

**To:** Justice and Peace Representatives

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Synod of Living Waters

**Subject:** Highlights---Number Five

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The following information is by no means exhaustive, but seeks to give an overview of interest items.

**Dates To Remember:**

ALL YEAR LONG----2009 commemorates the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of John Calvin; there is a color insert acknowledgement in the 2009 Mission Yearbook, and the January/February 2009 issue of Presbyterians Today magazine starts a 10-part series marking the anniversary. Opportunities to celebrate this milestone can be found at [www.calvin09.org](http://www.calvin09.org)

January 18-25----Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
[www.geii.org/wpcu\\_index.htm](http://www.geii.org/wpcu_index.htm)

January 19----Holiday honoring The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (a “day on” and not “a day off”)

January 20----Inauguration Day for the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

February 16----Presidents' Day Holiday

February 25----Ash Wednesday; a Lenten Devotional Guide is in the January/February 2009 issue of Presbyterians Today (order via [www.pcusa.org/today](http://www.pcusa.org/today) or 1+800+524-2612, item number 12116-08-012)

March 6----World Day of Prayer (“WDP;” [www.wdpusa.org](http://www.wdpusa.org))----  
The country of focus this year is Papua New Guinea (“PNG”). WDP is a global ecumenical movement of women from numerous faith traditions who come together on the first Friday in March to observe a common day of prayer. The theme for 2009 is “In Christ There Are Many Members, Yet One Body,” and draws from the biblical texts 1Corinthians 12:14 and Romans 12:3-21.

According to the 2009 WDP Committee, PNG is considered one of the most indigenous populations wherein more than 800 languages are spoken across several thousand separate communities.

March 8----Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday; resources can be found at [www.pcusa.org/women](http://www.pcusa.org/women), and/or in the November/December 2008 issue of Horizons magazine, [www.pcusa.org/horizons](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons)

March 10----Purim

March 13-16----Ecumenical Advocacy Days held in Washington, D.C.; [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org)

April 5----Palm (Passion) Sunday

April 9----Maundy Thursday

April 9-16----Passover

April 10----Good Friday

April 12----Easter

April 22----Earth Day

April 29-30----The Third National “Christian Peace Witness for Iraq” in Washington, D.C.; [www.christianpeacewitness.org](http://www.christianpeacewitness.org)

May 7----National Day of Prayer

May 25----Memorial Day Holiday

May 31----Pentecost

June 7----Trinity Sunday

June 11-13----The “Big Tent” Event in Atlanta, Georgia;  
[www.pcusa.org/bigtent](http://www.pcusa.org/bigtent)

July 4----Independence Day Holiday

July 11-15----Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, Kentucky

### **Noteworthy News Within Our Synod:**

1. Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery: The Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women has scheduled a Racial and Ethnic Dialogue for Saturday, February 7, 2009 at South Highland Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama from 9 AM – Noon (Ms. Sara DeMotte is the Justice & Peace Representative). For more information see

[www.pwslivingwaters.org](http://www.pwslivingwaters.org), go to Presbytery News and click Sheppards & Lapsley

2. Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery: Mrs. Anna McIlwain of Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery, our Synod Representative in the 2008 “*PW Global Exchange*,” will be speaking about the trip on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Middle Tennessee Presbytery; the meeting is slated to be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Smyrna, Tennessee. Please remember to try and include Anna in your event planning so she can share her experiences with you (ajmc121304@bellsouth.net).
3. Middle Tennessee Presbytery: Ms. Claudia Torrey (Vice Moderator for Issues, Justice, and Peace on the Synod Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women) was recently selected to be a member of the Delegation of Presbyterian Women to the 2009 Conference of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

### **Potential Trip Of Interest:**

The Congressional Accompaniment Project to Israel and Palestine is scheduled for August 8-18, 2009; however, given recent events between Israel and Gaza, this trip may be “on hold.” For more information see [www.middleeastawareness.org](http://www.middleeastawareness.org)

### **Quotes For Thought:**

**“It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself.”** *Eleanor Roosevelt*

**“You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.”** *Indira Ghandi*

**“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”** *Article II, Section I, The Constitution of the United States*