

# The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

## CONNECTIONS Newsletter



Vol. 14—  
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Sept/Oct/Nov  
2011

807 W. King St., Elizabethtown, NC 28337

[www.presbycc.org](http://www.presbycc.org)

### General (Presbyter) Ponderings:

"O Lord, deliver me from my own inclination to be *Chicken Little*."

That's a line I often repeat in my own personal meditations. It's a kind of negative approach to the *non-anxious presence* we are urged to maintain, as leaders of a flock, or in a presbytery. It's a family systems principle. To say it in a more pedestrian way, if the leader (parent, pastor, elder, youth director, etc) can keep her *cool*, those who follow the leader will be more likely to keep their cool. On the other hand, if the leader loses his cool, well then we can all just get really, really anxious and fearful together, and pretty soon run away, or start fighting each other. You might call that the *Chicken Little Syndrome*.

So, from time to time, I find myself struggling with my own inner *Chicken Little*. More often than not, it happens when I look up on the horizon (figuratively) and see something coming at me that is new, and different, and pretty much designed to unsettle or discomfort me. Say, for instance, the new Form of Government.

"O, my goodness, that's going to change everything! It's going to create such chaos! It's going to mean so much extra work!" That translates, "The sky is falling, the sky is falling!" Well, here we are, the new Book of Order is being distributed. We have affirmed that the old will prevail until the new can be brought into our organizational life in an orderly way. And...the sky has not fallen.

We are, in fact, right now gathering resources to be made available at the upcoming Leadership School in Clinton, designed to help sessions accommodate the requirements and opportunities of the new Form of Government...in a non-anxious way. In that particular class for session members, we will share the idea that this can be much more than simply making a list of what has changed and what will be required. If we let it be, this can be a time of re-examining and reaffirming our vision for ministry within our congregations.- a transition process resulting in our becoming more aware and more certain about who we are and what we're doing in the name of Christ within each of our congregations.

Chicken Little was stuck, in her anxiety, in her fear and uncertainty about things that were happening that she did not understand. Chicken Little was running around in circles, wringing her hands (feathers?) and generally making others around her anxious and fearful. It would seem that her anxiety and her apparent need to make other creatures in the barnyard anxious and upset was so powerful that she could not look ahead to meet the challenges and see the opportunities.

Chicken Little is not what you'd call a model of faith. God through Christ has to remind us from time to time to stop stomping around in the middle of the barnyard in fear or frustration, and start looking into God's future for us in a new day. (see John 14.27)

David

*Now we are the people of God...and it does not yet appear what we shall be.* (1John3.2)



### Beulaville PC Reaches Out through Summer Program

Members of Beulaville Presbyterian Church and individuals in the community combined resources to offer a summer program at the church for the second year to help students at Beulaville Elementary School with math and reading.

"We are doing this on a shoestring," Bill Taber, church pastor stated. "We are giving away books and using volunteers. Mostly, we are doing this by faith." With one-on-one tutoring, the two-day-a-week sessions began June 28 and ended August 10. Rev. Taber says that he understands 70% of the kids that attended most of the sessions last summer went up in their reading and math skills.

Kristen Sumner is the coordinator for the program and states the kids have snacks and outside time along with the tutoring. Students use workbooks they take home at the end of the session.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina's

### LEADERSHIP SCHOOL & LEARNING FAIR

*Called to Hope*

**Saturday, September 17, 2011**

**NEW LOCATION**—Sampson Community College—1801 Sunset Ave., Clinton, NC 28329



WORKSHOPS, BOOKSTORE, DISPLAYS, LUNCH

**KEYNOTER: Rev. Carol Howard Merritt**—pastor at Western Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC, author of two books and co-host of God Complex Radio

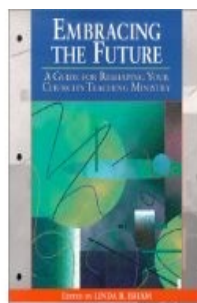
**REGISTRATION FEE—\$25; Walk-ins—\$30**

Join us for Workshops, Displays, Bookstore,

**Day Camp** for K-5th graders (Cost \$10)

Find the [brochure/registration](#) form online at [www.presbycc.org](http://www.presbycc.org).

Celebrate **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK**—Sept. 11-17



### Creating a Vision for Educational Ministries—

An important task for congregations is to finalize plans for educational ministries, worship and celebrations, evangelism efforts, and mission in action for the next year.

An excellent process for evaluating and visioning educational ministry is explored in *Embracing the Future: A Guide for Reshaping Your Church's Teaching Ministry*, edited by Linda R. Isham. Although printed in 1999, the biblical discernment and reproducible tools in this resource remain relevant. Contact Kaye in Presbytery's Resource Center to borrow a copy of the book.

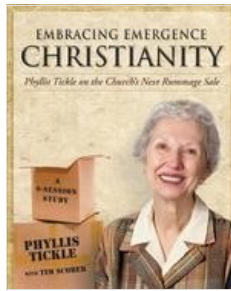
Your church may be starting a ministry from scratch and discovering the basics of organization. Thanks to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, Witherspoon Press and the authors of *Help! We Need to Organize the Education Program*, chapters of the out-of-print text are [available for download](#).

Few books are available today that specifically address the organization of Christian education in congregations. The reasons for few books on the subject are complex. Instead of building programs, churches are seeking ways to encounter God across generations in all settings. This makes ongoing evaluation of when and how learning takes place even more important. Get a list of books and tools for evaluation educational ministry by contacting [Kaye](#) or by [clicking here](#).

## Embracing Emergence Christianity—

(borrow from [Presbytery's Resource Center](#))

Author, historian and keen cultural observer Phyllis Tickle invites us to join her in examining the changing face of Christianity and culture. Phyllis surveys 2000 years of Western history, identifying the great upheavals that occur in Western culture and Christianity every 500 years. The last was the Great Reformation of the 1500's; the next is happening now.



What are the implications of this "Great Emergence," both culturally and spiritually? What are the key questions and issues that need to be addressed? Where might we be headed next? And, perhaps most importantly, where are you, at this moment? Might you be an emergence Christian?

There are six sessions on the DVD. Each session begins with a video presentation by Phyllis Tickle, lasting from 10-15 minutes. Ms. Tickle's presentation is followed by filmed interaction with a small group. The Participant Workbook then helps your small group "join the dialogue" in your own setting.

### THE SIX SESSIONS:

- Session 1: Emergence 101
- Session 2: Where Now is the Authority?
- Session 3: The 20th Century and Emergence
- Session 4: Gifts from Other Times
- Session 5: How Then Shall We Live?
- Session 6: Hallmarks of Emergence

To view a video clip from Embracing Emergence Christianity:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M80I9rZaqVE>

## Where Is God Leading Your Congregation?

The PCUSA's Evangelism and Church Growth mission area offers several free tools that can help the visioning process.



- ◆ **Starting New Churches** ([www.pcusa.org/startingnewchurches](http://www.pcusa.org/startingnewchurches)), is a discernment tool based on a set of questions and Bible study.
- ◆ **New Initiatives** ([www.pcusa.org/startingnewinitiatives](http://www.pcusa.org/startingnewinitiatives)), uses a process that begins with a select group of people asking the question that Jesus posed, "Who do you say that I am?"
- ◆ **Engage** ([www.pcusa.org/evangelism](http://www.pcusa.org/evangelism)), is an intentional ten-month design which allows individuals and congregations to focus on what is important in their faith journey and translate this into meaningful ministry and mission.

## Human Trafficking, A Modern-Day Slave Trade—

The Presbyterian Women of Southport Presbyterian Church will host a regional educational event on human trafficking.

**November 19, 2011**  
**Southport Presbyterian Church**  
1025 E. Moore St., Southport, NC 28461

### Presenter is Martha Gee,

from General Assembly Mission Council Office of the General Assembly PCUSA.

The workshop is to help educate about the issue both locally and globally and enlighten us in ways to combat trafficking. Let's build awareness in our local churches, communities, and personal lives...WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

### CALVIN LECTURES

at First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville  
**OCTOBER 8-9, 2011**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Dr. Timothy George, Dean and Professor of Beeson Divinity School Birmingham, Alabama  
For details, contact 910-483-0121 or [www.firstprez.com](http://www.firstprez.com)

## The Ones Who Stay—

### Lee Co. Tornado Recovery Report

Lee County has formed a Long Term Recovery Committee to address the unmet needs of our citizens following the April 16 tornado! The name of the organization is San-Lee Interagency Disaster Recovery Committee (SLIDRC – We just pronounce it "slider").

We have established an office at the St. Luke United Methodist Youth House, 2916 Wicker St., Sanford, NC 27330. Phone Number 775-1724. Christians United Outreach Center (CUOC) was kind enough to let us fall under their 501(C)(3) status and they are serving as our fiscal agent.

We have minimal staff, with only a paid recovery coordinator and part-time case manager. All others are volunteers. The SLIDRC Board/Leadership Team is a diverse group with representatives from Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian Churches; as well as representatives from CUOC, United Way, and Red Cross.

SLIDRC recently contracted with Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) to assess the unmet needs of Lee County. (Unmet needs defined as those not covered by insurance or FEMA) CRWRC has identified 43 households with un-met needs totaling \$222,000 (labor, construction materials, and contents). SLIDRC is committed to do all we can to meet these unmet needs; and through the generosity of our churches the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina has already given us \$15,000 and we are hoping for additional funds from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Further, we have and will continue to receive support from the various other denominational organizations. But as you know a number of disasters have occurred around our nation; and national organizations are spread thin, so much of the support will have to be provided locally.

Therefore, we are requesting the assistance of Presbytery churches, many who have already helped and we thank you. But if you are still seeking opportunities to help, I suggest you work through SLIDRC.

Our immediate needs are: Financial support; Fund-Raising Ideas; Assistance with debris removal; Volunteers with construction expertise to estimate repair costs and provide supervision; Spiritual support of residents.

Please prayerfully consider how your Church might participate in the Lee County recovery efforts. If you have questions, please contact me directly or call the SLIDRC Office. If you wish to provide financial support please make checks out to "CUOC" and note that the funds are for "SLIDRC" or "Lee County Tornado Recovery". Send checks to: CUOC of Lee County Attn.: Teresa Dew, P.O. Box 2217, Sanford, NC 27331 Rev. Danny Redman, Pastor, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Chair, SLIDRC Leadership Team 919-499-9152, [standpastor@windstream.net](mailto:standpastor@windstream.net)



### What's New in 2011-2012—

**Wee Believe Toddler**—Look for a new format for this fall as this becomes an annual curriculum featuring Bible stories and age appropriate activities.

**Multiage Elementary is NOW Available**—Multiage follows the same sequence as **We Believe** for younger and older elementary but features activities that are designed for smaller classroom setups, reusable supplies, and a broader scope.

**Web Site**—For all your curriculum needs, visit [gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/curriculum](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/curriculum). Navigate through the different age levels, from early childhood to adult, using the left sidebar.

**We Believe on Facebook**—If you are a Christian educator looking for ways to connect to other educators using the same curriculum resources, join Facebook pages for **We Believe**, **Faith Questions**, and **Being Formed: Faith Seeking Understanding**. [Facebook.com/WeBelieveCurriculum](https://www.facebook.com/WeBelieveCurriculum)

## Presbytery OFFICER TRAINING—

Elect your new officers and plan to attend officer training in **SIX LOCATIONS** (TBA) in the Presbytery.

**DATES: NOVEMBER 5 & 12**

Contact your Mission Coordinator or check the web site for details.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the **PCUSA NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT**.





### Big Time at the BIG TENT EVENT—

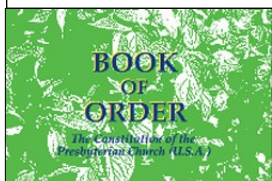
By Sue Lowery, elder at First Presbyterian, Jacksonville, NC

Big Tent is a gathering of nine Presbyterian conferences (Clergywomen's Leadership Institute/Young Women's Leadership Development, Evangelism and Church Growth, Healthy Ministry, National Elders, National Multicultural Church, Peacemaking, Presbyterian Communicators' Network, Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation, and World Mission Matters) held in years during which General Assembly does not meet. I attended the June 2009 Big Tent in Atlanta on a scholarship given by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. My experiences at that conference were so rewarding I knew I would attend Big Tent 2011.

Big Tent 2011 in Indianapolis fulfilled my expectations. Joint worship services were spiritually fulfilling (Mark Labberton reminded us the Great Commission was given to His disciples, including some doubters; Serene Jones encouraged us to stay awake to the openness called grace); music stirred my soul (have you joined 1,500 Christians in *How Can I Keep from Singing?*); workshops challenged my thinking about how I can better serve God and First Presbyterian, Jacksonville, as an Elder and as a member. Moderator Cindy Bolbach gave insight on implementing nFOG. Margaret Aymer introduced *Confessing the Beatitudes*, the *Horizons* Bible study for 2011-12.

In addition to the spiritual/educational aspects of Big Tent, there is also the opportunity to make new Christian friends, to see friends from Big Tent 2009, and to spend time with other Coastal Carolina friends. Joyce Peay (Mount Pelier Church, Rowland) and I had never met, but shared a hotel room, laughter, and ideas. Josh and Sommer Bower (Whiteville and Lake Waccamaw PCs) were intent on soaking up all Big Tent had to offer but we managed to spend a little time together. Kimani Wright was also there, but our paths did not cross.

Big Tent 2013, here I come!



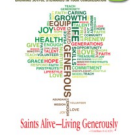
### Get Your Copy of the New Book of Order

The new Form of Government became effective July 10 and is contained in the new Book of Order 2011-2013. The Book of Order is available in print and a number of online versions.

Contact the Presbytery office to purchase your \$9.00 copy or download it free from online.

[Find out more.](#)

### Giving



### 2011 Stewardship GIVING Magazine—

Order your copy of the 2011 *Giving* magazine by calling Presbyterian Distribution Services at (800) 524-2612. (Shipping charges apply.) This year's magazine contains helpful articles as well as planning resources for

the 2011 Stewardship Theme:

**Saints Alive: Living Generously,**



### Peacemaking Scholarship Award recipient Christian Crumpton

expresses her gratitude at Presbytery's June meeting. Presbytery's Peacemaking Committee presented Christian, a high school graduate and

member at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen, NC the **2011 Mozell Howie scholarship** for her essay on how she has been a peacemaker. Christian is attending Sandhills Community College this fall. Valued at \$1,000, the scholarship is awarded annually. The Peacemaking Committee will receive new applications in the spring of 2012.

Learn more at [www.presbycc.org/missions/](http://www.presbycc.org/missions/)



What's NEW with YOUTH - by Jennifer Maffia

### Off the Page

Coastal Carolina Presbytery Youth 2011-12  
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- ◆ **Presbytery Youth Kick-Off: JESUS IS OUR SUPERHERO!—**  
September 10, 2011—  
6TH—12TH GRADE YOUTH—  
1-4PM at West End Presbyterian Church—  
Cost: \$2.00 per person & a lb. bag of rice
- ◆ Senior High Retreat—November 19-20, 2011
- ◆ Youthquake—January 28, 2012
- ◆ Middle School Retreat—March 9-10, 2012

—Contact [jennifermaffia@presbycc.org](mailto:jennifermaffia@presbycc.org) for more information.

**Report on Montreat Youth Conference—**25 youth and 5 adults from our Presbytery attended a week-long conference this summer. The adventure was started with a "bonding" lock-in at Westminster PC, Fayetteville. New friendships were created and all of the youth want to become involved on the Presbytery level. The theme was "Searching for a Signal" which provided many faith formation opportunities.

### Grants Awarded Through PCC Mission & Outreach—



The Committee on Mission and Outreach has awarded these grants to the following congregations to support both new and ongoing mission and outreach projects.

- **Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church and Central Presbyterian Church, Clarkton** will share a \$1000 grant to support the ongoing ministry of the Bladen Parish Nurse.

- **First Presbyterian Church of Morehead City** was awarded a \$1000 grant to support the Family Promise of Carteret project, which addresses homelessness of women, single women/parents with children, and families who are facing eviction or are homeless. First Presbyterian Church will be one of thirteen host church sites.

- **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Fayetteville was awarded a \$500 grant to support the Westminster Carpentry Ministry. This grant will allow them to purchase tools and equipment needed to perform the tasks involved in making homes safer and more accessible (e.g., access ramps).

- **St. Pauls Presbyterian Church** was awarded a \$1000 grant to support the new *C.A.L.L.S. (Creating a Loving Learning Space)* project. This project will help non-native young people overcome language barriers and strengthen their academic skills. The project will also help English-speaking church members share their talents, acquire cultural awareness of the Latino/Hispanic culture, and improve their Spanish-speaking skills. The grant will also help fund participation in the Spanish-speaking Commissioned Lay Pastor programs at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

Grant monies have already been distributed to these congregations. Recipients will be recognized at the Saturday, October 15, 2011 presbytery meeting.

**Congratulations to these congregations for their mission initiatives!**

### CHURCHES SHARING GOD'S LOVE—

**Laurinburg PC & Blessing of the Backpacks—**Laurinburg PC provides backpacks filled with supplies to needy school children.

**Winter Park PC has Successful Food Collection—**Their April food drive collected 99 bags of food and \$109 for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

**Westminster PC, Wilmington's Bread for Life ministry** served 60 seniors twice monthly at the regularly scheduled food drops, and breads, bakery products, and daily necessity items were delivered to another 100 seniors weekly.

**Windermere PC, Wilmington** prepares and delivers approximately 95 meals on the fourth Saturday of each month for Meals on Wheels.