

Presbyterian Welcome

Summer Newsletter 2010

Flaming Red

In the spirit of Pentecost, Presbyterian Welcome is renewing and recreating with the fiery flavor of the season. Our esteemed Board, Staff and supportive Colleagues have joined together in strategic planning sessions focused on this exciting time of growth and transformation. The eruption of energy and spirit has been blazing, and this is just the beginning.

Here are a few sparks of what's heating up Presbyterian Welcome this Spring and Summer:

- Our PresWel family is growing. We're welcoming two new staff members, and moving our roots to a new larger office.
- We are busy readying ourselves for the 'mighty wind' to incite our red flaming tongues (albeit from atomic fire balls and red hots) to ignite 5th Avenue in Pride 2010.
- Our Candidates and Inquires Retreat continues to grow and flourish preparing our next generation of glowing hot Presbyterian leaders.
- PresWel, our Member Church families, and the Presbytery of NYC will be breathing fire into the General Assembly with the presentation of three overtures.

We excite in our many new and growing blessings, and we invite you to join us, as we live into our next expression of the fierce fiery love of the Holy Spirit.

Erin and Mieke

New Faces and Old Friends



Erin Reese is our new Director of Communications. She holds a Masters of Art and Theology from Union Theological Seminary. An

artist and film maker who has consulted for directors and non-profits working at the intersection of art, religion, and social justice, Erin has for the past four years been particularly focused on visual culture and media. Erin resides in Manhattan where she enjoys the art scene and relishes the diversity of baked goods.



Douglass Anne Cartwright is our Administrative Assistant. She is a recent graduate of The George Washington University, in

Washington D.C., where she earned B.A.'s in Music and Theatre. A sixth generation member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the daughter of two ministers, Douglass Anne is in the process of discerning her call to ministry and is incredibly excited to be a part of Presbyterian Welcome. She is an avid reader, musical theatre-goer, and aspiring actress.



Meagan Manas our dear friend and colleague has moved to the NCC, where she is coordinating projects for Women's

Ministries on: Maternal Health, Expansive Language, and Young Woman's Leadership. She will be missed in the office, but we are so glad she hasn't gone far.

Pride 2010

PresWel will be blazing at multiple venues during this year's PRIDE celebration. Please join us as we flame down 5th Ave, from the pulpit, and at the Fish Out of Water screening and discussion.

June 22nd

The Film:

PresWel will be heating up the 'Fish Out of Water' screening and panel discussion at First Presbyterian in Manhattan at 6:30p.m. Fish Out of Water is a genre-bending feature documentary that uses animation and academic interviews to dissect the seven Bible verses used to condemn homosexuality and justify marriage discrimination. The panel discussion following will be led by the Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo of Auburn Media.

June 27th

The Stories:

Join us at 9:30a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, NYC to hear the stories of sizzling gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender candidates for ordination to ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church. Despite homophobic and heterosexist policies in our denomination, God continues to call the diversity of humankind to ordained ministry, and our community continues to bravely answer.

The Celebration:

Come a little early to the parade, and celebrate communion in the street with the PresWel community. We will also offer prayers for General Assembly, and commission those who will be going. It's a wonderful time to briefly come together and focus inward. Check the website for further information on location and time.

The March:

Get those boas ready, and we will provide the atomic fireballs. PresWel will be lining up for the 41st anniversary of the NYC Heritage of PRIDE March. Step off is to be determined, so check our website for further details. We will be Flaming for Christ from 36th Street on this year, so come out and help fan the flames!



David Paul, David DeLauro, Meg Harper, Joan Reutershan



David Lewicki, Haddon Givens-Kime, Patrick Evans, Mark Miller, Takako Terino, Myra Joyce

PresWel Worship

General Assembly is sure to provide lots of activity, hope, and heartache. We will gather as a community after the Assembly and the GLBT Inquirers and Candidates Retreat in worship. Join us on Wednesday, July 28th at 6:30 p.m. for worship and fellowship. Mieke will offer a fiery reflection on the events of the summer and we will think into the future together.

Moving on up!

We've officially moved!

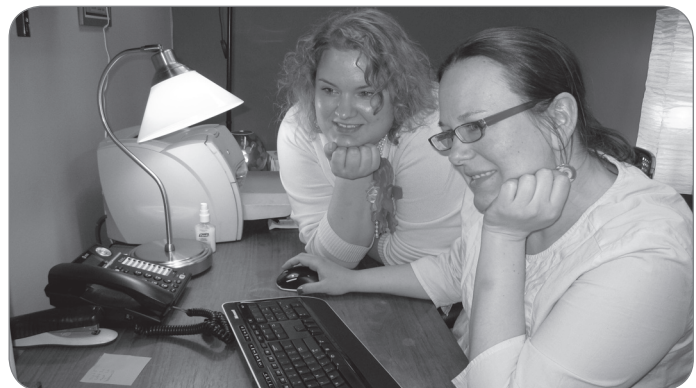
We are now residing down the hall in Suite 308, so change those blackberries and rolodexes.

All moves are substantial undertakings, and PW's was no exception. We couldn't have done it without the generous love and support from Rutgers Presbyterian, our Board, and our wonderful PresWel community. It was through this generosity that we were able to raise over \$2,500. However, this is only part of the resources needed. We are still working to raise the remaining \$7,000 necessary for this exciting transition, so please give as you are able online at: <http://www.presbyterianwelcome.org/index.php/friends>

Or, try out our new address on a donation mailed to:

Presbyterian Welcome
2095 Broadway, Suite 308
New York, NY 10023

As always, your generous love and support is deeply appreciated.



Retreat 2010

Retreat 2010 is our fifth annual retreat for LGBTQ Inquirers and Candidates who are striving to serve our church. The retreat offers a safe place to worship, join in fellowship, and share strategies for going through the process. It is a welcoming and renewing experience where participants connect from across the nation. All LGBTQ Inquirers and Candidates who are "in-care" are invited.

Retreat 2010 will be in Rural Indiana from July 15-18, 2010. Scholarships are available. Please do take a look at the Retreat Flier on our website, and feel free to call (917-441-8638) or email the Presbyterian Welcome office (pastormieke@gmail.com) for more information. Your calls and emails are confidential.

New Blog Series

We will be hosting a 4 week Esteemed Guest blog series from Pentecost leading up to General Assembly on our devotional blog Psalms Modern. The series theme of 'Water' is inspired by this year's GA theme: Rivers of Living Water (from John 7:37-38 ... "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'") The reflections will address the critical need for governance to affirm the calling of all persons and to reflect divine grace. We are thrilled to have the Rev. Scott Rennie penning our first post on June 2nd. Be sure to check in weekly to Psalms Modern during this exciting time.

Friends of 2009

Paule Alexander
Susan Andrews
Anne Barstow and Tom Driver
Sandy and Dick Beery
Brenda Berkman
Mary Birchard
Cara Bissell
Robin Blakeman
Ellen Pearre Cason
Adele Crawford
Ron Cruikshank
Rev. Laura Cunningham
Ann M. Darmstaetter
Robert and Nancy Doan
Rev. Jane Donnelly
Martha Ferry
Leroy Glover
Rev. Krystin Granberg
Rev. John Harris
Barbara Ivy
Rev. Andy James
Nicole Johnson
Estelle Jones
Charles Jones
Ginger and Glen Lambert
Phyllis Leimer
Pauline Levin
Patricia Lewis
Christopher and Valerie Mason
Maggie McClure
Derrick W. McQueen
Bill and Judy Moyer

Dorothy Muller
Jeannine Oakes
Barbara L. Pietracatella
Rev. William Rambo
David Richardson
Rev. David Schult
Rev. Mary Speers
Rev. Norman and Susan Stanton
Ellsworth Stanton III
Rev. Andrew Stehlik
Marie Thompson
Rev. John Underwood
Steve Van Dyk
Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo
Paul M. Vasile and Eric Lamb
Jim Vesper
Anne Waasdorp
Rev. John David Warren
Ruby Wilson
Gary and Kathy Wolf

Best Friends

Rev. Liz Alexander and Martha Gallahue
Wallace and Alice Alston
John Jay Batten
Betsy Britton
Bill & Stuart Buice
José Cintron-Heyliger
Anne S. Connor
Hope DeRogatis
Rev. Kate Dunn
Mark Elsenheimer
Rev. Bryan Franzen
Sevilla Hughes

Milan Hughston
Anne Hale Johnson
Kurt Kaboth
Michael King
Constance Knapp
Massimo Maglione
Meagan Manas and Dan Remein
Rev. Daniel Martian
Neal Matticks
Rev. Oscar McCloud
Richard and Eloise Mills
Rev. Charles Mitchell
John and Eloise Morehouse
Holly and Jim Nedelka
Kevin F. O'Brien
Tyrone Peek
Rev. Thomas Philipp
Rev. Cheryl Pyrch
Mary Reiman
Anthony Ridley and Kathryn Graybill
Henry and Suzanne Shaw
Tina Silvestro
Marcy Steele
David Taylor and Cliff Flanders
Amanda Trigg and Robert Trawick
Max and Myra Vandersall
Special Friends
Rev. Charles Amstein
Betty Bolden
Helen Bowen-Ingram
Ken Bower

Richard Burlage
Ellen and Bill Pearre Cason
Rev. Alistair Drummond
William Falk
Steven Incontro
Terry Johnson
Betty Jones
Karen Ellen Kavey
John Kinney
Rev. David Lewicki and Rev. Beth Waltemath
Joan and Frank Marino
David Mulle
Richard and Georgia Pease
Rev. Patricia Raube
Rev. Byron and Margaret Shafer
Brian S. Symonds
Jim Uleman and Marilyn Cleveland
Jacquelynn Van Vliet
Rev. Mieke Vandersall
Kaaren Zvonik

Friends Forever

Rev. David Cockcroft
Rev. Anne and Francis Conroy
David DeLauro
Alline Matheson
Rev. Laurie McNeill
Doug Nave
Al and Kellie Anderson
Picallo
Julian and Ruth Schroeder
Rev. Chris Shelton
Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen

Takako Terino
Angela Zachary

Other Friends

Dorothy Alexander-Gill
Barbara Algett
Rev. Tricia Dykers Koenig
Rev. Katherine Higgins
Kenneth MacRitchie
Paul Mowry
Helen Perera
Sharon Selick
Howard and Margaret Stoner
Barbara Swarthout
Beth Van Sickle

Volunteers

Sorrel Ann Alburger
Matthew Beams
Helen Bowen-Ingram
Meghan Clark-Kevan
Rev. Alistair Drummond
Bill Falk
Cybele Gouverneur
Meg Harper
Rev. Charlie Mitchell
Paul Mowry
Kristen Nivling
Tyrone Peek
Ned Raube-Wilson
Jeremiah Rosario
Ellie Silverman
Tina Silvestro
Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen
Takako Terino

Vision

As followers of Christ, convinced by Scripture and the Reformed tradition, we envision a world as inclusive as God's grace and a church where God's call to service is affirmed in all persons.

Mission

Presbyterian Welcome, a validated ministry, is a community of congregations and individuals in the New York area. Our mission is to build up and repair the Body of Christ by working for the full inclusion of all disciples, without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity. In being a resource for the church we aim to:

- Provide leadership and education for the exploration of human sexuality in a theological framework;
- Reform the Church constitution to remove barriers to inclusion;
- Raise awareness, encourage discipleship and promote welcome in local congregations;
- Witness to God's faithfulness for those who face difficulty in responding to God's call;
- Join in partnerships with like-minded organizations to accomplish these goals.

Member Churches

The Brick Presbyterian Church
Broadway Presbyterian Church
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn
The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York
The Church of Gethsemane
Jan Hus Presbyterian Church
Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church
Naurausaun Presbyterian Church
Palisades Presbyterian Church
The Presbyterian Church of Astoria
Riverdale Presbyterian Church
Rutgers Presbyterian Church
Second Presbyterian Church
St. James Presbyterian Church
South Presbyterian Church
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Union Presbyterian Church, Bay Ridge
West Park Presbyterian Church

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