

Resource Connections

August 2005

Dear Resource Center Friends:

As I sit in worship, plenary sessions, and workshops soaking up the Montreat experience, I find myself thinking of you. I hope your summer has been a good one.

I have been extraordinarily busy: a class in Human Development (with Rodger Nishioka and Kathy Dawson), meeting with the Synod of the Trinity Resource Center Network, the Transformation and Multicultural Church Conference in New York, and here at Montreat for the Annual Christian Education Conference. There are two more “in town” events in August to round out my summer!

Busy, but it has also been challenging and fulfilling! I am certain the experiences and learnings will be flavoring my life for some time to come.

Many of you are on the Resource Center list, so you did get some basic information from us about the *We Believe* Workshop, a “rotation workshop®” style curriculum. If you have not yet received information about this from Candace or myself (we first sent it out after APCE in that famous mailing), please call or write me. I will get you the information we sent out.

We are working on more specific information about this as well. Keep your eyes on the look out.

We have been doing some serious discussion about the Resource Center Web site. We will be working on updating it more regularly and putting some resources on it.

My work in the Human Development Class will result in another resource for the Web site, as will a PowerPoint I have been working on for Resource Centers to promote themselves across their presbyteries. You will be able to take what we have created and update it with your own information.

I ask you to pray for the Resource Centers. Several centers are in transition, some directors are leaving, new ones are starting, and there is a lot more coming up. Pray for one another and for resourcing in the church.

This brings me to something I want to pass along from the Transformation and Multicultural Church Conference. Rodger Nishioka was the Bible study leader (wonderful!), and he had an observation that I would like to pass along:

Rodger was wondering how the church would be able to appeal to all the young adults he has been meeting. How do we get them in the church? Then he had a revelation . . . we go to them.

As I reflected on this, it struck me that all too often in the church we have ignored Jesus’ command to go out into the world. We have waited in our

churches, Resource Centers, presbyteries, wherever, for people to come to us. We built it and expected the people to come, instead of going out into the world.

How is God calling us to go into the world? How are we called to spread the good news of God's amazing love in Christ Jesus?

Are you going out into the world? Don't stay at home waiting for the followers of Christ to find you, or for mysterious visitors. Go out to the people! Take your knowledge and expertise and share it with the world!

God be with each and every one of you.

Michael

CURRICULUM

Professing Our Faith: A Confirmation Curriculum. Enclosed is one Teacher's Book, one 35-session Student's Notebook, and one 8-session Student's Notebook. The new *We Believe* Confirmation Curriculum seeks to provide youth with a foundational understanding of our faith, tradition, and Presbyterian practices. It is one of the younger youth survey courses. The curriculum is designed with two formats, 35-week and 8-week. It is built around the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer, and imitates the learning model of *The Study Catechism*. The *Leader's Pack* (623007) includes one teacher's book, two student notebooks (one each of the 8-session, and 35-session books), one set of 12 confirmation certificates, and one

copy of *The Study Catechism* (Leader's Pack \$89.95). PDS: 623008, *Teacher's Book*, \$65.00; 623009, *Student's Notebook* (35 sessions), \$8.50; 623010, *Student's Notebook* (8 sessions), \$3.50; 2005; CMD: CMP.

Children Sing the Faith. We Believe CD for Year 3. This CD is part of the curriculum subscription box, but coming to you now. Songs were chosen and written so that they follow the themes and biblical stories of the third year of *We Believe*. PDS: 631002; \$16.75; 2005; CMD: CMP.

Our Faith, God's Faithfulness. We Believe Adult Quarterly. The goal of the fall quarter is to discover a variety of images of God and to ascertain the ways in which God remains faithful to the covenant people in the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament). The study begins by looking at a variety of metaphors used to describe God in the book of Psalms. It then moves through selected stories about God and the people whom God chose to hold in covenant relationship. PDS: 631702; \$19.99; 2005; CMD: CMP.

DENOMINATIONAL RESOURCES

Book of Order 2005–07 with Church History Bookmarks. This official document of the PC(USA) sets forth the form of government, rules of discipline, instructions for worship, work of the church, and rules of parliamentary procedure. Updated biannually to reflect the amendments enacted by the General Assembly. Included is a set of 10 church history bookmarks. PDS: 070017; \$7.50; 2005; CMD: CMP.

HUNGER

Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table. This seven-session study for congregational discussion groups explores the links between the way we eat and the way we live. Skillfully weaving scripture, prayer, and stories from our local and global community, the study explores four key aspects of our relationship with food: the health of our bodies, the challenge of hunger, the health of the earth that provides our food, the ways we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships. *Just Eating?* was written by Jennifer Halteman Schrock and is a collaboration between Advocate Health Care, Church World Service, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. PDS: #74-365-05-361, *Participant Guide*, \$4.00; #74-365-05-362, *Leader's Guide*, \$5.50; 2005; WMD: PHP.

MISSION

Embracing God's World . . . Again, Second Edition Flyer. Introducing the revised resource *Embracing God's World: Involving the Congregation in Mission*. This handbook provides a framework and practical suggestions for Presbyterians to engage in mission today. Available October 2005. PDS: #70-612-05-922; \$8.50; 2005; CMD: CMP/Mission Education & Promotion.

Highlights, Spring/Summer 2005. Here is a general interest publication about the work and ministry of Worldwide Ministries Division. PDS: #74-950-05-001; free; 2005; WMD.

Salt of the Earth: Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank.

A Documentary Film. Living as religious minorities in turbulent times, nine Palestinian Christians share their faith, hopes, and challenges in this series of nine documentary short films. This promotional copy contains two of these short films. Accompanying study guides for Sunday schools, Bible studies, and small groups are available for download at www.saltfilms.net. Additional information on ordering and *Salt of the Earth: Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank* is now available for purchase! It is currently available in DVD, in Arabic with English subtitles. The cost is \$19.95 plus shipping. It can only be ordered through the Web site.

The Wall: Study Guide for Salt of the Earth: Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank. Further copies and information are available from Marthame Sanders at SaltFilms, www.saltfilms.net.

RACIAL ETHNIC

In the Heart of Worship, CD and DVD set. Here is the new CD from the African Heritage Presbyterian Association of Musicians. The CD features wonderful light jazz arrangements of several favorites: "Calvary," "There Is a Balm in Gilead," "Blessed Assurance," and others. A DVD on the making of the CD is also included in this set. PDS: #70-250-04-051, \$16.00; 2005; CMD: African American Leader Development.

Periscope 4: African American Presbyterians—Living into the 21st Century. Readers of *Periscope 4* will have an opportunity to learn about the African American Presbyterian Church and to deepen their commitment and

appreciation for prophetic ministry as they follow persons and programs that are devoutly dedicated to Jesus Christ and the work and witness of African American Presbyterians and 197 years of ministry, 1807–2004. *PDS: #72-420-04-001, \$4.00; 2005; NMD: Black Congregational Enhancement.*

Spirituality and Leadership for the Health, Vitality, and Growth of African American Congregations. *Spirituality and Leadership* is designed for experienced congregational leaders who hunger for a deeper spirituality and desire to be used by God to lead African American churches into greater health, vitality, and growth in spirituality, mission, ministry, and membership. *PDS: #72420-05, free; 2005; NMD: Black Congregational Enhancement.*

RESEARCH SERVICES

Comparative Statistics 2004. This annual publication summarizes information on the membership, ministers, and finances of the denomination, and shows changes over time. See how your presbytery compares to others in membership, growth, and contributions. The 2004 edition includes an introductory article by Andy Sale titled “The State of Religion in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2004.” *PDS: #65-100-05-028, \$5.00; 2005; GAC: Research Services.*

Presbyterian Panel Report: Stewardship, Finances, and Allocation of Resources. This report summarizes findings from a Presbyterian Panel survey of Presbyterian members, elders, and ministers about stewardship and financial issues. Learn about

Presbyterians’ views on stewardship, their trust in congregational and denominational financial decisions, and their reasons for giving to their churches. *PDS: #65-100-03-278, \$5.00; 2005; GAC: Research Services.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE

PHEWA 2nd Quarter 2005 Newsletter. Look inside for news and information about the Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association and other related justice issues. For more information about PHEWA go to www.pcusa.org/phewa.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Leadership Plus. “Top 10 Things You Should Know about Our Seminaries” is a Leadership Plus newsletter that unfolds into a poster for posting in congregations. The narrative text explains important information about theological education in the PC(USA) generally and about our seminaries, plus an appeal to congregations to provide annual support to the Theological Education Fund. For more information or copies contact Rosemary McCutcheon, email rmccutch@ctr.pcusa.org or call, (888) 728-7228 ext. 5359.

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

Letter from the Advisory Committee for Women’s Concerns.

Well Chosen Words. *Well Chosen Words* is a new guide developed by Women’s Ministries, National Ministries

Division, in collaboration with the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC). This resource is an easy way for people to deepen their understanding of the images of God found in our scripture, creeds, and theological traditions. It also provides easy reference to inclusive language used for the people of God. **(2 copies included)**. PDS: #72-839-05-003, free; 2005; NMD: ACWC.

Definitions and Guidelines on Inclusive Language. This booklet contains the report and recommendations from the General Assembly on Inclusive Language. PDS: #70-420-01-003, \$1.25; 2005; NMD: ACWC.

Tending the Flame: Women Called to Lead. This is a flyer about the regional event celebrating women's ordination and leadership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Contact information is provided in the letter and flyer.

Thank Offering Packet. The Presbyterian Women are providing Resource Centers with the Thank Offering Packet so that we have the information needed by chapters and individuals. Further copies are available from www.pcusa.org/pw/mission/thank.

OTHER RESOURCES

Visual Parables Brochure. *Visual Parables* is the monthly journal joining movie, theater, and video store with the church sanctuary, classroom, and home. This letter and brochure offer Resource Centers the opportunity for a reduced subscription to *Visual Parables*. Edward McNulty, the author of *Praying the Movies: Daily Meditations from Classic*

Films, is the editor. For more information check the brochure.

A Renewed Spirituality: Finding Fresh Paths at Midlife, Lynne M. Baab. The Rev. Baab, associate pastor at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Seattle, addresses mid-life as a task that requires new patterns of living. Her book explores six spiritual disciplines for the second half of life, bringing a fresh sense of joy and renewal for the years yet to come. *InterVarsity Press*, www.ivpress.com; \$13.00; 2005 CMD: Resource Center Services.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Your Curriculum Standing Order was sent several weeks ago. If you have not gotten yours, we may need to track it down.

POINT people were mailed their fall curriculum just a week or two ago. It was not sent to Resource Center subscribers.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 9–12

**Western Regions Conference—
APCE/AUCE**
Zephyr Point Conference Center,
Zephyr Point, Nevada

October 25–27

**Mid-South Association of Christian
Educators & Resource Centers
Annual Event, Changing the Lens:
Looking at Missional Education**
Pinecrest Conference Center,
Memphis, TN

October 25–27

**Lifelong Learning-Christian
Education for Adults—Great Lakes
Region APCE**, with Dr. George Brown,
Jr. Geneva Center, Rochester, Indiana.
For more information contact Susan
Goe, thegoes@juno.com.

January 31–February 1, 2006

**Annual POINT/Resource Center
Training**—Renaissance Grand Hotel,
St. Louis, Missouri

February 1–4

**Down to the River,
APCE Annual Event 2006**
Renaissance Grand Hotel,
St. Louis, Missouri

HOW TO REACH US:

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