

Contact Information:

Stephanie Hubach
278 Stony Lane
Stevens, PA 17578

C: 717.951.0051
shubach@pcanet.org
www.pca-mna.org



*Pastor Tom Nicholas
welcomes Tim Hubach into
membership at Reformed
Presbyterian Church
Ephrata PA*



*George Wallace Family,
ChristChurch PCA
Atlanta GA*

From the Director's Desk

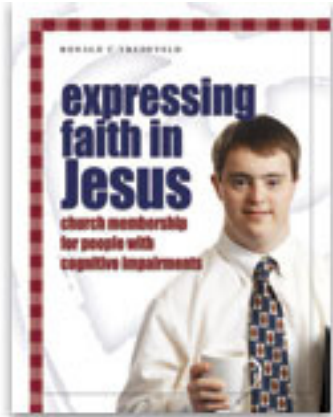
If I had to choose one term that captures the theme of Spring 2008 at the Hubach household, it would be the word **milestone**. Our lives have been full of milestones in the last several months! My husband Fred and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in April. Fred's parents' 50th wedding anniversary party followed in May. Our oldest son Fred graduated from high school in June, and he will be heading off for Wheaton College. And our youngest son, Tim (who has Down syndrome), recently took the vows of membership in our local congregation: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ephrata PA.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a **milestone** as **an important event or turning point in one's history**. Just as Tim's joining the church represented a turning point in his personal life, it is also symbolic of what we work for and pray for as a turning point in the life of our denomination with regard to how we view and respond to people touched by disability. Our vision at MNA Special Needs Ministries is to **see the body of Christ made more complete through evangelizing and authentically integrating people with disabilities into the life and mission of the Presbyterian Church in America**. Our MNA Special Needs Ministries (SNM) Startup Team has been diligently working together for a year now to help to achieve this vision. We have been gathering resources, identifying existing disability ministry initiatives within the PCA, networking with special needs ministry leaders, planning for and participating in conferences, and discussing the interplay of established church culture and disability ministry. We have also been dialoguing with church planters to identify ways that—from a church plant's inception—the "congregational DNA" can be developed with sensitivity to the gifts and needs of individuals and families touched by disability. Please pray for us as we enter into our second year. And please don't hesitate to share your story with us! We'd love to hear from you!

Thanks so much for your support and encouragement! In His Name, Steph Hubach

Shepherd Friends, ChristChurch PCA

Shepherd Friends is a ministry of ChristChurch in Atlanta GA that seeks to be great neighbors, good Samaritans and genuine friends to the residents of Shepherd Place and their families. Shepherd Place is located next door to ChristChurch and houses those with spinal cord injuries who are in the later stages of rehabilitative therapy at Shepherd Center. ChristChurch attempts to make their stay easier by providing welcome gift bags and holding monthly barbeques to help foster friendships. The members of ChristChurch also facilitate worship opportunities and engage in relationships with interested folks from Shepherd Place. The ministry was begun in 1997 by George Wallace who became a paraplegic at age 19 due to a motorcycle accident. George has a heart to reach out with the Gospel—in word and deed—to those touched by disability. He says, **"The PCA has a great opportunity to take a leadership role in today's Church by reaching out to the disabled community and tapping the great resources they have to offer. If suffering produces character, then the disabled have plenty to offer the Church and our denomination."** To learn more visit www.christchurchatlanta.org a website that George designed and created.



*Expressing Faith in Jesus:
Church Membership for
People with Cognitive
Impairments*

Church Membership Resources

When we receive emails from pastors, the most common questions we're asked have to do with how to approach the issues of church membership and communion for people with intellectual disabilities. Most of the time, these questions are posed with genuine care and sensitivity. There is usually an apparent pastoral desire to address these subjects with integrity and an appropriate balance of both truth and grace. Yet, many teaching and ruling elders are uncertain where to start the conversation.

One good starting place is to read the short publication entitled *Expressing*

Faith in Jesus: Church Membership for People with Cognitive Impairments. It is published by Faith Alive Resources and is available through their website at www.faithaliveresources.org.

In addition, we currently have several other informal resources available through MNA Special Needs Ministries to help you. Please feel free to contact us if we can assist you in any way. During the next year, we plan to offer more well-developed information on our website—downloadable resources that specifically address the types of questions we are hearing from family members, pastors and ruling elders in the PCA.



Joni and Friends

*An event similar to the 2006
Conference is coming
October 4, 2008 to Pear Orchard
Presbyterian, Ridgeland MS*

Upcoming Special Needs Conference!

My educational background is in the field of economics and economists like to talk about efficiency. Well, if you're hoping to begin a special needs ministry within your local church, or if you desire to acquire additional training for your volunteers, there's no more efficient (or effective) way to accomplish that than to attend a Joni and Friends Conference!

I had the privilege of working with Joni and Friends to bring a Through the Roof Conference to Lancaster PA in 2006 and it was a life-changing experience for those who attended. Now, thanks to our friends at the Joni and Friends, Knoxville TN office—in partnership with Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church in

Ridgeland MS—there will be a similar event held in the South this year.

Our hope and prayer at MNA Special Needs Ministries is that PCA churches from all over the South (and beyond) will send representatives to this event!

When: Saturday, October 4, 2008

Where: Pear Orchard Presbyterian

**Who: Joni and Friends, Knoxville
Rhoni Standefer
865.540.3860
Knoxville@joniandfriends.org**

Please save the date! And we hope to see you there!

Your Prayers Matter...

*“And we pray this in
order that you may live
a life worthy of the Lord
and may please him in
every way...”
Colossians 1:10*

- Please pray that God will help us to identify Christ-like volunteer leaders in the PCA who have topical expertise in specific disability-related subject areas. We would love to be able to refer churches to PCA people who are knowledgeable and gracious!
- Please pray for committed ministry partners who have an enthusiastic vision to see MNA Special Needs Ministries be used of God to bless the Church. **We would love to be fully funded by the end of 2008, and faithfully prayed for every day!**