



# CALVIN CHATTER

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia  
*Serving Christ & Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester since 1800*

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[www.firstchurch-winchester.org](http://www.firstchurch-winchester.org)

## Guatemala Update Fall 2010

By Carolyn Thalman

The Guatemala Mission Team and the Ministry Council have been busy on several fronts since our return from Guatemala in February. We have begun to think about and plan for our next several trips. **Carolyn Thalman** will be accompanying the women from Fairfax, who were snowed out in February, on a weeklong trip August 11-18. The focus of the trip will be a Faith Stories Project Retreat. Ministry Council approved funds to support the Faith Stories Project by helping to pay for the Guatemalan women to participate.

In May, Tropical Storm Agatha made landfall near the Guatemala-Mexico border. Its heavy rain caused flooding and landslides and more than 150 in Guatemala were killed. CEDEPCA, the organization for whom our mission coworker **Karla Koll** works, responded with a proposal to provide clean-up kits, warehouse facilities and spiritual care for the survivors. Ministry Council approved funds to support CEDEPCA in this effort.

Plans are also underway for a major trip in 2011. The tentative dates for that trip are Thursday, March 3 to Saturday, March 12. As in the past, we will travel with CEDEPCA. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1,500 and scholarships will be available. Since preparation is an important part of such a trip, we will be looking for people to commit to this trip by late fall, so that there will be time to study before the trip. The itinerary is also still in the planning stage, but we anticipate a full Faith Stories Retreat, visiting several schools and a medical component, as well as opportunities to learn more about our Guatemalan brothers and sisters in Christ.

In addition, **Maren Sonstegard-Spray** is beginning conversation with the mission co-workers in Guatemala to plan a youth trip for summer 2011! How exciting is that?

If you are interested in learning more about our mission in Guatemala and how you can participate (participate doesn't always mean travel), please contact members of the Guatemalan Mission Team—**Sandra Cleaver, Mary Rudolph, Jane Vandertoorn, Rich Reifsnyder, or Dave or Carolyn Thalman**. And keep watching for announcements about how you can serve.



## Jubilee Kitchen Opportunity

Jubilee Kitchen needs your help. With many families away for the summer, we want to make sure that we have enough volunteers to sign up for the first Saturday in August and September. We need 10 people to come no later than 10 a.m. on the first Saturdays to help setup, serve and clean up. We are usually through by 1:00 p.m. If you have any questions, call **Daisy Fujishiro** at 703-726-8790 or send an e-mail to [kfujishiro@aol.com](mailto:kfujishiro@aol.com).

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## MUSIC NOTES

By Roger Callis

Massanetta, here we come!  
Again this year we have a good group attending the Music Conference at Massanetta

Springs the first week of August. Our group of 20 includes 13 young people and 7 adults. In addition, our own **David Merrill** is the clinician this year for the Praise Music resource sessions for the week. For years our church has had one of the largest, if not the largest, single delegation at the conference.

Parents, *please* remember to keep Wednesday afternoons open in your children's schedules for choir. Children's choirs will still rehearse at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, but we will be sending you exciting details about what will be new this fall at choir.



## Sanctuary Flag

The new sanctuary flag has been purchased from Living Memorial funds given in memory of **Arthur W. Olson, III**.



## Thank You

I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for their cards and telephone calls during my illness.

*Bess Whitesell*



## Cancer Support Group Starting

*Providing spiritual and emotional support for those facing the challenge of cancer and their families.*

The first meeting, scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Graham Room, will be a panel discussion. Three individuals whose lives have been touched by cancer will share their journey and personal milestones. These will include what was helpful, what were the surprises, reactions of self and others to diagnosis, denial, resources used, use of prayer, etc.

Future meetings will be on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Support group meetings will take two forms—the first, education by professionals in the healthcare industry followed by discussion; the second, topic specific determined by group.

The group aims to bring neighbors together to help each other through faith and community in times of need. For more information, please contact group coordinator **Mark Johnson** at 540-723-4262 or [mjohnson@su.edu](mailto:mjohnson@su.edu).



## Women's Bible Study Retreat

The Women's Bible Study group is planning a retreat the weekend of August 20 at the Hollywood Retreat & Conference Center in Comus, Maryland. Please consider joining them for a time of study, fellowship and relaxation. For more information, contact Courtney Warner at 336-6279 or [cehoben@aol.com](mailto:cehoben@aol.com).



*Isn't it strange how two hours seem so long when you're at church, and how they seem so short when you're watching a good movie?*

## Two Presbyterian Women Receive Life Membership Awards

By Paula Wahlman

Each year Presbyterian Women select a woman for recognition for her outstanding service over the years to PW and to the church. This year two women were chosen for this honor. Each woman was presented with a sterling silver lapel pin in the image of the Presbyterian Women's symbol and a framed certificate.

**Janice Shull** was honored at the PW birthday luncheon on May 12. She was presented with a corsage of pink roses along with her pin and certificate by **Retha Crosen** and **Patty Cather**, moderator and vice-moderator of Presbyterian Women.

**Tina Sytsma** was the second honoree. Since she was not able to attend the luncheon, a group of women went to visit her on May 21 with refreshments and surprised her in the private dining room of Greenfield of Berryville Assisted Living. She was presented with her pin, certificate and pink rose corsage by Retha and Patty. Also in attendance for the presentation were Tina's sons, **Jim** and **Dan**, and Dan's wife **Chris**.

Both of these women have made many contributions of friendship, time and leadership to Presbyterian Women, and we are all most appreciative of their service.

Tina's address is Greenfield of Berryville, 413 McClellan, Berryville, VA 22611. She would love to hear from you.



## A Letter Regarding Presbyterian Women

I have been a resident of Winchester/Frederick County since August 1959, which is just a tad over fifty years. One of the first things I did was to locate where "God lives in Winchester", i.e., the Presbyterian Church. We transferred our letter prior to the move and our family has been active in it ever since.

In all those years, it never occurred to me that a day would come when one of its most vital organizations, "The Women of the Church," would cease to exist as an entity. It has happened. No one would step forth and agree to serve as the president.

These groups not only studied the Bible in an organized way, but also contributed a fairly considerable amount of money to causes such as CCAP, The Red Cross, etc., as well as to projects within the church. We became almost a family, which prayed for those members suffering bereavement, illness, or other misfortunes, as well as our missionaries, etc. I am not alone in my sorrow and dismay. For the last twenty years, my circle was known as "The Working Women's Circle," and we met at night. We have determined now, as retired working women, to continue on our own circle, and I understand that one other group is also determined to continue. If others share this view, I hope you will make your feelings known to someone on the staff or to me. Where there is a will, there is a way, and the Dorcas Circle is not going to just give up the ghost and disappear. How about you?

**Betty Burkholder**

*[The ministry of the Presbyterian Women, namely education through the circles and bereavement receptions, continues. At present, there are no administrative officers.]*



**CCAP Sunday**

**3rd Sunday  
of each month**

**August 15**

*"We have different gifts,  
according to the grace  
given us. If a man's gift  
is prophesying, let him  
use it in proportion to his  
faith. If it is serving, let  
him serve; if it is  
teaching, let him teach; if  
it is encouraging, let him  
encourage; if it is  
contributing to the needs  
of others, let him give  
generously; if it is  
leadership, let him govern  
diligently; if it is showing  
mercy, let him do it  
cheerfully."*

Romans 12:6-8

**Four Cents-A-Meal  
Hunger Offering**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
of each month**

**August 22**



**A Big VBS Splash!**

By Stacey Iden

Can you feel the waves of excitement that were caused by the big splash on our High Seas VBS Adventure? With 135 sea mates and over 100 crew volunteers, we hoisted the sail with faith and fun. The mighty love of God was explored in life-changing ways as we connected with children, parents, grandparents, and friends. All who participated in the High Seas Adventure had a swashbuckling good time! So... to our faithful High Seas Crew... Aye, Aye!



**Stewardship Notes**

*"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us." 2 Cor 9:11*

Thanks for the very good stewardship in May. Giving was \$73,259 against budgeted expectation of \$56,996. We are on our way to "catching up."

Stewardship giving through May	\$347,886
Budgeted need through May	\$368,191

Thanks to your stewardship, we commissioned 14 confirmands and celebrated a meal and communion with our high school graduates. Please consider prayerfully your commitment to the work of Christ and the church.

## Post General Assembly pastoral letter from Moderator and Stated Clerk

*To Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations*

July 10, 2010

GA219 Communication Center

MINNEAPOLIS

To Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*“Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water”* (John 7:38)....

Just one week ago, the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convened with Scripture and music and prayer. Commissioners and advisory delegates from every presbytery across the church gathered around the baptismal font with hopeful expectation of what God’s Spirit would do in and through them as they sought to discern together the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

As the week progressed, prayer was a foundational part of each day’s deliberations and decisions, and the presence of the Spirit was palpable!

*“Out of the believer’s heart...”*

While all assemblies are significant, this one holds particular significance in the life of the PC(USA). Among the assembly’s decisions – to be ratified by presbyteries – are the addition of the Belhar Confession to *The Book of Confessions* and a revised Form of Government. Both of these items give a clear signal that we are a church that is not afraid to change – an important perspective to have in these days of great change in the church and the world.


The assembly celebrated and was greatly encouraged by the commissioning of 122 young adult volunteers and 17 new mission workers for service around the globe. Commissioners voted unanimously to renew the call to “Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide” and were inspired by the stories of congregations that are growing in evangelism, discipleship, diversity, and servanthood. They celebrated the generosity of Presbyterians who have contributed more than \$10.5 million to relief and redevelopment work in Haiti in the wake of January’s devastating earthquake.


The assembly also engaged in discussion about significant matters of faith and life – ordination standards, justice and peace in the Middle East, and civil union and marriage, to name just a few.

Information on the more than 300 assembly actions is available. Answers to frequently asked questions about the items that have already garnered media attention are attached to this letter. We commend these resources to you for their accurate and straightforward information.

[Civil Union and Marriage FAQ](#) 

[Form of Government FAQ](#) 

[Middle East Peacemaking FAQ](#) 

[Middle Governing Body Commission FAQ](#) 

[Ordination Standards FAQ](#) 

While the content of the assembly's decisions is important, what may be of equal or greater importance is the *manner* in which commissioners and advisory delegates did their work. They debated, but did not fight. They tackled tough issues while refraining from tackling each other. They placed great value on finding common ground as they displayed gracious, mutual forbearance toward one another. They sought the will of God within their actions, rather than regarding their decisions as the will of God. One commissioner called the experience of seeking – and finding – common ground truly “miraculous.”

In short, this assembly exhibited to the whole church and, indeed, to our society and the world a way to engage in difficult issues while maintaining respect for one another. To put it another way, they exhibited well what it means for the church to “a provisional demonstration of what God intends for the world” (Book of Order, G-3.0200).

*...shall flow rivers of living water.”*

Just a few short hours ago, the 219th General Assembly ended in the same worshipful manner with which it began, as well as with a similar same sense of hopeful expectation that the hard work done in Minneapolis will continue forward across the church.

Michael East and Caroline Sherard, elected by their peers as co-moderators of the young adult advisory delegates to this assembly, shared their thoughts in a [blog entry](#):

If all our commissioners and advisory delegates returned to their places of community and encouraged others to continue similar stories, what great things could be next for the PC(USA)? These narratives have the ability to inspire discussions on new, creative, and innovative ways of being the Church. At the heart of being Presbyterian is the principal belief that our discernment is best done when we gather together. Being able to gather in one place, as one people, for the one Church is a powerful and transformative experience--one which dramatically shapes future generations.

The assembly has commended to the church a number of items for further study, out of which is hoped will come, as Michael and Caroline write, “new, creative, and innovative ways of being the Church.”

May the good and faithful work begun in Minneapolis truly be just the beginning of a season of respectful, earnest, and gracious engagement – both in our words and in our deeds – all for the sake of the gospel.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

**Elder Cynthia Bolbach**  
*Moderator, 219th General  
Assembly*

**The Rev. Gradye Parsons**  
*Stated Clerk of the General Assembly*

**The Rev. Landon Whitsitt**  
*Vice Moderator, 219th General  
Assembly*

**Elder Linda Bryant Valentine**  
*Executive Director, General Assembly  
Mission Council*



Front row, left to right: Bob Cleaver, Samantha Ravn, Logan Whitacre, Nic Lizer, Samantha Nutter, Kaye Whitacre, Lauren Kane, Clara Ludtke, and Sam Stearns. Second row, left to right: Sandy Cleaver, Carly Blake, Maren Spray, Kayla Smith, Taylor Watts, and Matthew Drunagel.

## Nicaragua Mission Trip Report

Remix Dinner on Sunday, August 22 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

By Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Twelve high school youth and three adults went on a mission trip the week of June 26 with mission organization Forward Edge International to the Villa Esperanza in Managua, Nicaragua. The Villa provides housing to missionaries and is the home for 16 girls whose families live in La Chureca, the 150-acre dump located in the capital city. At the Villa the girls receive housing, food, clothing, education, medical care, and a lot of love. We spent time getting to know the girls who live there, we visited the dump and witnessed the living conditions there, we worked at a daycare at a local church which cares for small children of those families who live and work in the dump, and we did a lot of work at the Villa and at the public school where the girls attend. La Chureca was recently called one of the biggest humanitarian crises in the world and there are many churches and mission organization working with the people who live there. It was a blessing to witness and participate in all that God is doing in La Chureca and in Nicaragua. The team wants to thank everyone for their support and prayers!



## Annual Church-wide Picnic

Sunday, August 29, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kiwanis Shelter #2 and Eagles Field  
Jim Barnett Park

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### Births

- May 7 Braxton and Dempsey, sons of Tyler and Veena Butler, grandsons of Ben and Ann Butler
- May 16 Jack and Eliza, children of Charles and Kris Crosby of Emporia, KS, grandchildren of Tim Crosby and great grandchildren of Olive Williams
- June 23 Lyla Marie, daughter of Emily and Eddy Gerenski, granddaughter of Linda and Steve Swiger
- June 24 Teagan Lane, daughter of Stephanie and Josh Feltner, granddaughter of Deb and Barry Carper

### Weddings

- May 8 Felix Federowicz and Cherry Jones, daughter of Don Jones
- June 19 Tad Ogren and Allie Smith, daughter of Linda and Barry Smith
- July 10 Matt Callis and Anastasia Faizova

### In Memoriam, with Christian sympathy to the families

- May 15 Martha Peters, sister of Ann Jones
- Jun 2 Arthur W. Olson, III
- Jun 6 Wayne Kagey, Sr., father of Wayne Kagey
- Jun 24 Thomas Carey

**DEADLINE FOR THE September CALVIN CHATTER is August 12.**

**Send submissions to [calvin.chatter@verizon.net](mailto:calvin.chatter@verizon.net).**

## **CALVIN CHATTER**

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Founded July 16, 1788; Organized September 7, 1800

Sunday Worship Services 7:30 a.m. (Boyd Chapel), 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

New Stone Gathering (Fellowship Hall), 8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Cookies 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Reifsnnyder

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Dan M. McCoig, Jr.

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Parish Associate: The Reverend Elizabeth Lewis

Children's Ministry Administrator: Stacey Iden

Minister of Music: Roger Callis

Director of Adult Handbell Choirs: Lynn Reifsnnyder

Organist: Pat Byers

Music Leader for New Stone Gathering: David Merrill