



HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear Friends,

July 15, 2010

I was privileged to attend the meeting last week of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This was the 219th meeting of the General Assembly and the 14th I have been able to attend. Each Assembly has its own personality, and last week's meeting in Minneapolis was no exception. I'm happy to report that this assembly lacked the mean spirit that has too often been present in recent years. By and large, people listened and respected one another and worked hard to reach good decisions.

There were over 700 elder and minister commissioners, elected by their 173 presbyteries, as well as Young Adult, Theological Student, Missionary and Ecumenical Advisory delegates. An elder from Arlington, Virginia, Cynthia Bolbach, was elected moderator. Coincidentally, she is the former clerk of session of one of my seminary classmates!

Our own member, Linda Valentine, was confirmed for another four-year term as the Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council. Congratulations, Linda!

The Assembly commissioned 122 young adult volunteers and 17 new mission workers for international service. One of the men commissioned to serve the PCUSA in the Sudan, Jacob George, is originally from India. He led the immigrant congregation that worshiped on Sunday mornings in the chapel of St. Luke's Presbyterian, the congregation I pastored in Houston before moving to Louisville. It was nice to see him again and to stand with others as he and his wife, Aliamma, were commissioned for their new work.

Another Assembly action was to forward the Belhar Confession to presbyteries for their study and vote on including this South African statement in our Book of Confessions. If approved, it will be the first document in our book from the Southern hemisphere. The Belhar Confession is a strong statement on unity which grew out of the system of apartheid. We will be using portions of it from time to time in worship, and providing a time to study it as a congregation.

There is lots more information about this year's General Assembly at pcusa.org. I am happy to talk with any of you who have questions.

The next several weeks will find Highland's Sunday morning focus on texts seldom studied or preached. Join us for church school and worship July 18-August 8 as we learn together.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair

To the Church Triumphant

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Bill Burbank and his family on the death of his wife, Virginia Collins Burbank, who passed away on June 28. Virginia worshiped with us for many years and joined Highland on January 20, 2010.

Fourth Sunday Cinema

Join us for a special showing of *The Princess Bride* at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, followed by discussion. We'll have the popcorn and lemonade ready!

PRESFEST!

Put Sunday, August 22, on your calendar to join in the all-church and neighborhood street celebration that is Presfest!. There will be good food, games, live music and good

intergenerational fun, following the 10:30 worship service that will be led by members of the session. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Gifts to the Church

Gifts in memory of Camille Glenn have been received from David and Barbara Miller, Molly Bundy, Dr. and Mrs. Forrest Kuhn, Janet L. Applegate, Andrew and Gwen McMahon, and Sue Martin. Gifts have also been received in memory of Clay Wrege from Carol and Buddy Cutler; in memory of Jane Lee Bergmann from her son, William C. Bergmann; and in memory of Virginia Burbank from Martha Dupps and Ruth Hayes.

Stained Glass Exhibit

An exhibit of stained-glass window designs that includes Highland Presbyterian Church's Krebs Memorial Window can be seen in Bishop's Hall of Christ Church Cathedral, 421 South Second Street through August 1. "Louisville Lights: Historical Designs from Blum Ornamental Glass" can be viewed 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays and Sundays. The Blum designs came to light during research for *Like Jacob's Well*, HPC's history. University of Louisville curatorial students and their instructor, Peter Morrin, organized the exhibit.

Prayer Partnerships

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

July 4 was the official conclusion of our second round of Prayer Partnerships. We have heard from many who engaged in partnerships that this has been a very special time for them. So let's do it again!

In Prayer Partnerships, members of the Highland Presbyterian community are paired with other members and commit to praying for that person every day. That's it! If you and your partner want to engage further – meet for coffee now and then, talk by phone, etc. – that is totally up to you. Even if you can't leave home, you can still be a Prayer Partner.

The deadline for sign-ups is Sunday, July 25. If you'd like to participate you can either: complete the form below and mail into the church office; call the church office (451-2910) to let us know you're interested; or drop the form into the offering plate on Sunday morning. You will receive the name of your partner that week, along with some suggestions for getting started.

If you've had a Prayer Partner before, we encourage you to consider engaging in a new partnership, so you can expand your prayer circle even further.

If you have any questions, call or e-mail Carol Pye: 473-8152; cpyeky@bluegrass.net.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail address (if you have one): _____