

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS

September 13, 2008

East Craftsbury

- **PRE-PRESBYTERY SEMINAR**

Friday evening 18 people gathered for a seminar on church systems presented by Dr. David Jones of Austin Seminary. Dr. Jones is an expert on the family-systems organizational theory and provided helpful insights for everyone to better understand the how and why of dynamics within the church.

It is hoped that these Friday night gatherings can be a regular feature of Presbytery Assemblies to benefit area churches and those from far distance coming early.

- **NEW MINISTERS WELCOMED**

Steve Hastings is the new pastor of the Hartford/Leeds churches. Mark Wendorf is a member-at-large. Both are living in Maine.

- **LONDONDERRY CELEBRATION**

The conclusion of the lawsuit and the acceptance by the EPC church of the settlement offered before trial was summarized. Payment of the legal fees will be accomplished though a loan from Synod. The LPC session invited the Presbytery offices to relocate to their building. October 25 is the big move day.

All of Presbytery celebrated the return of the congregation to their building and their homecoming worship on September 7, almost a year after being locked out.

- **DAVID MEDEIROS**

David was examined and approved for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. David has been called as a part-time Associate Pastor at Londonderry, where he has been serving as a session elder.

- **PASTOR EXCHANGE**

The uBunye*Partnership* announced the invitation of our sister Amatola Presbytery in South Africa for 4-6 pastors from PNNE to spend 4 weeks with them, first in a week-long seminar together and then individually working with their pastors and congregations. Applications are being accepted now.

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

Commissioners Tom Woodward and Ingrid Cyros and YAD Tabitha Karanja gave excellent insights into the work and reward of this service to the church. The Amendments proposed to the Book of Order will be voted in March. We also learned of the Mission Statement for the 21st Century, a new Belhar Confession, and a proposed change in the Heidleberg Catechism's English translation.

- **PEACEMAKING**

The Peacemaking Task Group encouraged everyone to participate in the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 5. 25% of the offering is kept by the congregation for local programs. The 16 congregations which have affirmed the PCUSA Commitment to Peacemaking were thanked and the other congregations were encouraged to affirm the Commitment as well.

- **SAFE CHURCH**

The Safe Church Task Group made its final report and was dismissed with thanks. There have been several policies and forms which have been distributed to the congregations as suggestions and models to be used concerning buildings, insurance, and procedures to better safeguard members, guests, and facilities. This information will also be available on the Presbytery website for reference and download.

- **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

The Hunger Offering collected at lunch (which was a magnificent array of home-cooked dishes) was \$177 which supported the local Salvation Farms food bank.

The worship offering of \$372 was dedicated to the Vermont Interfaith Action programs.