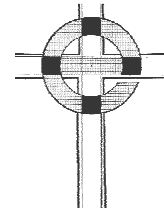




# The Presbyterian of The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 12, 2010



## Message from Greg:

Dear sister or brother in Christ,

If you've been around this Presbytery for a few years, you will remember the newsletter called, "THE PRESBYTERIAN of Elizabeth Presbytery." It is my pleasure to introduce a new, electronic version of that. Hopefully, this will keep you in touch with the Presbytery of Elizabeth and its congregations – as did the hard-copy version.

Now that I've introduced THE PRESBYTERIAN, allow me to introduce myself. I am Greg Albert, your Interim Executive Presbyter. Most recently, I was the Associate Executive Presbyter in New Brunswick Presbytery (NJ) but have also served on the staff of Wabash Valley Presbytery (IN) and James Presbytery (VA). I have been the solo pastor of three congregations (VA, IL, and FL). Prior to my ordination in 1990, I was a fundraising consultant.

Educationally, I have degrees from the University of Florida and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. I also attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. I have received both interim pastor and executive training through the PCUSA.

In the personal level, I am married to a wonderful woman named Robbin and have three sons, three grandsons, and two Italian greyhounds. Robbin and I enjoy RV camping, bicycling, and (believe it or not) worshipping in a different Presbyterian church each Sunday.

In the coming weeks, you will learn more about my perspective and hopes for Elizabeth Presbytery but suffice it to say that I believe the Holy Spirit has begun to do a new thing here. For now, I invite you to prayer with me:

*O God, you have blessed Elizabeth Presbytery with many gifts which have done great things for Your kingdom over the years. Now we ask for your guidance as we assess the current gift-set and how You would have us use it in the coming years. This we ask in the blessed name of our Lord, Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

Thanks and may God bless you this day - Greg



**Rev. Greg Albert**  
Interim Executive Presbyter

Welcome  
Welcome  
aboard  
Greg!

## Convocation of Peacemakers - April 15-17, 2010

### Stony Point Presbyterian Center, Stony Point, NY

The Global Mission Peacemaking Committee invites you into a hard conversation about non-violence, the best way to respond to violence in our time, and the future of the church

They are offering a range of scholarships for this conference, particularly targeting them towards students under the care of our local CPM and/or students who are laboring within our bounds at local congregations through field education. For more information contact Rev. Christopher Belden, GMP committee member, at (908) 232-9490 or [chrusbelden@verizon.net](mailto:chrusbelden@verizon.net)

This conference will be equal parts inspiration, introspection, learning, strategizing, and building up the community of followers of Jesus. The format includes keynote speeches by Rev. Dr. Obery Hendricks, workshops on skill building and current PPF work, and 'open space' for convocation participants to set their own agenda.

For a complete brochure visit the Stony Point website: [www.stonypointcenter.org](http://www.stonypointcenter.org)

### Coming Events from PC(USA)

- One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, April 4, 2010
- Unity and Reformed Heritage Seminar Geneva, Switzerland April 5-12, 2010
- Religion Communication Congress—Chicago, IL April 7-10, 2010
- Health Awareness Day Sunday, April 18, 2010
- Earth Day—April 22, 2010
- Older Adult Week May 2, 2010

## Seven-Steps to Launching an E-Letter

Now that e-mail has supplanted postal mail, the only paper newsletters that I continue to receive by mail come from churches.

Those churches are missing an important opportunity to save money, to reach more people, and to provide newsletters that are more lively, more timely and more likely to be read.

Here's a seven-step process for moving your congregation to an e-letter:

1. Do your **case study** first. Measure what you currently spend on a printed newsletter, including staff time, paper, printing and postage. Then measure what it would cost to do an e-letter, with a small number of printed copies going to people who don't use e-mail. The numbers are likely to be severe: several hundred dollars vs. pennies.
2. Develop a plan to offer a **printed version** for those who would prefer it.
3. Announce your thinking, **explain** the numbers, and invite people to request a printed version. (The usual numbers who do so is about 2% of the total list.)
4. Start **gathering e-mail addresses** for your congregation. Be sure to develop procedures for getting e-mail addresses for visitors and people who are "friends" of your congregation, like preschool parents and attendees at concerts.
5. **Design** a brief e-letter (not a PDF of your current printed version) that uses web technology effectively.
6. Make sure your web site has pages to which the e-letter can **link**. For example, post Sunday assignments on the web site, and put only a one-line link to it in the e-letter. Keep your web site lively, and drive people to it from the e-letter.
7. **Start** it up, and ask for feedback. Put a poll or survey in the e-letter.

You will be saving considerable sums, so you might have enough funding for a professional design. Even so, you can ask other churches in your area to start sending you their e-letters. See what the "competition" is doing.

Don't get discouraged if some members resist. As long as you make a paper version available to them, you should feel empowered to proceed.

*(The above article was written by the Rev. Tom Ehrich, founder of the Church Wellness Project. For more information about the Project, go to [churchwellness.com](http://churchwellness.com).)*



***Don't get discouraged if some members resist. As long as you make a paper version available to them, you should feel empowered to proceed.***

### What's Happening in The Presbytery of Elizabeth

**Malagasy Family Folk Dance**  
**Saturday, March 13 \* 7:00 p.m.**

Second Presbyterian Church  
 1161 East Jersey St., Elizabeth, NJ  
 For more information: (908) 352-1659

**Salem Roadhouse Café: Carla Ulbrich**  
**Saturday, March 13 \* 7:30 pm**

Townley Presbyterian Church  
 829 Salem Rd., Union, NJ 07083  
 For more information: (908) 686-1028

**Abraham's Table: Three Traditions of Prayer**  
**Sunday, March 14 \* 4:00 pm - 12:00 pm**

Christ Presbyterian Church  
 1600 Washington Valley Rd. Martinsville, NJ

**The Connection, Saturday Night Coffee-house Worship**

**Saturday, March 20 \* 6:00 pm**  
 Willow Grove Presbyterian Church  
 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
[office@willowgrovechurch.org](mailto:office@willowgrovechurch.org) - (908) 232-5678

**639th Stated Presbytery Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 23, 2010**  
**5:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

The Presbyterian Church at New Providence  
 1307 Springfield Ave., New Providence, NJ 07974

**The Day He Wore My Crown**  
**Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> \* 7:00 pm**

Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church  
 888 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083

**Live Portrayal of the The Last Supper**  
**Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> \* 7:30 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church of Iselin  
 1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ.  
 For information call (732) 283-1188 or go to  
[www.iselinpresbyterian.org](http://www.iselinpresbyterian.org)

**Celebrating Church Leadership Educational Event**

**Saturday, April 17th \* 8:30 a.m.—12 noon**  
 United Presbyterian Church  
 525 East Front St., Plainfield, NJ

**Special Needs Camp**  
**June 13-17, 2010**

Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center  
 For more information contact Mike Socia at  
 (908) 852-2349

**Zumba – Aerobics - Toning**

United Presbyterian Church  
 525 East Front St., Plainfield, NJ 07060

### Presbytery Office

525 East Front St.  
 Plainfield, NJ 07060

Phone: 908-755-3776  
 Fax: 908-755-3216  
[office@elizabethpresbytery.org](mailto:office@elizabethpresbytery.org)  
[www.elizabethpresbytery.org](http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org)

Rev. Greg Albert Ext. 3  
*Interim Executive Presbyter*

Rev. Paul F. Rack Ext. 2  
*Stated Clerk*

Dave Bomgaars Ext. 7  
*Treasurer*

Bruce Pereyra Ext. 5  
*Bookkeeper*

Sara Burke Ext. 6  
*Administrative Assistant*

Elizabeth Quintero Ext. 1  
*Administrative Assistant*

Resource Center Ext. 9