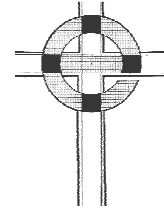




The Presbyterian

of The Presbytery of Elizabeth



Volume 1, Issue 7

May 7, 2010

PC(USA) leaders address new Arizona immigration law in letter to Congress

Dear Members of Congress,

We write to express our conviction that you must enact comprehensive immigration reform this year. As people of faith and the leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are keenly aware of the devastating effects our broken immigration system has on the lives of individuals, immigrant and non-immigrant families, and our communities. The bigotry, trauma, and fear that will result from the recent new law enacted in Arizona, SB 1070, which criminalizes those who are found "with" undocumented persons and requires law enforcement officers to identify and detain such persons, serves to underscore the necessity of action at the federal level.

Churches are on the front lines of caring for families being ripped apart by our broken immigration system. Traumatized citizen children left behind when parents are deported are but one example of the ways the current system destroys the fabric of community life, the integrity of healthy families, and the safety of individual persons. Church workers are also at the forefront of offering relief and services to immigrants, regardless of documentation status. Arizona's new law will put at risk those workers and others who are called simply to offer the most basic of humanitarian assistance. As Christians, we cannot stand by idly while our brothers and sisters die on our borders from exposure and thirst or languish in poorly equipped detention facilities, nor should we be required to do so by any law.

The new Arizona law also puts in jeopardy the public safety of immigrant communities, already wary of law enforcement for fear of deportation. Instead of new laws that induce fear and distrust, immigrants should be encouraged to participate with law enforcement, reporting crimes when they are victims and offering testimony when they are witnesses. Such trust and participation is impossible if local law enforcement is tasked with enforcement of federal immigration laws. SB 1070 will only foster more fear among immigrant communities, regardless of documentation status. Comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level is essential to override and counteract the damage done in Arizona by this new law.

In the Scriptures of Christians and Jews, we are commanded, "When an immigrant resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt" (Lev. 19:33-34). The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) therefore supports congressional action in 2010 on comprehensive immigration reform that creates a process for undocumented immigrants in the U.S. to earn their legal status; reduces waiting periods and upholds family unity; protects workers from exploitation; and provides efficient channels of entry for new migrant workers.

Sincerely,

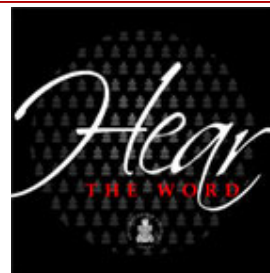
Bruce Reyes-Chow
Moderator, 218th General Assembly (2008)

Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Linda Valentine
Executive Director, GA Mission Council

Heard the Word in a New Way

Prepare your heart and mind for Sunday worship — listen to the weekly Revised Common Lectionary podcast of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Hear ancient words speak in new ways for your ongoing encouragement and instruction.



Each podcast includes four lectionary readings for one of the Sundays or festivals of the church year: an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, an Epistle and a Gospel reading. Following each set of readings is a prayer for the day from the Book of Common Worship. May these scriptures be a source of challenge and hope as you prepare your heart and mind for Sunday worship, and may the Word of God guide and nourish you in the service of daily living.

Subscribe to "Hear the Word" at: <http://www.pcusa.org/devotions/podcast.htm>

Coming Events from PC(USA) and beyond

- 11th Annual Multicultural Conference (Chicago) May 26-30, 2010
- 219th General Assembly July 3-10, 2010 Minneapolis, MN
- Follow the Leader: Imitating God July 8-11, 2010 Mo Ranch Conference Center, Hunt Texas

see also PCUSA
Planning Calendar

**Energy Stewardship for Congregations:
A Practical Guide to Taking the Next Steps
Stony Point Conference Center, May 16-17**



Many Faith Communities, Congregations, and Organizations are committed to being good stewards, but unsure how to proceed.

- How do we prioritize what actions to take?
- How do we find out how to access funds?
- What about creating a change culture in our organization?
- If those questions are blocking your next steps on energy conservation, this is the conference for you.

This is a seminar for faith communities and non-profits who already know they want to do more to conserve energy, lower costs, and care for creation. It will be facilitated by Nikki Coddington, Executive Director of *New York Interfaith Power and Light*, and Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Director of Stony Point Center. There will be an opportunity to create small groups around topics that interest the participants, as well as workshops on Monday morning that cover specific, practical guidelines for how to take the next steps with your buildings.

Monday Morning Workshops:

- Effective Energy Strategies: reducing use, costs, and carbon without breaking the bank or scaring the congregation
- Historic Preservation and Energy Conservation: Compatibility not Competition
- So Let's Do It! A nuts and bolts tour to see energy conservation efforts at SPC
- Saving Money by Choosing your Power Supplier

More information and program registrations available at <http://www.stonypointcenter.org>, or by contacting Karen Kaufman at (845) 786 5674, ext. 107 or at kkaufman@stonypointcenter.org. Partial scholarships may be available upon request. For transportation information email our Transportation Coordinator at: transportation@stonypointcenter.org.

What's Happening in The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Choral Music Workshop
Saturday May, 15, 2010 * 9am—4 pm
Siloam Hope Presbyterian Church
496 Spring St., Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Poverty on Film: Raisin in the Sun
Sunday, May 16 * 5:30—7:30 pm
Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church
716 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 756-24-68

Session Minute Review III
Tuesday, May 25 * 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church
45 Market St., Perth Amboy, NJ

Health Fair & Flea Market Extravaganza
Saturday, June 5 * 10 - 3 PM
United Presbyterian Church
525 East Front St., Plainfield, NJ
(908) 756-2666

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, June 6 * 9 AM—12 Noon
The Presbyterian Church in Westfield
Assembly Hall
140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, NJ
(908) 233-03-01

Special Needs Camp
June 13-17, 2010
Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center
For more information contact Mike Socia at
(908) 852-2349

Session Minute Review IV
Tuesday, June 29 * 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
The Presbytery of Elizabeth
525 E Front St., Plainfield, NJ



PLACE AN ORDER TODAY
2010-2011 PLANNING CALENDAR
Call 908-755-3776

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Rev. Paul F. Rack <i>Stated Clerk</i>	Ext. 2
Dave Bomgaars <i>Treasurer</i>	Ext. 7
Bruce Pereyra <i>Bookkeeper</i>	Ext. 5
Sara Burke <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Ext. 6
Elizabeth Quintero <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Ext. 1
Resource Center	Ext. 9