

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
PCCConnect Email Newsletter
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This newsletter is sent to all congregational contact persons and others interested in the latest church news and information. This newsletter may be printed, photocopied and distributed.

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JUSTICE MINISTRIES

REMEMBERING DECEMBER 18, INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT'S DAY

There are nearly 200 million migrants in the world. Thousands of migrants live and work in Canadian communities. December 18th is International Migrants' Day. On this day in 1990 the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. This date may be observed by learning about migrants and their rights. A factsheet may be downloaded from http://www.presbyterian.ca/files/webfm/ourresources/internationalministries/justice/internationalaffairs/iac_migration_sheet.pdf

Additional Information is available from Katharine Masterton, Program Coordinator, at 1-800-619-7301 ext 250 or by email at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca

SIMPLIFYING OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Too often we get so caught up in the bustle and stress of preparing for Christmas, that the time for renewal and reflection is lost among the many items on our seasonal "to to" list. The Justice Ministries Newsletter for Winter 2008-2009 has many ideas of ways to simplify our Christmas celebrations, and focus on family, friends, and birth of our Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace. This resource is now available online at http://www.presbyterian.ca/webfm_send/2447

HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SEED FUNDING APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 31 & APRIL 30, 2009

Seed funding is available to help church groups (youth groups; WMS groups; mission committees, presbyteries and many others) wishing to build relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The next deadline for seed funding application submissions is January 31, 2009. The spring deadline is April 30, 2009. Application forms and project criteria can be found on the Healing and Reconciliation website at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/ministry/justice/healing>. The Healing and Reconciliation Program Animator, Lori Ransom, welcomes opportunities to discuss your project ideas. She can be reached at 1-800-619-7301 ext 283 or by email at lransom@presbyterian.ca.

LOOKING FOR HEALING AND RECONCILIATION VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in learning how to make connections with First Nation communities or First Nation, Inuit and Metis peoples living in urban centres? Justice Ministries is looking for individuals with a passion to contribute to healing and reconciliation in Canada. We offer training to support people who wish to volunteer to lead work locally. Contact Lori Ransom, Healing and Reconciliation Program Animator, at lransom@presbyterian.ca or 1-800-619-7301, ext.283 for more information.

RE-ENERGIZE YOUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY DURING EARTH HOUR (MARCH 28, 2009)

Climate change is one expression of how our dependence on oil and gas harms people and the environment. There are more just and sustainable energy practices. There are practical steps we can take in our homes and in our churches to reduce our ecological footprints. Earth Hour is a global initiative and an opportunity to focus on responsible stewardship of God's creation. Worship and educational resources are available from www.re-energize.org or Justice Ministries.

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR YEAR 2 OF THE PEACE AND HUMAN SECURITY INTERNSHIP WITH PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and Project Ploughshares invite applications for the second year of the Peace and Human Security Internship with Project Ploughshares in Waterloo, Ontario. The second year of the internship will run from September 2009 to April 2010. A stipend will be provided to the intern. Applicants must be members or adherents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and have completed a post-secondary degree in political science, international studies or a related discipline. This program has been made possible through undesignated bequest gifts to The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Project Ploughshares is an ecumenical agency of the Canadian Council of Churches and implements the churches' call to be peacemakers and to work for a world in which justice will flourish and peace abound. Contact Katharine Masterton, Program Coordinator, for details.

PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

PWS&D CHRISTMAS CARDS GOING FAST

Hurry now to purchase PWS&D Christmas Cards! These sharp new cards feature images from development projects overseas. All proceeds will support ongoing work to combat poverty, hunger and inequality around the world. For \$20, you will receive a package of 15 cards. Orders can be placed through the Book Room. To view copies of the cards, visit <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/resources/cards>

URGENT APPEAL FOR AID CONGO

PWS&D has issued an appeal to provide emergency relief in the Democratic Republic of Congo after renewed violence in the eastern part of the country forced over 250,000 people to flee their homes. Over 55,000 people are in need of safe and clean water, seeds and tools, nutritional support, psychosocial healing, and other essential supplies. To learn more or make a donation, visit www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

ATTENTION KOREAN CONGREGATIONS: KOREAN ADVENT LITURGIES NOW AVAILABLE!

The 2008 Advent liturgies have been translated into Korean! There is a liturgy for each Sunday of Advent along with a story about the work of PWS&D on the back. They have been designed to use around the lighting of the Advent candles and follow the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. To download copies and print, visit <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/resources/worship/liturgies>

EXPERIENCE MISSION IN MALAWI: VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Check out PWS&D's YouTube channel featuring videos from the brand new "Experience Mission in Malawi" DVD. The videos showcase the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Church of Central Africa, and how Presbyterians are responding to the AIDS pandemic in Malawi. Watch some videos now at <http://www.youtube.com/presbyworldservice>

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INTERNSHIPS

Are you an international development studies at a college or university in Canada and interested in an overseas internship? Find out more information at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/opportunities>

THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DOCTOR OF DIVINITY DEGREE

To download Guidelines and Nomination forms for nominations for Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, go to www.presbyteriancollege.ca.
Deadline for nominations: January 9, 2009.

PROGRAMME OF CONTINUING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Programme of Continuing Theological Education will be held February 16 – 20, 2009.
Go to www.presbyteriancollege.ca for details and to download registration form.

STEWARDSHIP & EDUCATION FOR MISSION

REMINDER: GIFTS OF CHANGE CATALOGUES AVAILABLE FREE-OF-CHARGE FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

The *Gifts of Change* catalogue helps individuals give meaningful gifts for Christmas by supporting our Presbyterian partners in Canada and around the world. This colourful 8-page booklet easily fits into Sunday bulletins. Order one for each member of your congregation. Free of charge! Available from the Book Room.

Projects may be viewed and gifts may be given online at www.presbyterian.ca/donate/giftsofchange.

STUDY TOURS ANNOUNCED FOR 2009

Study tours with The PCC are *open to anyone* including youth over 18. Clergy are encouraged to consider taking study leave to participate. Students could consider making this part of their summer plans.

Winnipeg – Guatemala: Healing and Reconciliation Study Tour

July 5th – 19th, 2009

Cost: \$2500

How can a country work toward truth and reconciliation? Learn how Canadian Presbyterian missions like Winnipeg Inner City Missions are working to build community. Then travel to

Guatemala to learn how partners of Presbyterian World Service & Development are building communities and people after decades of civil unrest. How do faith, spirituality and organizations combat poverty in indigenous communities in Canada and Guatemala? An excellent opportunity to explore some of the most important issues of our time.

Download an application at www.presbyterian.ca/experiencemission/trips

Montreal - Arizona/Mexico: Migration and Belonging Study Tour

November 6-14, 2009

Cost: \$1900

Learn about the unique challenges faced by refugee claimants and recent immigrants across the continent. First visit Action Refugees Montreal, to learn from a refugee ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Then travel as a group to the Mexico/Arizona border to learn about migration and belonging along another important border of our continent. A wonderful opportunity to learn firsthand from people affected by these important ministries.

Download an application at www.presbyterian.ca/experiencemission/trips

THE VINE HELPLINE

TLC (TEACHER LEADER COURSE), JAN. 24, 2009

TLC (Teacher Leader Course), Jan. 24, 2009, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church, Wilson Avenue, Toronto. Twelve engaging, interactive workshop in topics about children and teen ages and stages, music, Bible study, storytelling, the sacraments, Christian ritual and many more.

Cost is \$10. Register by email: jenniferdonnelly@gmail.com; or 416-485-4000.

LOOKING FOR A NEW AND INTERESTING STAND-BY THIS WINTER?

Want to help your congregation walk through the Bible?

Do some of your congregation enjoy on-line learning?

Log on to the *Bible Background* course, part of *Opening Doors to Discipleship*.

Developed by a team of Canadian Presbyterians, this ecumenical course is easy to use and free. To obtain a password call The Presbyterian Church office at 866-642-2830.

EXCELLENT YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING

Princeton, New Jersey

April 27-30, 2009

Interactive courses provide new insights on youth ministry within a complex church, ideas for icebreakers, ways to study theology with youth, relevant Bible study.

Fees are \$370. Contact Princeton at jym@ptsem.edu; 609-497-7914.

Lay bursaries are available from The Presbyterian Church in Canada covering 1/3 the combined cost of travel, tuition and accommodation.

CREATIVE CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY FUND

If you are dreaming of new, creative ministry with children and youth, consider applying to this new Fund.

Priority is given for projects that are new, are innovative and creative, express the Good News of the Gospel to both church and un-churched children and youth, are an articulated and support ministry of the congregation or ministry, encourage the building of solid family life and help youth grow as Christ's disciples.

Need more information? Contact *The vine*; thevinehelpline@presbyterian.ca or call 1-866-642-2830.

CONCILIATION SERVICES CANADA'S SUMMER TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR CHURCH LEADERS 2009

Conciliation Services Canada's 17th Annual Summer Training Institute for Church Leaders will be held 16-18 June 2009 at Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, ON. The topic is "Creating Disciple-making Communities: Congregational and Personal Transformation Go Together". The facilitator is Rev. Dr. Ed White, a long time Alban Institute Consultant.

For a PDF brochure with more information, contact Nan Cressman, Director, Conciliation Services Canada, at 519-742-2280 or leave a message at 1-866-782-0287 (toll free); nancressman@sympatico.ca or cressman@soonet.ca.

Funding for this event is available through the Bursary Fund for Lay Training. Download an application form at www.presbyterian.ca/laybursary.

MINISTRY AND CHURCH VOCATIONS

INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR NEW COLLEAGUE COVENANT GROUPS

Helping ministers, diaconal ministers and lay ministers create supportive, prayerful networks of peers for themselves. See brochures in November PCPak for details. Grant application forms are posted on-line at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online/203>

WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES

You are invited to read that latest edition of Women's Perspectives at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online/3843>. A publication that strives to keep women in touch with each other and share their theological perspectives, biblical insights, special interests, joys and concerns with the whole church. To join our free subscription list send an email to slang@presbyterian.ca with the subject line 'Subscribe Women's Perspectives.'

PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY

PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY SPONSORS ON-LINE READING GROUP

**Reading
Calvin's Institutes
in 2009**

Join the conversation at
www.presbyterian.ca/calvinstudygroup

"Calvin absolutely dazzled me...One of the great gifts I have received from Calvin is the idea of experience as encounter. ...It floods life in general with meaning, moment to moment, and it clears away that old, persistent distinction between sacred and secular...This seems right to me, and wonderful."

-- Marilynne Robinson, author of *Gilead*

2009 is the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. Love him or hate him, Calvin remains one of the most influential thinkers of the last millennium. His writings, such as *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, continue to impact our world. Remarkably accessible, *The Institutes* can be understood by those new to Calvin and can give fresh insight to those who have read *The Institutes* before.

Each month we will read and discuss on-line a section of Calvin's *Institutes*. Participants can post their thoughts and comments if they wish or simply read other people's comments. Individuals can join the conversation at any point during the year. Participants do not need to be part of the conversation for the whole year – join in as you are able to do so. This conversation is sponsored by *Presbyterian History*.

The conversation begins January 2009 with Book 1, Chap. 1-6 of *The Institutes*.

Read – Reflect – Respond

Join the conversation at www.presbyterian.ca/calvinstudygroup

COMMUNICATIONS

YOUR NEWS AND EVENTS

The PCC website at presbyterian.ca is a great way to get the word out about news and events in your congregation. Anniversary services, spaghetti suppers, inductions, ordinations - details can be sent to pccweb@presbyterian.ca for inclusion in the news and events section of the website.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE DENOMINATION

One of the new features of the website is the Snapshots section of the home page. This large photo area is intended to provide an opportunity to share photos of people and church building from across the denomination. Photos can be submitted to pccweb@presbyterian.ca.

BEING PRESBYTERIAN BLOG

The PCC now has an official blog at www.beingpresbyterian.ca. The Being Presbyterian Blog seeks to illustrate what it means to be a Presbyterian in Canada today. By simply entering your email address in the box provided, you receive updates directly to your inbox.