



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.

**IMPORTANT WEB/EMAIL CHANGES** – Please be aware that we've changed hosting of our Presbytery website. Thanks to Robert Kim, who devoted his time and creativity, we have a new website and address. The new site is cheaper and we can do more practical things (such as have an email for each committee chair). The new address is [www.phillypca.com](http://www.phillypca.com) and the new Clerk's email address is [statedclerk@phillypca.com](mailto:statedclerk@phillypca.com). The former address will be terminated after the next Presbytery meeting. Please add this new email address to your addressbook so that it will not be immediately dumped into your spam/junk folder.

**NEWEST MEMBERS** – Since our meeting in November two men have been ordained to the gospel ministry in our presbytery. We extend the right hand of fellowship to these new members and co-workers in the gospel. Maranatha Chung was ordained as an evangelist to the Chinese community on Nov. 22. The service was translated into Chinese and viewed by family and friends in Hong Kong. The Chungs just welcomed their third child and have moved into a new home to be closer to the Chinese community in Northeast Philly. Marc Davis was ordained as an Assistant Pastor of New Life Glenside on Sunday evening, Jan. 4. The sermon, on the "Glory of Christ" was preached by his father, Dr. Clair Davis. New Life Glenside is the church Marc grew up in, so there was much rejoicing in God's faithfulness to another generation.

**PASTORS' WIVES FELLOWSHIP** – Your wives should have received an invitation to a brunch sponsored by the Shepherd-ing Team. It will take place on Jan. 24 at John and Shelley Julien's house, starting at 9:30 AM. Wonmin Kim and Stacy Bartholomew will share their journeys. Please support your wives in this great opportunity for fellowship and encouragement.

**HEADS-UP FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES** – The Coordinating Team has been considering ways we can function more effectively as a presbytery. We originally set up the presbytery to meet as infrequently as possible with as short meetings as possible. We wonder if that has served us well, particularly in our mission to be a place of learning and fellowship for teaching and ruling elders. For the February meeting we will be suggesting revisions to the Bylaws of presbytery that will allow two basic changes: (1) We will propose adding a meeting so that we meet every other month from September through May (five meetings instead of four). One of those meetings should be devoted almost exclusively to review of the presbytery's mission and prayer for our ministries; (2) we will propose changing the Bylaws so that officers are elected in May to begin serving in September. Currently they are elected based on a calendar year. These changes will need to be discussed and voted up or down in February and then be voted on a second time in May to become effective. Specific wording of the changes will be included in the materials you will receive prior to our February 14 meeting.

**PRAYER CONCERNS** – We know there are many concerns of our churches and elders, but here are a few that have come to out attention:

*Kin Lam* is taking an extended leave from his mission church to the Chinese community of South Philadelphia. Services of the mission have been suspended as Kin rests and reviews his calling.

*Steve Huber* asks for prayer that liberti-Fishtown will find a "home". A good relationship with a presbyterian church in the community was cancelled by its presbytery and now they are looking into other possibilities.

*Christ Liberation Fellowship* is in conversation with the IRS about their tax situation. They still do not have a clear plan of action to follow. But growth in ministry continues and they are anticipating becoming a particular church this Spring.

*Bagu Alobeyo* is in the Congo to help his extended family during this time of crisis there. Pray for his safety and for a successful evacuation of his family.

*Ilya and Penina Lizorkin*, now in Haifa, Israel, are asking us to pray for the country. They work with believers in Askelon, one of the cities receiving rocket fire.

**NEXT MEETING** – Presbytery will meet Saturday morning, February 14, 2009 at Westminster Seminary in Rust Auditorium. This is the meeting when we need to nominate members of Presbytery to boards and agencies of the General Assembly. If you have a desire to serve, please contact Greg.