

PEACE CONNECTIONS

LOCAL YOUTH USE THEIR SUMMER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE—BOTH TO THEM AND THOSE THEY HELPED

This past summer 13 youth and 5 adults from Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) in Fairfax, Virginia, were fortunate to be a part of an amazing opportunity to experience Christ's love and share their faith in a very hands-on way.

They joined teens from all over the country for one week in Auburn, New York doing home repairs for elderly and low-income home owners as part of a program sponsored by Group Workcamps Foundation. The youths worked in groups of five, each with an adult supervisor. Each group was assigned to work on one home doing things like painting, carpentry and other repairs while at the same time developing a personal relationship with the homeowner.

The theme of this year's program was "Full Service - A Jesus Attitude" and the whole experience was a very positive one for everyone as it touched many hearts and lives. Every day, the campers would meet for a morning briefing and an evening praise service where they learned about Paul's euphoric message of selfless service found in the book of Philippians. And the kids got it, constantly reminding one another when they did and didn't have the Jesus attitude.

There is another component to the story that deserves mention here. In an effort to defray their individual costs, the group raised money through the sale of Fair Trade coffee, tea and cocoa. Additionally, many people made donations. The Church also

requested and received a grant from National Capital Presbytery's Peacemaking Committee.



Shown below: The CPC Team

A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

- This Newsletter is to inform NCP congregations, church members, and peacemakers about peacemaking activities that have been sponsored by the NCP Peacemaking Committee, local PC (USA) churches, or by PC (USA).
- Additional information may be obtained from Linda McCaw, Chair of the Peacemaking Committee of National Capital Presbytery at :

lkmccaw@yahoo.com



UPCOMING INFORMATIONAL PANEL DISCUSSION ON **DARFUR**

On November 28, 2006 the National Capital Presbytery's Peacemaking Committee and the Social Justice Committee will sponsor a panel discussion on genocide in Darfur. The meeting is free and open to all. It is being held from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the National Presbyterian Church at Nebraska and Van Ness to correspond to the Presbytery meeting that begins at 6:00. You do not need to be a delegate to the Presbytery Meeting to attend the Darfur panel discussion. It is free and no reservations are necessary. Invited to speak are representatives from the PC(USA) Washington Office, the Save Darfur Coalition, the American Jewish Committee, and Congressman Frank Wolf.

ANNUAL PEACEMAKING CONFERENCE 2007 INFORMATION



The 2007 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference will be held from July 3-8, 2007 in Montreat, North Carolina. The theme of the 2007 event is:

Jesus,
Proclaiming
Peace.

The Peacemaking Committee is interested in getting to know anyone who plans to attend or who would like more information about the event from those that have attended before. To this end, we are planning to have a "get acquainted reception" in February 2007. If you would like to

join us, please email: lkmccaw@yahoo.com. If you would like further information about housing at the event, or have other questions, please feel free to email those questions, and we will attempt to answer those questions prior to the reception.

Save the Dates- Ecumenical Advocacy Days for 2007 –March 9-12, 2007

The dates for next year's Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice have just been announced. Mark your calendars for March 9-12, 2007 and plan to attend this informative Washington, D.C. event. More details will be available in the coming months at :

www.advocacydays.org.

The Peace-
making
Conference
is an inter-
generational
event. The
address be-
low goes to
the website:

http://
www.pcusa.
org/
peacemak-
ing/
confer-
ences/2007.
htm

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church— A History of Peacemaking in Palestine and at Home



In 1995, in a trip arranged through the Middle East Council of Churches, a group from Bradley Hills church (BHPC) in Bethesda, MD, traveled to Palestine, where they stayed in Palestinian homes while visiting sites and programs in the West Bank, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. This trip afforded them the opportunity to know Palestinians as individuals, and as fellow Christians, and also to experience first hand some of the constraints and difficulties of life in Palestine at that time.

While there the BHPC group became acquainted with George Ghanem, a young Christian Palestinian man who was working as a volunteer at the YMCA with men injured in the Intifada. His ambition was to come to the United States to prepare professionally to work with injured and disabled people. Accepted by New York University, he completed the two year program leading to his Masters degree, made possible by the committed support of the Bradley Hills congregation which paid his tuition and much of his living expenses in New York.



In addition, through the Global Mission Committee of Church and Society, Bradley Hills contributed to the support of Marthame and Elizabeth Sanders who served as PCUSA mission co-workers in Zababdeh, Palestine, where they taught English at the Latin Patriarchate School for three years. Through an alternative Christmas giving program at Bradley Hills, known as the Angel Gift Tree, members of the BHPC congregation have also been paying the tuition costs for several students a year in this school, in response to the economic environment there where many parents have lost employment and the situation for families is becoming desperate. Members of our congregation have also contributed tuition fees, averaging \$350, for students in other schools in Palestine through the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.



Palestine is a poor land, lacking public parks and playgrounds. So Bradley Hills utilized its 25% of the 2004 Peacemaking Offering, to help with the construction of a mini park in Zababdeh where families can meet and chat, and children can play in safety. Since that visit in the 1990s, Bradley Hills has continued to contribute to the Rehabilitation Program of the East Jerusalem YMCA, where members first met George Ghanem, and to the Bethlehem Bible College, which trains Protestant pastors and church leaders. The Global Mission Committee also contributes to Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), which organizes accompaniment programs in areas of conflict, including in the West Bank of Palestine. In 2006, BHPC organized a briefing by a member of CPT for all churches on the subject.

Bradley Hills' story continues in the next edition of Peace Connections with more local and international efforts and a notice of upcoming educational events.

For more information about any of these projects, contact Barbara DeLouise, delouise581@verizon.net, 301-530-3479.



Anayda Diaz Herrera, Presbyterian Church Leader in Cuba, Visits Washington, DC

Anayda Diaz Herrera came to Washington, D.C. from June 28-July 5, 2006, enroute to the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY. She was sponsored by The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYAPC) and Church of the Pilgrims Presbyterian Church through a National Capital Presbytery Peacemaking grant. Anayda is director of Presbyterian Women of the Havana Presbytery, as well as an elder on the Session (consistory) of First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana and superintendent of its Sunday school.

Anayda's whirlwind visit to Washington included leading an adult Christian education class at NYAPC; meeting with members of the Presbytery's Global Mission Network and Peacemaking Committee; touring the National Capital Presbytery and meeting with staff; and traveling to Capitol Hill to meet the staff of the PC(USA) Washington Office where she held a roundtable discussion that included Rev. Roger Gench and representatives of the Latin America Working Group and Washington Office on Latin America. Anayda toured Mt. Vernon as the guest of Rachel Messman, moderator of Presbyterian Women of National Capital Presbytery, and then was hosted at Rachel's home for lunch with members of the Presbytery's PW Board.

Church of the Pilgrims Presbyterian Church hosted a pot-luck dinner for church members from NYA and Pilgrims, especially those who had visited Cuba in 2006 on mission trips. Anayda presented a cross representing the church in Cuba to Pilgrims and NYA Churches.

She traveled from the DC area to Louisville where she participated in the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women—*Creation! Celebration! God's Word—Light for the Journey*. The gathering was filled with activities, meetings, and fellowship with women from Presbyteries across the U.S. and from 25 countries. Her energy and joy added to the Gathering and the fellowship of Presbyterian women, making new friends and enriching existing friendships.

National Capital Presbytery

8401 Connecticut Avenue
Suite 805
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Peace Connections Editor
Linda McCaw

