

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
PCConnect 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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COMMUNICATIONS

HELP US TELL YOUR STORY TO THE PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY!

Does your church have a story to tell? Share the stories of your church's ministry with the Presbyterian community by submitting news and events to the Communications Office. We can then disseminate the information through our various channels. No event is too small or news too insignificant – if it's relevant to you, it's relevant to the community.

Stories can be submitted by email to pccweb@presbyterian.ca or via a web form at www.presbyterian.ca/communications#submit .

BEINGPRESBYTERIAN BLOG

The BeingPresbyterian Blog was launched in late 2008 as a more informal way for the Associate Secretary, Communications, Colin Carmichael to communicate with the Presbyterian community. The blog seeks to answer the question, "What does it mean to be a Presbyterian in Canada today."

You are invited to visit the blog at www.BeingPresbyterian.ca. You can subscribe to daily email updates from the blog by submitting a simple form on the home page.

More authors will be added to the blog's roster throughout 2009. If you are interested in contributing to the blog, either regularly or just once, please contact Colin Carmichael at ccarmichael@presbyterian.ca.

JUSTICE MINISTRIES

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. We can take practical steps in our homes and in our churches to reduce our ecological footprints. Earth Hour (March 28, 2009) is a global initiative and an opportunity to focus on responsible stewardship of God's creation. Earth Hour worship resources are available at www.presbyterian.ca/earthhour09. Contact Program Coordinator, Katharine Masterton at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca for additional resources and to let us know about your involvement in Earth Hour!

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 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.

TRAINING 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 will offer a training session on February 24 and 25, 2009 to support those who wish to volunteer to lead work locally. Assistance is provided to cover travel and accommodation expenses to attend the training. Other training opportunities will be available for those who express an interest but cannot make the February dates. Contact The Healing and Reconciliation Program Animator, Lori Ransom for more information.

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. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2009. Internship qualifications and procedures are outlined on the application form. This program is made possible through undesignated bequest gifts to The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Contact Program Coordinator, Katharine Masterton at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca for more information or view the internship announcement online at http://www.presbyterian.ca/webfm_send/2484

BECOMING A MORE INCLUSIVE CHURCH: *LEADERSHIP IN A DIVERSE AND CHANGING WORLD* WORKSHOP WITH ERIC LAW

Knox College's Centre for Asian-Canadian Theology & Ministry, Continuing Education and Justice Ministries is pleased to announce the *Leadership in a Diverse and Changing World* workshop with Eric Law. Eric Law is an ordained Episcopalian priest who works with churches in Canada and the U.S. striving to become more inclusive communities. Law has published a number of books including: 1) Sacred Acts, Holy Change: Faithful Diversity & Practical Transformation; 2) The Bush Was Blazing But Not Consumed; 3) The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community.

This workshop will be held at Knox College in Toronto, Ontario on May 25-26, 2009. Participants from all racial, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds are welcome. The workshop will be conducted in English. Registration is limited. The registration fee (before April 14, 2009) is \$75.00. This does not include your travel and overnight accommodation. For more information about registration and accommodation please contact Knox College Continuing Education: Susan Sheridan at 416-946-8536 or Asian Center: Kyung Kuk Han at 416-978-0371. Additional information may be found online at www.utoronto.ca/knox/pages/Asian_Centre/cross_cultures2009.htm

PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

THE NEW "PWS&D SPOTLIGHT" E-NEWSLETTER

Now you can stay informed of all the latest developments at PWS&D. From current resources, to program updates and other news, don't miss out on our monthly updates. Sign up at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd>

GAZA APPEAL: BULLETIN INSTERTS AVAILABLE

Gaza is experiencing a humanitarian crisis. Local people are facing a severe scarcity of food, fuel, medicine, electricity and running water. Your donations will help to provide desperately needed emergency assistance. Make a donation online, mail them to the office, give through your church or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291. Please mark donations "Gaza Relief." To download a bulletin insert, order them from the office or read updates on Gaza, please visit <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/appeals/gaza>

PWS&D NATIONAL ADVOCATES NETWORK: THE *COMMUNITY CONNECTION*

PWS&D is excited to announce the formation of a new national network – the *Community Connection* – that will link Canadian Presbyterians interested in taking initiative to promote and support PWS&D in their local churches. Your congregation deserves to know how Presbyterians are making a difference to people in need around the world! If you, or someone you know, might be interested in joining the *Community Connection* and becoming a PWS&D Advocate, call our office today at 1-800-619-7301 x293 for more information. Don't get left behind!

LENT LITURGIES AVAILABLE

With Advent just behind us, Lent is fast approaching. The Reverend Philip Wilson wrote a liturgy for each Sunday in Lent, and there is a story about the work of PWS&D on the back. They are available to order from the bookroom by calling 1-800-619-7301, or download them from our website <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/resources/worship/liturgies>

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK – FEBRUARY 1-7, 2009

The Canadian International Development Agency and PWS&D invite you to celebrate the 19th annual International Development Week from February 1-7, 2009. Try organizing a display, film screening or meeting to teach others about how Canadian Presbyterians are fighting poverty, reading the latest PWS&D newsletter or initiating a new fundraiser for PWS&D. For assistance with materials and ideas, call 1-800-619-7301 x293.

THE VINE HELPLINE

GREAT JUNE CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY

Creating Disciple Making Communities: Congregational and Personal Transformation Go Together
Presenter: Dr. Ed White, a long time Alban Institute Consultant
17th annual Summer Training Institute for Church Leaders
Sponsored by Conciliation Services, Canada
Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON
June 16-18, 2008
Tuition fee: \$450 if registration happens prior to May 15, 09
Meals available for extra cost.
Need more information? E-mail Nan Cressman, cressman@soonet.ca
Or call *The Vine*, at the Presbyterian church offices, 866-642-2830.

DOES YOUR CONGREGATION NEED A BRAILLE HYMNBOOK?

The national office has had a request to supply a Braille hymnal.

We would like to hear from your congregation so we can anticipate how many hymnals might be needed in our denomination. Please respond with requests or questions to thevine@presbyterian.ca or call *The Vine* at 866-642-2830.

EXCELLENT STUDY MATERIAL

The Thoughtful Christian continues to produce excellent Christian education resources for adults and youth.

New this month:

A six-week Lenten study, *Gospel Portraits of Jesus*.

Valentine's Day Youth Study

Ash Wednesday Youth Study

The Thoughtful Christian is an online resource centre of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

www.TheThoughtfulChristian.com

WONDERFUL CONFERENCE ON CHILD/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Helping Canadian Kids thrive!

May 7-8, 2009

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON

Many conferences focus on youth problems that need to be "fixed." This conference, based on 40 assets, an initiative of the *Search Institute*, focuses on churches, schools, social agencies and health providers working together in strength-based programs. Canadian Tori Smit, diaconal minister at Knox, Guelph, will present a workshop at this conference.

More information: www.thrivecanada.ca

pat@thrivecanada.ca

519-725-1170 x108

800-265-2680.

MINISTRY AND CHURCH VOCATIONS

THE CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND FOR PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS

For professional church workers to help them increase their effectiveness for ministerial service.

When a professional church worker has used up their continuing education allowance from the congregation this fund can help. Often used to help off-set the cost of continuing education events, conferences and D.Min. programs. Applications can be found online:

<http://www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online> by searching 'continuing education.' Further inquiries about this or other opportunities for continuing education can be directed to Program Manager, Jeffrey Crawford, jcrawford@presbyterian.ca

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 2008 PCPak for details. Grant application forms are posted on-line at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online/203>

EVANGEL HALL

Recently Evangel Hall Mission (ehm) has opened a dental and medical clinic. On Friday, February 13th ehm will be holding its first gala fundraising dinner, "Compassionate Hearts 2009" at the Old Mill and proceeds will support this new health and dental clinic. Please visit ehm's website for more information and to order tickets. If you're looking for Valentine's plans, look no further!
<http://www.evangelhall.ca/comphearth.php>

LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY

EXECUTIVE POSITION WITHIN THE LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through the Life and Mission Agency, is inviting applications for the executive position of Associate Secretary, The Vine at the national office in Toronto. The Associate Secretary will actively assist congregations find and use resources helpful to their ministries, looking at and producing new resources in renewal and revitalization. A complete position description is available on the webpage at www.presbyterian.ca/vinerearch

The deadline for receiving applications is
FRIDAY, MAY 1ST, 2009

Applications should be submitted to:
The General Secretary,
Life and Mission Agency
50 Wynford Dr
Toronto ON M3C 1J7
Email: rfee@presbyterian.ca