

March 1  
St. David's Day



March 9  
Lent Begins



March 13 - Daylight  
Savings Time Begins



March 17  
St. Patrick's Day



### An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise up  
to meet you.  
May the wind be  
always at your back.  
May the sun shine  
warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft  
upon your fields.  
And until we  
meet again,  
may God hold you in  
the palm of His hand.

## TIME TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER!

### Summer Camps are already filling up quickly! Register now for a fun week or two!

Albany Presbytery has partnered with three area camps to provide camping for the youth of our presbytery. We encourage you to look them over and register for a week or two of summer fun! Go to their websites to see videos, get a camp tour, check out the themed camping weeks and find all the registration information you need. Positions for Counselors and other staff are also being filled now and all camps offer Counselor-in-Training camp weeks for older youth. **100 Presbytery Scholarships are available, too!**

#### CAMP FOWLER (RCA) - "Bring Forth the Kingdom!"

Camp Fowler <http://campfowler.org/> has two unique camping experiences for youth in Grades 3-12:

**Incamp:** Campers spend the week on Camp Fowler's 245 acre campus located in Speculator, NY. and participate in daily programming which includes things such as sailing, hiking, arts and crafts, canoeing, and more. During the night, campers stay in cabins of typically 5 - 9 children who are supervised by an adult.

**Outcamp:** Campers spend the majority of the week in the Adirondack wilderness, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, sailing and camping. Carrying all your own food and supplies, campers learn how to light a camp-stove, canoe strokes and the native flora and fauna. There's even a Girls Only Outcamp Week! Staff are competent in wilderness education, survival skills and first-aid. Nights are spent camping in lean-tos or tents and group size varies from 4 to 8 campers.

**A message from Rev. Kent Busman, Executive Director:** "Albany Presbytery asked Fowler to be one of the camps that they want to direct kids from their churches to attend because they had to close down Camp Hebron after last summer. While we are sad for that, we are overjoyed at the fact that now we have a chance of getting together. Just as winter brings my family closer together as we crowd around the woodstove for warmth, Fowler is helping to bring the broader community of Christ's followers together. Truly, this is a winter of joy!" Camp Fowler is located between Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake.

#### SKYE FARM CAMP (UMC) - Open House July 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-3

Skye Farm is situated on 460 acres, located in the Lake George region of the Adirondacks near Warrensburg. Skye Farm is offering new this year: Pirate camp, Music Camp, Cheer Camp, a Challenge Course, Travel back to Jesus' time and Interfaith Camp. Also: fishing camp, building, learning about animals, Carnival Time, Ultimate Frisbee, Lifeguard Camp and International Adventurer's Week. <http://www.skyefarmcamp.viviti.com/>

#### HOLMES CAMP (PCUSA) - "There's No Place Like Holmes!"

Offering Day and Overnight Camping fun for all school-age children, Holmes also offers specialty camps such as horseback riding, canoeing, archery, a Challenge Course, the environment and the arts. Located 55 miles north of New York City. <http://www.presbyteriancenter.org/>

### Looking for a place for your church to have a retreat?

In addition to the three camps above, we can also recommend these three:

Rensselaerville Meeting Center in Rensselaerville, Christ the King Center in Greenwich and Silver Bay Center near Bolton Landing (YMCA). For links to these Centers, please go to our website: [http://albanypresbytery.org/youth\\_scholarships.html](http://albanypresbytery.org/youth_scholarships.html)

### Want to go to Camp but money's tight? We have Scholarship Money Available!

Albany Presbytery is making scholarship funds of \$230pp available to the first 100 youth of Albany Presbytery member churches (the cost of a week at Camp Hebron). Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis and available once only per person, per calendar year. Please click here for the form and more information: [http://albanypresbytery.org/youth\\_scholarships.html](http://albanypresbytery.org/youth_scholarships.html). Individual camps may also offer scholarship funds for campers. Please contact each camp individually for details.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## CONVERSATIONS WITH KATHIE SAKENFELD

**April 7** - Albany Presbytery will host a dinner with Kathie Sakenfeld for all women ministers of Albany Presbytery, followed by an informal conversation exploring current trends in biblical studies. This will be held at The Century House in Latham. Invitations will soon be sent - watch for them! Freda Gardner will also be hosting an afternoon tea for all women ministers of Albany Presbytery who attended Princeton Seminary to discuss your shared Princeton experience. Please stay tuned for further details!

## FAITH, POWER & PERSPECTIVE: WOMEN IN THE OT

**April 8** - Open to all, this workshop with Kathie Sakenfeld is offered by CRTC and hosted by Union Presbyterian Church in Schenectady from 9-4. Registration deadline through CRTC is March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Course fee by March 4<sup>th</sup> is \$85. \$95 after March 4<sup>th</sup>.

## PHEWA RETURNS TO NEW ORLEANS

**April 25 - 29** Hands-on building, daily worship, local cuisine, network meetings, site visits, conversation groups and opportunities to participate in the liveliness of New Orleans as it readies for JazzFest. For more information and to register, contact Bebb Wheeler Stone at 295-8931 or [bebbstone@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bebbstone@nycap.rr.com). Scholarship Money may be available for you to attend the PHEWA New Orleans mission trip. For mission trip applications, click here: [http://www.albanypresbytery.org/mission\\_trips.html](http://www.albanypresbytery.org/mission_trips.html).

## SIMPLIFYING COMPUTERS FOR SENIORS

**March 15-17 at Holmes** - Learn how to write documents and letters, work with pictures, discover the world wide web and develop internet skills, send and receive e-mail, manage files and folders. There will also be information about comparing the different Windows versions available today. This series is especially geared toward those age 50 and over to learn to communicate socially. For more information and to register, go to Holmes' website: <http://www.presbyteriancenter.org/documents/11docs/IT%20for%20Seniors%2011.pdf>

## YOUTH OVERNIGHT SERVICE/MISSION RETREAT - A YAP EVENT

**April 15 - 16 at United Church of Cohoes** - Open to all youth - Arrive Friday evening (7pm after dinner). Friday night, sing, play games and enjoy a special presentation about a youth mission trip to Guatemala. Saturday you will break into small groups and do service projects in the City of Cohoes. Breakfast and Box Lunch is provided. Saturday ends with a community dinner that you will help prepare. Pick-up is at 7:30pm Saturday night. **Cost: \$25pp.** For more information, contact Rev. Tim Coombs: [tcoombs@earthlink.net](mailto:tcoombs@earthlink.net). Registration is on the YAP webpage of our website: <http://albanypresbytery.org/yap.html> - See what to bring and what to leave home on the flyer on the YAP page and here: [http://albanypresbytery.org/upcoming\\_events.html](http://albanypresbytery.org/upcoming_events.html)

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## ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS

WASHINGTON, DC - March 25 - 28, 2011

### Development, Security and Economic Justice: What's Gender Got to Do with It?



As Proverbs recognized long ago, women's contributions are integral to enriching social, religious and family life. Gender's got a lot to do with it! However...in homes and communities, out in fields and marketplaces, along borders and in areas of conflict...violence, poverty and other social evils keep women from attaining their full potential.

As women and men of faith, we can be a formidable force for change! Come to Ecumenical Advocacy Days! During these days filled with worship and dialogue, we will be inspired and equipped to speak boldly on behalf of all God's daughters. Together we'll advocate on Capitol Hill for women's physical and emotional safety, their economic security and freedom and promote people-centered ecologically-sustainable development, economic justice and peace for the flourishing of all our communities. Registration is now open.

Also consider attending **Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day** on March 25<sup>th</sup> and enjoying the **Anniversary Cruise for the Office of Public Witness** on March 26<sup>th</sup> while in Washington DC.

To see the flyers, go to our website: [http://albanypresbytery.org/upcoming\\_events.html](http://albanypresbytery.org/upcoming_events.html)

For more information, go this website: <http://advocacydays.org/> and/or contact Rev. Brooke Newell, Advocacy Coordinator for the FAB5 PPG in the Synod of the Northeast: 793-3823 or [brooke@cjgreen.net](mailto:brooke@cjgreen.net).

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**For More Upcoming Events, go to our website:** [http://www.albanypresbytery.org/upcoming\\_events.html](http://www.albanypresbytery.org/upcoming_events.html)

# ENHANCE YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY



**"Sunday is Fun Day! Church School Rotation Model Workshop" w/ Rev. Dr. Miriam Lawrence Leupold, April 2, 2011, 9am – 3pm, at First Presbyterian in Albany, Come discover why Rotation Model works for all learning styles and many size churches. See it set up and take home lots of resources. Bring a team to maximize the learning! \$65 by March 3, \$75 thereafter; Registration deadline: March 17, 2011.**

## CRTC SPRING COURSES

**"Connecting with Calvin: Restoring Unity to the Church", with Dr. Randall Zachman, Saturday, Mar. 26th 9-12 at Siena College - Course fee covered by sponsors; free will offering to be taken. Registration deadline: Mar. 18, 2011**

**"Adding Strength, Speed & Balance to Your Congregation", with C. Jeff Woods, Thurs. & Fri., May 12 & 13, 9-4 - \$85 by April 26; \$95 thereafter. Registration deadline: April 14, 2011**

**"A Walk in the Woods: Backpacking Through Creation", with Rev. Kent Busman, Thursday - Sunday April 28-May 1 \$250. Registration deadline: April 13, 2011**

**"Empathy in Action: Introduction to Pastoral Care 2011" with William Grosch, MD, Sept 8, 15, 17, 22, 29 and Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. \$200. Registration deadline: August 23, 2011**

Register online at [www.capitalrtc.org](http://www.capitalrtc.org) or by phone at 518-462-2470. Watch the CRTC website for information on these and many other courses available in 2011. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes; please contact them for an application.

## RESOURCES FOR LENT AND EASTER

### KOREAN-ENGLISH LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



It's time to order your *Presbyterians Today* 2011 Lenten Devotional Guide – As we celebrate the bridges we're building with our Presbyterian sisters and brothers in Korea—and welcoming Korean-speaking communities - PCUSA is delighted to recommend to you a spiritually-uplifting new bilingual Lenten devotional guide published by

*Presbyterians Today* magazine called *Living the Word Through Lent*. The author, Kevin Park, associate for theology in the General Assembly Mission Council's office of Theology and Worship, invites you to journey through Lent. The meditations in this year's guide are printed side by side in both Korean and English and the beautiful illustrations by Korean-born Jason Raish have an engaging Asian flavor. This is a great resource for congregations and families. [Order extra copies.](#)

### PRACTICE ECO-JUSTICE DURING LENT



As part of the reflective season of Lent, Environmental Ministries of the PCUSA is offering a calendar called "[Tread Lightly for Lent](#)" that encourages Presbyterians to learn about eco-justice issues and take action on the issues of waste, energy, water, consumption and food. Each of the 40 days of Lent has a topic to learn about or a suggested action for individuals and congregations. [Click here to download the calendar.](#)

### ORDER YOUR ECO-PALMS



Purchasing Eco-Palms supports eco-justice: The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem. Enough for

Everyone, part of the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#), sponsors the Eco-Palms project with Lutheran World Relief, Catholic Relief Services, and the University of Minnesota. Visit the [Enough for Everyone website](#) for more information on Eco-Palms. **Order by March 22 (with a check) or March 29 (with a credit card) for delivery by Palm Sunday.**

### LENTEN STUDY GUIDE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION AND JUSTICE

During this Lenten season, The National Council of Churches, Committee on Public Education and Literacy, together with the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries has created a resource to help people of faith make connections with scriptural/biblical principles and the complex issues associated with the public responsibility to educate all of the nation's children. This guide suggests some ways that people of faith can respond to the great need and serve as advocates for public education. Titled: **Journey to Lent, Journey to Learn: A Reflection on Public Education in God's World Today**, click on the link where it says "read more" to open the 28-page booklet. [Read more.](#)

# BEING PRESBYTERIAN IN TODAY'S WORLD

## ACCIDENT! A STORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY

*Submitted by Rev. MJ Pattison, Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, Guilderland*

On February 5<sup>th</sup> I spent a glorious day cross country skiing at Lapland Lake with Friends from Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church: Bruce and Karen Williamson along with Matt and a friend of his from RPI. The weather was beautiful, the snow perfect. In the afternoon it was beginning to snow as we left the Southern Adirondacks for Guilderland and evening family plans. I was sitting comfortably in the middle seat. As we waited at an intersection near the resort I remember eating my post-skiing orange and chocolate and thinking about the stop at Hannaford's I was going to make on my way home when Bruce suddenly cried out, "Whoa- slow down!" We all looked up in time to see a car completely out of control barreling down a hill. We experienced that fabled long second when we could see that we were going to be hit and that there was no avoiding it and then the unbelievable sickening shattering cacophony of the collision.

Amazingly, no one in either car was injured, all five of us scrambled out of the side of the car that still had working doors, said silent prayers of thanksgiving and looked at the appalling sight of two completely ruined cars on a snowy road far from cell phone service.

People stopped to help immediately. Fire trucks and ambulances arrived within the first half hour. A neighbor offered his landline phone and came out with blankets. We were carefully checked to be sure that we were, in fact, all right. But then it dawned on us that we still had a pretty big problem.

It was clear that the minivan that had carried the five of us to skiing was not driveable. The car was towed to Mayfield and a state trooper took us to a colorful restaurant called "Pour Jims". But we still needed to get ourselves back to Guilderland.

We started to think of people who loved us enough to come get us in a deteriorating ice storm AND who had a car big enough to bring all five of us home. We could think of people who loved us, and we could think of people who had big cars, but it was hard to think of people who both loved us AND

had big cars. It was also hard to think of how we would explain where we were and how to get to us.

Then I remembered that there was a Presbyterian Church in Mayfield and I knew the pastor. I called Stewart who gave me her phone number. When I called Bonnie Orth she was home. I told her of our dilemma and asked if she knew someone who could take us as far as Amsterdam (Karen was working on contacting friends that would come to Amsterdam and take us the rest of the way). She called us back about ten minutes later to say that her husband, Jay, could come pick us up in his truck and bring us to her house to wait for a ride. As it turns out, they were simultaneously able to reach neighbors with a van who arranged to meet us at the Amsterdam Pizza Hut, but the offer of a warm house at that moment was as bracing and reassuring as if we were actually there. Jay arrived soon thereafter with his big red truck. We had never met each other but his truck, his baseball cap and his white beard communicated a Santa Claus-like warmth and we knew he was our connection.

It occurred to me as Jay maneuvered through the icy back roads out of Mayfield and chatted amiably with us, that you would never know we were all strangers to him. But we were Presbyterian strangers and so, part of an extended family.

Robert Frost wrote, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."

On that snowy afternoon and evening, along with passing strangers and first responders, the family that opened its doors to us was our Presbyterian family. The first piece in the complicated puzzle that was our way home was our church connection and once we figured that out, the rest of the pieces fell into place.

In a world where so often we think we have to solve all of our problems by ourselves, what a relief and a joy to be The Church and to remember what it means to be "the body of Christ and, individually, members of it."

## JOIN WITH PRESBYTERIANS TO FIGHT GLOBAL HUNGER



Every month, Presbyterians join in fasting and prayer to focus on global issues and a chosen country. To explore food crisis topics, sign up for the Food Justice newsletter and view the monthly countries with their themes, please go to the pcusa's website:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/foodcrisis/introductory-materials/>

In March, please fast and pray for the country of Sudan. The focus theme is war, hunger and recovery. To view the materials, please click here: <http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/foodcrisis/pdfs/fastmaterials-march.pdf>

# STONY POINT CENTER

## TOM LONG: PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF MARK



Baylor University named Tom Long one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English speaking world and he will be at Stony Point Center **April 28-30** to take a fresh look at the book of Mark. Cost is \$230pp which includes meals and a double room. Commuter rate is \$150pp.

Registration information can be found on their website:

<http://www.stonypointcenter.org/staticpages/index.php?page=20101129162340291>

## Stony Point Center awarded the 2011 Green Leaf Seal



The Green Leaf Seal is presented to camp and conference centers that care for God's earth by practicing sustainability and **educating guests about environmental stewardship**. To receive a Green Leaf Seal, a camp or conference center must have completed a total of five projects or activities in the areas of facilities, education/program, operations, and outreach. The Green Leaf Seal is valid for the calendar year. In order to maintain the Green Leaf Seal, sites must demonstrate forward progress on environmental stewardship through a total of five new or progressing projects each year. The Green Leaf Seal is a program of PC(USA)

Environmental Ministries in cooperation with the sites of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference

Association (PCCCA). Environmental Ministries works to inspire and equip Presbyterians to work for eco-justice for all of God's earth. PCCCA equips leaders for ministries of discipleship, community building and the care of Creation. For more information, go to the pcusa website: [http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/environment/pdf/green\\_leaf\\_seal\\_form.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/environment/pdf/green_leaf_seal_form.pdf)

# ECO-RESOURCES FOR SPRING AND EARTH DAY

## LIVING WITH and FROM THE LAND

**Are you a young adult between the ages of 20 and 30** who is interested in exploring connections between faith and environmental stewardship? **Apply now for the Eco-Stewards 2011 event, June 2-9**, with the theme of "Living with and from the Land on the Crow Reservation in Montana: Sustainability and Reconciliation through Agriculture, Health and Green Building." Come to [Greenwood Farm](#), just outside

of Hardin, Montana and explore issues surrounding land use, poverty, agriculture, and sustainability in a cross-cultural context on the Crow Reservation in southeastern Montana. Learn more about the program, including limited paid summer internships, and how to apply on the [Eco-Stewards Program Blog](#). The Eco-Stewards Program is sponsored by [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) and the [Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association](#).



## EARTH DAY IS April 22nd

**Celebrate God's good creation on a Sunday near that date (which falls on Good Friday this year).** From the Presbyterian Environmental Ministries Office (<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/>).



The [National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program](#) produces excellent Earth Day Sunday resources each year. This year's theme is "Where Two or More are Gathered: Eco-Justice as Community."

### Where Two or More are Gathered: Eco-Justice as Community (2011)

Today, we remain mindful of the importance of community. With Jesus' assurance that, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them" (Matthew 18:20). Christians are building sacred communities through ways ancient and modern. In the midst of cultural and economic forces that encourage and reward individualism, Christians are called to reach beyond ourselves, to embrace all God's children and affirm our interconnectedness and



interdependence.

[Download this resource](#), which explores the importance of community and shares information on how churches can work in community for eco-justice in the areas of food, water, and air. Materials include sermon starters, a bulletin insert and ideas for church action. [Read about Presbyterian Churches' 2010 Earth Day Sunday events](#).

# PRESBYTERY MEETINGS 2011

Albany Presbytery's Council is working hard to improve the presbytery's effectiveness and faithfulness in resourcing congregations and supporting vital ministry. To that end we are setting new priorities for presbytery meetings so that our time together is more enriching, informative and creative. We will continue to attend to the business which must be done, but will seek to balance the business portion of each meeting with educational and missional opportunities for commissioners that you can bring back home and apply to your own ministry settings.

Below is a brief outline of the kinds of themes and opportunities we are planning for presbytery meetings in 2011. Though we encourage each Session to elect Presbytery commissioners who can attend all five meetings each year, to provide consistency and allow the commissioner to become familiar with ongoing issues, we are aware that many of you send elders on a rotating basis. If that is your practice we urge you to consider the specific themes and emphases of each of the upcoming presbytery meetings and try to elect elders to particular meetings who have strong interest or experience in that area.

If you have particular ideas for how we might plan future presbytery meetings, and what kinds of themes and educational opportunities would be most helpful to the leaders of your congregation, please contact the Presbytery office ([info@albanypresbytery.org](mailto:info@albanypresbytery.org) or 518-273-4991) to let us know.

## April 12<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting

**Hosted by United Church of Greenwich** - Pre-Meeting Workshops, Presbyterian Rainbow, BOP and Fair Trade Displays begin at 2pm. Registration begins at 3pm. The meeting begins at 4pm.

- Theme: **CONFESSING OUR FAITH** – How shall we witness to our faith and our experience of God? How are we Presbyterians called to tell our stories of faith and evangelize?
- Worship: **Harold Delhagen, Synod Executive for the Reformed Church of America will preach.** Rev. Delhagen is a strong proponent of the adoption of the Belhar Confession by denominations in the Reformed tradition.
- Business: **Presbyters will consider and vote on including the Belhar Confession in our Book of Confessions.** The Belhar Confession was adopted by the synod of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986 (now the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa). If adopted, this will be the first non-European confession in our Book of Confessions. **Find the Belhar Confession here:** <http://albanypresbytery.org/advocacy.html>  
**Find the proposed amendment changes here:**  
<http://albanypresbytery.org/GA%20Amendments/Proposed%20Book%20of%20Amendments%20Part%202%20Belhar.pdf>

# IN AND AROUND ALBANY PRESBYTERY

## ALZHEIMER'S AND KEEPING FAITH IN MIND

**April 8 - 9:30 - 3 at Christ the King Center in Greenwich** - Thanks to a generous grant from Episcopal Charities, The Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York is offering a free one-day workshop for chaplains, clergy, nurses and all religious leaders. This day-long workshop titled: *Keeping Faith in Mind* will provide participants with the knowledge and strategies needed to address spiritual issues that may arise for someone with dementia, increase their effectiveness in providing ministry to them and their families and broaden their understanding of Alzheimer's disease. To register, contact Jamie Mitchell at 867-4999, ext 209 or [Jamie.Mitchell@alz.org](mailto:Jamie.Mitchell@alz.org)

Our E-News is for all members of Presbytery and automatically distributed to all ministers, chairs, clerks of session, mission partners, the Fab5 and laypersons who specifically request a copy. Please share this issue with your congregation, students away at school, the home-bound and those in the military. Forward it using your email distribution list. Post it on your bulletin board. Print extra copies as handouts. The E-News is distributed on the First of Each Month and posted on our website. Deadline for submission of articles is about a week before publication. Thank you!

**Dan will be out of the office March 1 - March 7**

**Cass is out of the office for meetings/conferences:  
March 4, 9-11, 14, 16-18, 21-23, 31-April 2**

**Tim is on a Biblical Storytelling Mission Trip to Gambia March 4-20  
Please keep him and his fellow travelers in your prayers**