

**Moderator Elder Barbara McLaughlan
Report to The Presbytery of Elizabeth
May 26, 2009**

Through the courtesy of Rev. Ken Macari and Rev. Peter Hofstra here are some inspiring words from **Pastor John Calvin.**

**CALVIN ON THE HOLY SPIRIT
AS THE BOND THAT UNITES US TO CHRIST**

There is good reason for the repeated mention of the “testimony of the Spirit,” a testimony we feel engraved like a seal upon our hearts, with the result that it seals the cleansing and sacrifice of Christ. For this reason, also, Peter says that believers have been “chosen in the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Christ.” By these words he explains that, in order that the shedding of his sacred blood may not be nullified, our souls are cleansed by the secret watering of the Spirit. To sum up, the Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to Himself.

We must bear in mind that Christ came endowed with the Holy Spirit in a special way: that is, to separate us from the world and to gather us unto the hope of the eternal inheritance. Hence He is called the “Spirit of sanctification” because He not only quickens and nourishes us by a general power that is visible in the human race: but He is also the root and seed of heavenly life in us. God the Father gives us the Holy Spirit for His Son’s sake, and yet has bestowed the whole fullness of the Spirit upon the Son to be minister and steward of His liberality. Paul says: “You are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, He is not His” Hence, He arouses hope of a full renewal “because He who raised Christ from the dead will quicken our mortal bodies, because of his Spirit that dwells in us”.

Christ unites himself to us by the Spirit alone. By the grace and power of the same Spirit we are made his members, to keep us under Himself and in turn to possess Him.

Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book III, Chapter 1, Sections 1-3 pages 537-541, Ford Lewis Battles, translator. Philadelphia: the Westminster Press, 1977

Please refer to these two web sites for more information on John Calvin:
<http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/> and <http://www.calvin09.org>

2009 Presbytery Budget will be presented for its third reading and vote. Included in the meeting documents is an explanation of the Council’s rationale for the 2009 Budget. Please read this carefully. If you have any questions please contact the Presbytery office (908-755-3776) with any questions and a member of Council will respond to you. Thank you for your careful consideration of the budget and rationale.

Elizabeth Quintero, in the Presbytery Office, is emailing a newsletter weekly to all churches with information about activities in the churches in the Presbytery. Please be sure it is shared with your session and members in a timely manner. If you have any church activity you would like included in the newsletter please provide Elizabeth with the information at least two weeks before the event is to take place. We also want to share good news from our churches or ways help can be provided. Please share that information with Elizabeth also.

Camp Johnsonburg - This is the Presbyterian Camp in New Jersey that receives funds from our Presbytery and many of our churches. Please read the brochure available at registration and share it with your members. Now is the time to start planning for camping experiences for your youth and families.

Single Payer Universal Health Care Proposal – The General Assembly approved support for the proposed Single Payer Universal Health Care Proposal. The Rev. Bebb Stone is on the New Jersey Committee supporting this proposal. Join us in a discussion of H.R. 676 – a healthcare plan that is simple, economical and humane. It would provide every working family with 100% “cradle to grave” coverage, including dental, vision, hearing, home care, long-term care, mental health, prescriptions, and more. A healthcare plan proposed to have no copay, no deductible, and no premium.

Sunday, May 31, 2009, 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM, Princeton Theological Seminary, Mackay Center, 64 Mercer Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. RSVP at: RSVP-Yes-53109@comcast.net. For directions to the Mackay Center, visit them on the web at: <http://www.ptsem.edu/About/directions.php>.

Our Sister Organizations

General Assembly (GA)

You can find the information about mission activities, messages from the leadership, and support available on the PCUSA web site, www.pcusa.org. Poke around this sight frequently. There is a wealth of information here.

Synod of the Northeast

As a member of the Synod Individual Grants and Loans Task Force I attended a meeting in Latham, NY on Friday, May 14th. We reviewed applications for the Wurfel-Sills Scholarships and Loans for undergraduate, graduate, and theological students. There are three or four small scholarships granted each year and many small non-interest bearing loans. This year we granted four scholarships and 93 loans. All students involved in Presbyterian Churches within the bounds of the Synod are eligible.

There are funds available at the Synod for scholarships, loans, redevelopment, etc. Please become familiar with their web site, www.synodne.org, and visit it frequently. There is also information about current hot button social issues from the Synod Public Advocacy Network on the website. A monthly newsletter is sent to each church. Please be sure it is shared with your session and congregation.

Presbytery Services of Installation

Please put this date on your calendar and make every effort possible to attend the service to help Shannon celebrate a new and important step in her ministry.

The Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo will be installed as the Pastor of the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield, NJ on **Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 4 pm**. Elder Rick Ufford-Chase, moderator of the 216th GA, will be preaching. All are invited and encouraged to attend the service

I participated in the following services.

The Rev. Bobbi Arrowsmith was installed as the Pastor of the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, [First Presbyterian Congregation of Connecticut Farms], 888 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083-6918 on **Sunday, March 29, 2009**.

The Rev. Sally Campbell is a member of Elizabeth Presbytery with permission to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery in the Leigh Valley Presbytery. She has been Coordinator of Pastoral Education at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, PA for 10 years. She has recently been promoted to Director of Pastoral Care, ACPE at the hospital. I participated in her installation as Director of Pastoral Care on **Wednesday, April 22** in the St. Luke's chapel. Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison gave the homily..