



FOCUS ON: Prayers Along the Way

Rev Rebecca Stephens, Pastor, Pennsburg UCC

In her book, [Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism](#), Martha Grace Reese encourages her readers to experiment with different kinds of prayer. As a result of the challenge, I chose to participate in this year's prayer walk in Pennsburg.

Walking with some good folk from Perkiomenville Mennonite church, I was amazed by how much more I noticed walking along Main Street in Pennsburg, as opposed to driving. As we made our way from St. Mark's Lutheran Church to our building we prayed for the proprietors of businesses and their clients. Catching a glimpse of the borough hall, we prayed for the borough council and an ever-growing spirit of cooperation among the boroughs and Upper Hanover Township. As we passed the sign for the 7th Street Medical Center, we prayed for all those receiving treatment, especially the frail elderly who are losing a little bit more of themselves with each passing day, for family members accompanying their loved ones on their journey through ill-health or old age, and for the professionals employed at the medical center. When we reached our building, we prayed for our congregation located so strategically on Main Street, poised to reach out into the community.

How blessed I feel to have participated in the Prayer Walk. Was the exercise outside of my comfort zone? Without a doubt. Yet how grateful I am that I took the risk of trying something different. As we began the walk, Pastor Charlie Ness of Perkiomenville Mennonite read from Psalm 84 verses 5a & 7a: *Happy are those whose strength is in you [O LORD]...they go from strength to strength.*

Indeed, it was in the strength of the Lord that I walked along Main Street praying for our neighbors.

Unbinding the Gospel : Real Life Evangelism is one of the resources used by our churches in the congregational revitalization program.

EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For brochures, flyers, on-line registration and a full list of meetings and events visit www.psec.org

Association - Conference Relations Task Group

For the past two years a group of clergy and lay people have been meeting to discuss the relationship between the Associations and the Conference. The report from this task group was distributed at the Spring Meeting and is currently available at www.psec.org. Both the Conference and the Associations will be considering this report at their Fall meetings.

At the Spring Meeting of the Conference we agreed to provide opportunities for discussion and feedback on this report. In order to facilitate this objective the following sessions have been scheduled:

Tuesday, September 8 - 7:00 pm - Glenside UCC, Glenside, PA
Sunday, September 27 - 3:00 pm - Trinity UCC, Collegeville, PA
Sunday, September 27 - 7:00 pm - St. Paul's UCC, Birdsboro, PA
Wednesday, October 7 - 7:00 pm - First UCC, Hamburg, PA

Copies of the report will be available at these meetings. We need your input as we look to the future. Please plan to attend one of these sessions.

Two Boundary Training Opportunities

Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9 am to 12:30 pm (registration at 8:30) at **Living Water UCC**, 2006 Germantown Avenue, Phila., PA 19401.

Many of our Associations require pastors with standing to attend boundary training on a regular basis. Lay leaders can also benefit from a deeper understanding of professional roles and ethics within the congregation. Registration for this PSEC-sponsored event is available on the Conference website.

Thursday, Sept. 10, 9:30 am to 12:15 pm at **New Goshenhoppen UCC**, 1070 Church Rd., E. Greenville, PA 18041.

Pastors and lay people are invited to this Conference-approved training. Following lunch, a **Safe Church workshop** will be held from **1:15 to 3:00 pm**. To register for these events (deadline is Mon. Sept 7), please contact the church office directly (215-679-2041).



PRAYER PARTNERS - Your prayers are welcomed today for **Rev. Patricia A. Schang** and **St. John's (Gernants) UCC, Leesport** as they live into the three-year Revitalization Program.