



An occasional newsletter from the Moderator and Stated Clerk to Teaching and Ruling Elders of the Philadelphia Presbytery (PCA)

Brothers, in an effort to be more diligent in our communication we are planning to send out this newsletter via email at least once between meetings of the presbytery. We hope you will support our effort in at least two ways:

1. **READ IT!** We know dozens of emails will come your way each day. We will try to be concise and organize the material in a way you can read quickly. But it is important to stay as informed as possible of presbytery news.
2. **FORWARD IT!** This is going out to Teaching Elders. Most of you can forward this on to your Ruling Elders as an email. If not you can reproduce it to include in your monthly elders' "packet." Your REs need to feel that they are part of our presbytery. Thank you for your commitment to the work of the Lord in our city and presbytery.

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August 26, 2008

Brothers,

We are looking forward to our meeting of September 10, but we wanted to get a few items to you in advance of the meeting. In a few days you will receive the documents of the meeting along with the agenda. Keep in mind that this is our one evening meeting of the year. We will begin at 6PM and end by 10. Renewal Church in west Philly will be our host.

#### IMPORTANT GATHERING FOR YOUR WIVES

Please make sure you have marked your calendar for Saturday, September 20. The wives sub-team of our Shepherding Team has invited pastor's wives of the Metro West and Eastern PA presbyteries to join them for a conference on Culture, Kids and the Kingdom. Sue Jakes will be coming from Atlanta to speak to the wives. Sue has headed up children's ministry for the PCA, and she has a remarkably solid as well as practical understanding of what it means to raise kids in a covenant home. This will be a great opportunity for learning as well as fellowship.

Child care will *not* be provided. That means you need to set aside that morning to be with your kids so your wife can have some time away. The conference will be from 9-2 at New Life Glenside. The cost is \$25.00, including lunch, if you register by Sept. 10. If you need more information or a brochure contact Sandy Smallman (stephenssmallman@mac.com; 215-793-4112). Feel free to bring along wives of non-pastoral staff, interns and licen-sates. Please call or email in advance so they know how many lunches will be served, even if you plan to pay at the time you register.

#### CHANGE OF CALL FOR OUR CLERK

Greg Hobaugh has received a new call, but the ministry will still be in the Philadelphia area. Greg is the new Dean of Students at Westminster Seminary. Pray for Greg in this important role, particularly during this period of time in Westminster's history.

#### DEACONAL MINISTRY DISCUSSIONS

The issue raised by our overture to the last General Assembly has encouraged discussion throughout the PCA. Two very helpful articles just appeared in the email edition of "By Faith" magazine, one by Tim Keller and the other by Ligon Duncan. If you don't get those emails, here is the link to the articles: <http://byfaithonline.com/page/in-the-church/the-case-for-commissioning-not-ordaining-deaconesses>. If you missed the opinion of the Standing Judicial Commission about the complaint from Crossroads church, it will be made available at the next Presbytery meeting. Continue to pray for unity within our presbytery as we discuss how we will practice diaconal service and mercy ministries.

Thanks for your prayers, and may God continue to use the Philadelphia Presbytery to advance his Kingdom.