

## Karen Leftwich

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**From:** First Presbyterian Church, Whitefish <info@fpcwhitefish.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 8:59 AM  
**To:** 'Al and Vivian Hull'; 'Aldo Kuntz'; 'Allen and Miriam Foster'; 'Allyce Street'; 'Ann Pinon'; 'Ann Tarr'; 'Arline Hankins'; 'Art & Evelyn Peterson'; 'Betsy Paugh'; 'Bob & Vicki McConnell'; 'Bob Paulus'; 'Brian Stocking'; 'Bruce & Carolyn Pfrimmer'; 'Chris & Leslee Washer'; 'Chuck Paulus'; 'Claire Strickler'; 'dale and gale bax'; 'Deb House'; 'Deloris House'; 'Don & Terri Montgomery'; 'Don Patterson'; 'Donnie & Pam Clapp'; 'duncan and joan cook'; 'Fay Atchinson'; 'Frank Leftwich'; 'George & Jake Colvill'; 'hap peters'; 'Jack & Kathleen Shigo'; 'Joanne Hazel'; 'Joe & Glinda Fagan'; 'John & Jane Forsberg'; 'John & Jean Petersen'; 'John & Lisa Delaney'; 'Karen Leftwich'; 'Kathy Murphy'; 'Keith & Nancy Bogart'; 'Lora & Bruce Whearty'; 'Louis Stoker'; 'Mick & Don Ann Ricker'; 'Nan and Turner Askew'; 'Pam Peters'; 'Pat Cole'; 'Randy & Jeannette Cheney'; 'Robert and Mary Schwada'; 'Shelle Kuntz'; 'Sue Tate'; 'Susie Moore'; 'Terry & Debbie Starr'; 'Terry & Linda Nelson'  
**Subject:** FW: Warm Greetings from Gary Payton, PCUSA Mission Coworker  
**Attachments:** PAYTON2.pdf

August 26, 2011

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

Warm greetings to you as summer winds to a close and we approach fall with new energy and excitement!

First, I want to thank you for your continuing prayer support for my ministry in former communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe. And, I thank you for the sustaining financial support which enables me to travel to meet with church partners and with mission colleagues. Your gifts this 2011 have been most generous.

Second, my 2011 travels have taken me to Armenia and Ukraine to seek openings with the historic churches in Armenia and to visit key mission ministries in Ukraine enabled by PCUSA congregation support. I invite you to read about these in this newsletter. And, for my blog posts and photos click on the link titled "Mission in Partnership: Armenia and Ukraine."

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/payton-gary-20110601/>

In October and November, I will again visit Russia - my 22nd visit across the last 12 years! In addition to meeting with partners in Moscow and St. Petersburg, I will participate in an evangelism gathering in the city of Kursk organized by Russian Roma (gypsy) Christian leaders. Across the region, our PCUSA support of Roma communities continues to deepen.

And, in just a few weeks I will again co-lead our annual Russia Mission Network gathering. This time our gathering of Presbyterians engaged in mission partnership in Russia will take place at Presbyterian Church of the Cross in Omaha, Nebraska.

Our participation in Christ's mission in Russia has changed this year. In my latest newsletter you can read about that change. I invite you print a copy of the newsletter for posting upstairs in the Fellowship Hall!

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/payton-gary-20110801/>

On a personal note, our eldest son and daughter-in-law who live in Helena, brought forth Tessa Anne in April of this year. Tessa is the first little girl in our family in three generations, 57 years! I will try not to spoil her too much! And, this month our youngest son, Graham, begins his senior year at the University of Montana. His time in Missoula has flown, and I have learned to shout "Go Grizz!" with great enthusiasm.

Please share my thanks and greetings with all in the congregation. I would love to be with you again in Whitefish in the coming church year if the opportunity presents itself.

May the Peace of Christ be with you this day,  
Gary

Gary Payton  
Regional Liaison for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, and Poland  
World Mission  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/payton-gary/>

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