



# ... BRIEFLY

## Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Vol. 70 Annual Report Late Summer 2014

[www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org) [ppfwitness@gmail.com](mailto:ppfwitness@gmail.com)

**Trusting the Nonviolence of Jesus Christ Today**

### Gaza, Ukraine, MO & Iraq

As "Briefly" goes to print, violence continues in Iraq, Missouri and Ukraine, with efforts in Gaza to find a way forward. Israel's deadly ground assault in Gaza, killing nearly 2,000 people and wounding 10,000, prompted new voices to call for an end to the Occupation and blockade, the root cause of the violence there. Updates at [un.org](http://un.org) or [jvp.org](http://jvp.org) or [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org)

### Peace Communities Funded

At the General Assembly Peace Breakfast, PPF National Committee member Abbi Heimach, below, announced seven "Peace Communities Grants" made by PPF to seed the future work of peace, in celebration of PPF's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. For one year the grants will help these groups work in US communities on nonviolence issues.



The groups are: the Albany, NY Catholic Worker which focuses on the needs and dignity of immigrants; Alianza 2638 in Chicago, a storefront ministry that administers work of Christian Peacemaker Teams; the Cana Community of South Bend, IN, four households that covenant to do community organizing for nonviolence; Mercy Junction of Chattanooga, TN in their work on housing and food inequality and the "violence called poverty;" Hands and Feet of Asheville, NC, in their mission to train peace-builders in their locale; Cherith Brook of Kansas City, MO which offers practical help to the homeless while resisting the nuclear weapons components plant in Kansas City; and the Underground Seminary in Columbia Heights, MN, training leaders who

understand the forces at work in our world and can model the witness and hope of Jesus in the midst of empire and dehumanization.



Past GA Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase leads Press Conference with a Letter from Past GA Moderators Supporting Divestment and a Letter from Bishop Desmond Tutu of S. Africa. Seated, Syngman Rhee, Fahed Abu-Akel. Others: moderators Patricia Brown, Bruce Reyes Chow, John Fife, Jack Rogers, Herb Valentine

### *"Excellence in Nonviolent Action in Retirement Award"*

#### Honors

**Anne Barstow & Tom Driver**

Sat. Oct. 18, 6pm Stony Point, NY

#### Speaker: Chris Hedges

Raised Presbyterian, Chris Hedges writes for Truthdig.com and has been called "one of the great truth tellers in America." Author of "War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning," for 20 years he reported from over 50 countries as Pulitzer Prize Winning Foreign Correspondent for the New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, NPR and others.

Plan to attend or support PPF's brand new award to honor those who dedicate their retirement years to nonviolent direct action for peace. The annual award will be named for Anne Barstow and Tom Driver, who will themselves receive the inaugural award at a dinner on October 18 at the Stony Point Center. Working on issues from Haiti to Colombia to SOA and more, these two retired educators set the standard for excellence in action. Tickets available at [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org)

## From the Editor

***"Divestment is not the end. This is the beginning. We start tomorrow standing up for the human rights of Israelis and Palestinians."*** When PPF director Rick Ufford-Chase offered these words on that late Friday night at General Assembly, we did not know how painfully true they would be. The violence in Gaza has shocked the world and brought forward courageous new voices, especially in Israel, who realize that the two peoples can never have security until the Occupation ends. PPF condemns all acts of violence and redoubles its work for a solution that ends the imprisonment of an entire people in Gaza and respects the human rights of both peoples. See [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org) for new resources to help interpret divestment and other Mid-East issues and actions to churches and communities.

This **Briefly** includes PPF's first-ever Annual Report for Donors, covering the year 2013. For much of 2013, PPF worked on plans for General Assembly, as well as an astounding list of projects for a primarily volunteer group: new education/action resources on Preventing Gun Violence and Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions; website, E-news and social media expansion; a strong presence at the School of the Americas vigil and Ecumenical Advocacy Days; support for the denominational "Peace Discernment Process" and re-launching our Endowment Campaign with an Occupation-Free Fund. That's in addition to planning and recruiting for the January 2014 Young Adult Delegation to Israel-Palestine and the continuing Accompaniment Program in Colombia, now in its tenth year. Thank you to all who participated in and helped to fund this work. Together, we add up.

--Jan Orr-Harter, Co-Editor, Aledo, Texas

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## A PEACEMAKER'S CALENDAR

**Sept. 19-Oct. 12** International Peacemakers Tour. For a visit to your area, see [pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking)

**Sept. 25-27** Presbyterian Peace Fellowship National Committee Annual Meeting, Stony Point, NY

**Sept. 21-27** International Day of Peace & "Campaign Nonviolence Week 2014" [campaignnonviolence.org](http://campaignnonviolence.org)

**Oct. 5** World Communion Sunday, Peace & Global Witness Offering. See [www.pcusa.org/specialofferings](http://www.pcusa.org/specialofferings)

**Oct. 18, 6pm Stony Point, NY**

PPF's New Award: The First Annual "Anne Barstow & Tom Driver Award for Excellence in Nonviolent Direct Action in Retirement" -- First Recipients: Anne Barstow & Tom Driver !!!

Come help celebrate this extraordinary couple. Speaker is Chris Hedges, info at [www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org)



**Oct. 16-20** Colombia Accompaniment Training, Stony Point, NY. Can you give one month to walk alongside church members in Colombia as an observer and accompanier as they courageously live out the gospel in their nation? Talk about it with Shannan Vance-Ocampo [colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org)

**Nov. 3-15** South Africa Travel Study Seminar. To apply, see [pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking)

**Nov. 21-23** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual School of the Americas Vigil in Ft. Benning, GA. Contact [marwhite@igc.org](mailto:marwhite@igc.org) & see [soaw.org](http://soaw.org)

**Dec. 31** Peace Fellowship Endowment Campaign Ends. Goals: \$700,000 and 70 Covenants for Planned Gifts

**March 19-22, 2015** National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend. See [www.marchsabbath.org](http://www.marchsabbath.org)

**April 17-20** Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Wash. DC

**June 4-6, 2015** PPF Biennial Convocation – Plan to join PPF for this national organizing event in Stony Point, NY

PPF Thanks Jess Hunter-Bowman as he completes work with the Accompaniment Program. Thanks, Jess!



Mitch Trigger, left, Coordinated PPF GA testimony for the Middle East Committee; MaryAnn Harwell, below, coordinated the PPF Booth in the Exhibit Hall



# General Assembly Review

## GA Approves Divestment, Rejects Lethal Drones

In a close but decisive vote, the 221<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian General Assembly acted to divest its stock holdings of three US corporations that enable and profit from the illegal Occupation of the Palestinian land by the state of Israel. PPF supported the action after ten years of denominational study and engagement with the three companies: Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions. The divestment action was reported around the world, including on the front page of the *New York Times*.

In other historic action, the GA overwhelmingly took one of the first stands by a denomination against the use of lethal drones. PPF featured Medea Benjamin, a leader of the growing movement away from military drones, as the keynote speaker at the PPF Peace Breakfast, a standing-room-only event that celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.



Also at the action-packed breakfast, PPF presented Peaceseeker Awards to Jewish Voice for Peace and the Israel-Palestine Mission Network and to gun violence prevention advocate Jim Atwood. J. Barrie Shepherd, Endowment Campaign Honorary Co-Chair, presented a giant check to PPF, the first fruits of the new PPF endowment and Occupation-Free Fund as guests sang *Happy Birthday* to PPF.

Approximately 50 members of the Peace Fellowship traveled to Detroit to testify before GA committees, to coordinate the Peace Breakfast, to produce a press conference, to sponsor our PPF booth and daily booth events in the Exhibit Hall and

to support concerns on a range of peacemaking issues, from GA action to strengthen the witness of the church against gun violence by calling churches to post “Gun-Free Zone” signs at church buildings to support for the church-wide discernment process on nonviolence to support for the “Tent of Nations” farm recently destroyed by the Israeli military.

Young adults and others from the recent PPF delegation to Israel-Palestine lent new strength to the PPF GA presence, such as “the human wall” staged at the GA to depict the separation wall in Israel-Palestine. PPF created in-depth Briefing Papers for seven GA committees and a Plenary Paper summarizing final issues before the GA. A lively on-line and social media ministry kept widening the impact of our PPF witness.



In addition to the above peace-related actions, other historic steps at GA included moving forward on marriage equality, establishing a Presbyterian Immigrant Defense Initiative and a first discussion of divestment from fossil fuels companies because of their impact on climate change.

All of this GA witness takes time, dedication and resources. Special thanks go to all PPF staff, volunteers, supporters and interns Colleen Earp and Ashley McFaul, to PPF GA Committee leaders Shannan Vance-Ocampo, Emily Brewer and Fritz Gutwein, Advocacy Coordinator Marilyn White, PPF Booth Coordinator MaryAnn Harwell—and to the St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in the Detroit which hosted many in the large PPF contingent. The next GA will be in Portland, OR June 18-25, 2016.



Photos above, PPF team at work: from left, Dylan Rooke, Luke Rembold, Samantha Hudson, Mindy Brake, Megan McCarty, Judy Lee, Ashley McFaul, Luke Rembold. PPFers Will Christians and Sara Dorrien, left, became engaged at GA. Congratulations!

GA Photos by  
Della Orr-Harter

# Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Annual Report

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Nancy & Elinore Taylor

#### **Canada**

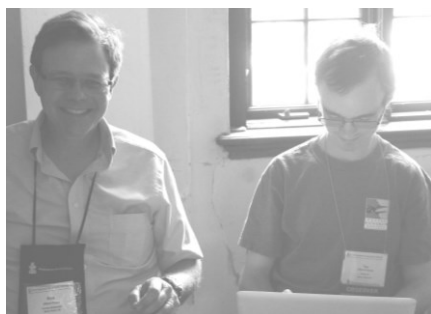
Mary Engelmann

#### **Ireland**

Douglas Baker

***Thank you to each 2013 donor! PPF's work depends entirely on your support.***

***Please forgive and advise PPF on any mistakes or omissions. All 2014 donors will be included in next year's Annual Report.***



Far left,  
Rick and Teo Ufford-Chase,  
dynamic duo at work at GA;  
Endowment Honorary Co-Chair  
Barrie Shepherd, far right,  
Presents "First Fruits" of the  
endowment for 2014 to PPF Co-  
Moderators Libby Shannon and  
Roger Powers at GA.

# 2013 Financial Report

Will White, Treasurer Carrie Dixon, CPA

## Income

Operating Fund Gifts	\$215,052
Other Income	\$ 716
Operating Fund Income Total:	\$ 215,768

## Expense

Program	\$180,038
Administration/Coordination	\$ 46,793
Fundraising	\$ 21,816
Expense Total:	\$ 248,647

<u>Operating Fund Reserves:</u>	\$59,112 1/1/13
	\$49,640 12/31/13

<u>Endowment Gifts in 2013</u>	\$134,638
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Gun Violence Prevention Leader Jim Atwood, center, with wife Rev. Roxanna Atwood and children, received the 2014 Peaceseeker Award at the GA Breakfast. Below, Jim signs the "Legacy of Peace" Quilt



## Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Balance Sheet Summary

As of December 31, 2013

	Total	
	As of Dec 31, 2013	As of Dec 31, 2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts	156,202	67,684
Endowment Investments	461,722	338,308
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>617,925</b>	<b>405,992</b>
Fixed Assets	2,308	2,308
Other Assets -- Certificates of Deposit	49,673	110,118
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>669,906</b>	<b>518,419</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Total Current Liabilities	960	759
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>759</b>
Equity	668,947	517,660
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>669,906</b>	<b>518,419</b>

Below, PPF Presented its first-ever Interfaith 2013 Peaceseeker Award to Jewish Voice for Peace and the Israel-Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA). From left, Melinda Thompson, PPF, Sydney Levy, JVP, Katherine Cunningham, IPMN, and Carol Hylkema. IPMN

Below, PPF "Booth Talk" for GA Exhibit Hall Visitors draws a crowd



## Medea Benjamin on Drones.... Excerpts from the GA Peace Breakfast 2014

Drones are just the latest technology of killing. If it were not drones, it would be something else. This is part of a larger problem of a military-industrial-congressional-security complex that is keeping us in a perpetual state of war....Thousands of people have been killed by these drones, many of them civilians and only 2% of them can be identified as high level al Qaeda operatives. The rest of them are either low level people or innocent people. We know that in Pakistan, ...because of reporters who have tried to piece together this information, that there have been between 2500-3500 people killed by drones in Pakistan---a country that we are not formally at war with....Most of the people that we are killing are teenagers. They were ten years old at the time of 9/11. So we are creating enemies. We are creating terrorists....Here is a policy that is beyond the law. Right now we think that we can get away with this because we are the most powerful country.

....I met a woman in Yemen. She's a journalist. She's 25 years old. She had the audacity to write in the newspapers that she thought the extremists were ruining her country and that...there should be a separation between religion and state. And for that she was called blasphemous and al Qaeda put a *fatwa* on her and said that she should be killed. She went into hiding for a year. Later she thought it was safe enough to come out. When we met her, I said, "You must hate al Qaeda and be in favor of the drones, aren't you?" She laughed and said, "Of course I hate al Qaeda. I think they are a bunch of thugs, a bunch of bloodthirsty killers. But I also hate the drones. When you kill somebody with a drone," she went on, "you make them into a martyr. When you kill someone with a drone, you recruit more people to their cause. But when you pick them up and you capture them and give them a trial and you find them guilty and have them rot in jail for the rest of their lives, then you show what they are, which are criminals. In my vision of the future of Yemen," ---she, along with many young people are working hard to build a democratic Yemen---"in my vision of the future of Yemen, there are no drones in that future. In my future vision there is a strong rule of law, a strong court system, prisons that can't be broken into where people remain in the prison if they are convicted of heinous crimes. And I would like for the United States to help us build the rule of law, not violate international law, not kill people without any charges." She said: "Go home and tell your people that we must work together to ground the killer drones and build a world that loves, respects, depends on and nurtures the rule of law."

---Medea Benjamin, Author, *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*, see [www.codepink.org](http://www.codepink.org)



## Presbyterian Peace Fellowship 17 Cricketown Road Stony Point, NY 10980

[www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org)



### On the Crest

Peace is the wave of the future,  
if we are to have one,  
a wave composed of myriad, tiny,  
seemingly insignificant acts and  
gestures,  
prayers, promises and poems that,  
taken together - or better say,  
"given together" - might yet  
make all the difference. Please  
don't let this wave pass you by.

---J. Barrie Shepherd,  
for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

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