

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**  
**PCCConnect Email Newsletter**  
**March, 2009 – Issue 99**

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**

### **PCCONNECT-TV IS COMING SOON!**

The Communications Office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada is preparing to hit the big screen – the one in your sanctuary!

The new weekly video news show, PCCConnect-TV, will debut April 10<sup>th</sup>. The show will be about five minutes long and is intended to be broadcast in your sanctuaries or church halls – or viewed online at home.

We will feature news, events and announcements from across the Presbyterian community. If you want your congregation featured, please send your news to: [pconnect@presbyterian.ca](mailto:pconnect@presbyterian.ca).

### **THE PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK IS GROWING!**

The Presbyterian Community on social networking website Facebook continues to grow at a breathless pace. The main PCC Facebook group has grown from about 200 to over 400 members in February alone. To join yourself, you can find the group here: [www.presbyterian.ca/facebook-group](http://www.presbyterian.ca/facebook-group)

### **100<sup>th</sup> EDITION OF PCCONNECT E-NEWSLETTER**

Next month will be the 100<sup>th</sup> edition of this email newsletter. The Communications Office is taking the opportunity to launch the “new & improved” PCCConnect family. This email newsletter will become known as “PCCConnect E-News” and will join the PCCConnect Daily @ Presbyterian.ca, PCCConnect-TV and the PCCConnect-Pak (PC-Pak).

The PCCConnect family is designed to bring as much content to as many people as possible by offering a variety of formats and schedules. Your feedback is essential to our success! Please let us know how we’re doing at [communications@presbyterian.ca](mailto:communications@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 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](http://www.presbyterian.ca/earthhour09). Contact Program Coordinator, Katharine Masterton at [kmasterton@presbyterian.ca](mailto:kmasterton@presbyterian.ca) for additional resources and to let us know about your involvement in Earth Hour!

### **LAST CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 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. Information is online at: [www.presbyterian.ca/webfm\\_send/2484](http://www.presbyterian.ca/webfm_send/2484)

For additional information please contact Program Coordinator, Katharine Masterton at [kmasterton@presbyterian.ca](mailto:kmasterton@presbyterian.ca) or 1-800-619-7301 ext. 250.

#### CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION ON EARTH DAY (APRIL 22, 2009)

"God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good..." (Genesis 1:10) April 22, 2009 is Earth Day. Celebrate the gifts of creation, with thanksgiving to God the Creator. Here are some ideas:

- **Remember in prayer** our responsibility to be wise stewards of creation.
- **Host a 100 mile meal**, and give thanks for the fruits of creation, and the people who made possible its cultivation (online resource: <http://www.re-energize.org/En/pdfs/100MileChurchPicnic.pdf>).
- **Lead a bible study**. The PCC Lenten resource "Joining the Dance: Lenten Reflections about Sabbath and the Stewardship of Creation" is available online: [http://www.presbyterian.ca/webfm\\_send/204](http://www.presbyterian.ca/webfm_send/204).
- **Take a carbon sabbath**. Challenge yourself to identify one way to reduce your carbon footprint once a week. Leave your car at home for a day, and walk, take the bus or arrange to car pool to your daily activities. Program Coordinator, Katharine Masterton would be delighted to speak with your church group or congregation about the Carbon Sabbath Initiative. Please contact her at [kmasterton@presbyterian.ca](mailto:kmasterton@presbyterian.ca) or 1-800-619-7301 ext. 250.

#### HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SEED FUNDING APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 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](mailto:lransom@presbyterian.ca).

#### HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SUNDAY MAY 24, 2009

Take time out, at least once, between Healing and Reconciliation Sunday (May 24, 2009) and Aboriginal Day Sunday (June 21, 2009) to reflect on the place of Aboriginal people in Canada, the need for healing of relationships and building bridges of understanding in our communities. Healing and Reconciliation bulletin inserts are available for free from The Bookroom (1-800-619-7301 or [bookroom@presbyterian.ca](mailto:bookroom@presbyterian.ca)). A liturgical resource may be downloaded from [www.presbyterian.ca/node/2078](http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/2078). Lori Ransom, Healing and Reconciliation Program Animator, welcomes the opportunity to speak with you. She may be reached at [lransom@presbyterian.ca](mailto:lransom@presbyterian.ca) or by phone at 1-800-619-7301 ext 283.

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 are 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. Eric 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. Financial travel assistance is available, on a cost-sharing basis, to assist the participation of individuals from outside the Greater Toronto Area. Please contact Program Coordinator, Katharine Masterton for information about travel assistance. She may be reached at [kmasterton@presbyterian.ca](mailto:kmasterton@presbyterian.ca) or 1-800-619-7301 ext 250. Additional information may be found online at [www.utoronto.ca/knox/pages/Asian\\_Centre/cross\\_cultures2009.htm](http://www.utoronto.ca/knox/pages/Asian_Centre/cross_cultures2009.htm)

#### AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE URGENT ACTION NETWORK

Presbyterians were encouraged to respond to several urgent actions in 2008. Here are two examples:

- Justice Ministries invited members of the church to contact the Government of Canada asking the Government to become a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The CCM prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions. It was a cause for celebration when, on December 3, 2008, Canada became one of ninety-four signatories to the Convention.
- The Moderator of the Presbytery of Pickering wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs expressing the Presbytery's concern about the atrocities being committed against women and children in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Presbytery offered a prophetic voice for peace in the DRC.

Responding to urgent action requests offers a prophetic voice to Government to assist vulnerable people, especially in unstable situations. Please join us (contact Program Coordinator, Katharine Masterton at [kmasterton@presbyterian.ca](mailto:kmasterton@presbyterian.ca) or 1-800-619-7301 ext. 250).

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#### **PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT**

##### SHINING THE LIGHT ON PWS&D

Don't forget to sign up for the PWS&D Spotlight, our new e-newsletter! The first edition has already gone out, containing exciting information on the latest developments at PWS&D. Read February's issue and sign up at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd>

"I HAVE GOT MY POEM"

Florence Shawa, a young leader from a small village in northern Malawi recites her original poem, entitled "Good education is the key to poverty reduction." She speaks of the positive results her and her family received as part of a PWS&D-supported program in her area. Hear Florence recite her poem at

<http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/florence>

PWS&D NEEDS YOU! JOIN 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!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – MARCH 6, 2009

Let us join together in the effort to build a world where there is enough for all by praying for PWS&D's partners and the people they serve. Let us also give thanks for the amazing results that have been achieved to reduce poverty and injustice around the world. See how Canadian Presbyterians are making a difference through PWS&D and our partners at

<http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/>

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## **THE VINE HELPLINE**

*CHILDREN AND WORSHIP* INTERNATIONAL TRAINING EVENT

Western Theological Seminary, Holland Michigan

June 16-18

Tuition: \$295

Register online at <http://journey.westernsem.edu>

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## **CANADA YOUTH 2009**

REGISTER NOW!

### **Canada Youth 2009**

**July 20-25, 2009 – Brock University, St. Catharines ON**

Registration for Canada Youth is starting to pour in.

Registration closes May 1st, 2009

***Don't miss out!***

### **Register Online - Easy as 1, 2, 3!**

- 1) Go to [www.canadayouth.ca](http://www.canadayouth.ca) and click on the "Register" tab.
- 2) Fill in the registration form and click submit.
- 3) Click on the link to the "Online Registration Completion Form" that pops up. Print, complete, sign and mail it in with either the full amount (\$500) or a deposit (\$100). You are now registered!

### **Register by mail**

- 1) Go to [www.canadayouth.ca](http://www.canadayouth.ca) and click on the "Register" tab.
- 2) Click on the "Register by Mail" link at the top and print off the registration form.
- 3) Complete the form and mail it in with either the full amount (\$500) or a deposit (\$100).  
You are now registered!

More information at [www.canadayouth.ca](http://www.canadayouth.ca) or email [cy09@presbyterian.ca](mailto:cy09@presbyterian.ca).

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## **YOUTH IN MISSION**

### MISSION TRIP DEADLINES

The deadline for our Mistawasis, Peace River Presbytery and Hurricane Rebuilding trips is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, our deadline for the Canada/Taiwan exchange has been extended till March 15<sup>th</sup> as well. Please pass this information on to any youth or young adults in your congregations that might be interested.

For more information about all our trips, go to [www.presbyterian.ca/experiencemission](http://www.presbyterian.ca/experiencemission) or email [rstlouis@presbyterian.ca](mailto:rstlouis@presbyterian.ca).

## **LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY**

### CONTRACT POSITIONS WITHIN THE VINE

The Life and Mission Agency is currently seeking to fill two one-year contract positions within The Vine. The position description is the same for both positions and the work areas will be divided between the two contract staff. A complete position description is available on the webpage at [www.presbyterian.ca/vinerearch](http://www.presbyterian.ca/vinerearch)

The deadline for receiving applications is Monday, March 9 at noon.  
Applications should be submitted to:  
Anne Phillips, Senior Administrator  
Life and Mission Agency  
Email: [aphillip@presbyterian.ca](mailto:aphillip@presbyterian.ca)

## **CRIEFF HILLS COMMUNITY**

### MAKING SENSE OF THE TRINITY – MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2009 (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM) MANNA DAY

Our day will focus on the recent renewed interest in the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. Rev. Dr. John Vissers will help us to gain a better understanding of the Trinity and experience the Triune God of grace in our lives, and especially in our worship, prayer, Bible reading and mission.

### SEEKING SOLUTIONS – ENVIRONMENTALLY/INTERPERSONALLY – CHURCH ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> –13<sup>TH</sup> 2009

Church Administrators and Assistant Administrators work in a unique environment – often working in isolation yet dealing with many members of the congregation. Whether you work full

or part time, this conference is a chance to come together with others who share and understand your special position.

For more information on any program please contact [www.crieffhills.com](http://www.crieffhills.com) or phone 1-800-884-1525