activities in accordance with our perception of what should be done. At the same time we officers recognize there may be other functions we ought to develop. In order to learn of any such ideas we are conducting a survey to discover insights, desires, and suggestions from all who could be ARMSS members - retired ministers and their spouses or survivors - and other retired church workers.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the survey (also available on "the net") which we urge you to fill out and submit to us. It will guide and help us in our efforts to serve our vast constituency.

Thank you!

Ray Bayley, Strategic Planning Committee Chair.

ARMSS-Cuba Focus

by Dean Lewis

Many, many thanks to ARMSS members for their generous response to the appeal to support the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba. Your contributions through ARMSS to the Presbyterian Cuba Connection totaled a bit more than \$1000 at

the end of 2007. More has come in since then, I'm told. Members can still contribute by a check to ARMSS designated for Cuba Focus.

We are planning for some good Cuba emphasis at the Indianapolis Convention in June. We hope to have a video message from the Rev. Daniel Izquierdo, Moderator of the PRCC, with special greetings for ARMSS. There will also be an opportunity for a volunteer breakout group on developments in Cuba and the Church there and plans for the ARMSS visit next year.

The big news is that the Cuban Church has given us the go-ahead for another ARMSS visit in early 2009, probably in late January or early February. We will have detailed information on dates, cost and registration in Indianapolis.

Ask those who went in November 2006 - this is a great spiritual experience and a marvelous mission opportunity!

In other news, our dear friend Ofelia Ortega, Past-Rector of the Matanzas Seminary and Co-President of the World Council of Churches, was elected to the Cuban National Assembly in February. She has been invited to spend the month of August at Ghost Ranch and in visits to a number of partners in the USA. Moderator Daniel Izquierdo has been invited to participate in the San José General Assembly. Pray that the US visas for both these leaders will be approved.

Why It Is Great to Be a Member of ARMSS

by Lois Siegel

I have ...

- ... renewed friendships from the past
- ... made many new friends from across the country
- ... been able to tackle retiree issues with others
- ... been able to give myself new directions for my life
- ... put into action old and new ideas with others of like thinking
- ... enjoyed sharing with others
- ... realized I am not alone - there are more out there just like me - a clergy wife whose husband is semi-retired
- ... seen places I've never been to before and consider conventions as part of our vacation
- ... had the privilege to work with great people with many varied experiences from all over the country and the world, and
- ... as your treasurer been able to share with the larger church.

As the saying goes "make new friends and keep the old, one is silver and the other gold." Yes, I have struck it rich as a member of ARMSS!!!

Write and tell us what ARMSS means to you.

12TH ANNUAL ARMSS CONVENTION

PEACE: A Dream and A Possibility

Schedule at a Glance

(subject to change)

Thursday, June 12

Registration (1:00 - 5:00 p.m.)
 Opening of Convention (7:00 p.m.)
 Worship Service

Friday, June 13

Breakfast, Presbytery Reps Meet
 Morning Worship
 Keynote Speaker: Rev. Mark Koenig
 Q & A

Presbyterian Foundation Luncheon
 Tour Indianapolis missions

Light Dinner & Cuba Connection Presentation

Saturday, June 14

Breakfast, Presbytery Reps Meet
 Morning Worship
 Keynote Speaker: Ms. Julia Thorne
 Q & A

ARMSS Business Meeting
 Presbyterian BOP Luncheon
 Workshops
 Banquet

Sunday, June 15

Worship and Communion
 Closing of Convention (10:30 a.m.)

REGISTER EARLY TO RECEIVE THE REGISTRATION DISCOUNT!

****Please copy & complete one per person attending**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP:** _____

Presbytery: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

*****Registration Fee includes all meals
& tour of Indianapolis mission**

Presbytery Rep first-timer (fee waived for first 11)

Early Registration Fee **\$125**

Registration received after May 16 **\$150**

Ck No:_____ **Date:**_____ **Amount:**_____

Please Mail To:
 ARMSS
 PO Box 700311
 Oostburg, WI 53070

Workshop Selection

Friday, June 13: During Breakfast

Presbytery Representatives Meeting

Saturday, June 14: During Breakfast

Presbytery Representatives Meeting (continued)

Saturday, June 14: Afternoon Workshop 1

- 1. Peacemaking: The Journey Continues - presenter Mark Koenig
- 2. What Should We Do About Immigration? - presenter Julia Thorne
- 3. Volunteering from A to Z - presenter Nancy Cavalcante
- 4. Christians and Muslims in the Middle East - presenter Samuel Rizk

Saturday, June 13: Afternoon Workshop 2

- 1. Peacemaking: The Journey Continues - presenter Mark Koenig
- 2. What Should We Do About Immigration? - presenter Julia Thorne
- 3. Volunteering from A to Z - presenter Nancy Cavalcante
- 4. Christians and Muslims in the Middle East - presenter Samuel Rizk

Transportation: Call Carey Limousine at 800-888-4639 to make your own travel arrangements from the airport.

Make your hotel reservations by calling Radisson Hotel North at 1-800-333-3333. Mention ARMSS to receive discounted rate of \$99 per night. Hotel reservations must be made by **May 16** to receive reduced rate.

ARMSS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND PLEDGE FORM

Use this form to pay your membership fess for 2008, and to make extra contributions to the work of ARMSS. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and can be given for continuing the general mission of ARMSS, or can be designated to go to the Cuba Connection or the John Rhea fund. Interest from the John Rhea fund is used annually to award scholarships for attendance to the ARMSS Convention.

Dues of \$20 per person (\$40 per couple) are for the 2008 calendar year \$ _____

Pledge for continuing the mission of ARMSS (Tax Deductible) \$ _____

Current Mission Project: Cuba Connection (Tax Deductible) \$ _____

John Rhea Fund (Tax Deductible) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please Print when completing the following information:

Name of Minister _____ Spouse _____ Survivor _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone numbers (home, work, cell) _____

E-mail address _____

Presbytery where you hold membership _____ Presbytery where you currently reside _____

Synod where you hold membership _____ Synod where you currently reside _____

Please make checks payable to ARMSS and mail to:

Lois Siegel, Treasurer
37 Aspen Road
Latham, NY 12110

Two Service Opportunities

The Nominating Committee and ARMSS will have before us the choosing of two positions when we meet in Indianapolis.

We will be nominating and voting on the position of treasurer. The treasurer who had been chosen has declined the position because of health issues. Our prayers and concerns are extended to him.

The second position will be new. "If the way be

clear" we will create a new position - Governing Body Relations. This person will be ARMSS primary contact person with presbyteries and synods.

Persons who are interested should let it be known to Naomi Adamson, chair of the Nominating Committee, or members Robert Lucas, William Johnson, or William Clark.

Your service will be greatly appreciated and needed.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are grateful for the contributions which we have received in support of ARMSS.
It is your gifts that supports our broad ministry.

The following persons contributed in support of ARMSS since publishing the last newsletter:

Gregory & Edna Armstrong	Patricia Homes Guy	Rhoda Nixon
William & Ellen Bender	Robert & Joann Hanson	Frank & Jane Penick
Frank Brown	Frederick & Elizabeth Horbach	Clarence Reaser
William & Nancy Brown	Madeline Jervis	James & Neola Reese
James & Mary Chesnutt	Robert & Audrey Jewett	Ervin & Andrea Roorda
Edward Costello	Gordon & Bonita Johnson	Beverly Rowling
Bruce & Carolyn Dobb	Adele McKee	John Snyder
Robert & Rebecca Dodson	John Miller, Sr.	Richard & Patricia Streeter
Elva Douthat	Richard & Eloise Mills	Elwin & Diane Vanderland
George & Donna Erickson	Dorothy Malcolm	Howard Wallace
Phil Esty	Elizabeth Marvin	Shirley Wooden
Robert & Marlene Forsythe	Richard McConnell	Floyd Wynn
Kathleen Stetler Fulton	Lila Miller	Paul & Joyce Yutzy

THANK YOU!

For your generous assistance.

NOTE: If we have failed to recognize you as a contributor for this quarter, please contact Ginny Nyhuis at: gnyhuis@verizon.net or: 615-426-1545.

Your support is vital to our program. Please **mark your check ARMSS** and send contributions to:

Lois Siegel, Treasurer
37 Aspen Road
Latham, NY 12110

A PRAYER FOR A FRESH START

Since everyday is a new beginning, please consider
Tommy Newberry's "A Prayer for a Fresh Start"
(from Newberry's book *The 4:8 Principle*).

Dear heavenly Father,

Thank you for new beginnings!

Infuse me today with a fresh dose of your Holy Spirit,
and fill me with thoughts that strengthen my character and cause me to grow fully
into the image you intended for me when you brought me into this world.

Help me to preoccupy my mind with thoughts of you,
with thoughts that are pure, true, lovely, and worthy of praise.

Heighten my awareness so that my thinking doesn't unconsciously drift
into the negative, limiting, and counterproductive patterns that snare so many.

Protect me from the temptations to complain, condemn, or focus on what's wrong with things.

Instead, elevate my thinking and open my eyes so that I see your presence in all situations.

I want to appreciate the abundance that surrounds me and activate the joy that is hidden within me,

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Return Service Requested

Association of Retired Ministers,
Their Spouses or Survivors
PO Box 700311
Oostburg, WI 53070

ARMS
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

PRSRRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 990