

People

News in the [August 12, 2008](#) issue

Nikki Stephanopoulos, a longtime spokesperson for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and mother of Washington political insider George Stephanopoulos, retired this month. Stephanopoulos began in 1983 as an editor for the archdiocese's *Orthodox Observer* and soon rose to become the director of news and public relations for the million-plus-member church. She is a member of the governing board of the National Council of Churches.

Jorge Lara-Braud, 77, a Presbyterian lay pastor, teacher and social activist, died June 22 after a fall near his Austin, Texas, home. The Mexico City native converted from Catholicism while studying at the PCUSA-related Pan-American School in Kingsville, Texas. Lara-Braud founded the Hispanic-American Institute at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. For many years best known as a lay pastor in Austin, he also held posts at the National Council of Churches, the Presbyterian Seminary of Mexico and San Francisco Theological Seminary.