



# EMerge

A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

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Volume Two, Issue Twenty-Four

November 21, 2008

## Presbytery Highlights

By Nancy Grittman, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area



Joann Simser, moderator of the PTCA, takes part in the Installation of Chaz Ruark as the Executive Presbyter of the PTCA at the November 11 Stated Meeting. Photo by Risa Anderson.

On November 11, at Knox Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery said “thank you” to The Rev. Bob Cuthill, HR, for his service as Interim Transitional Executive Presbyter over the past 9 months. Bob’s gifts of experience and leadership were greatly appreciated.

The Presbytery welcomed The Rev. Dr. Chaz Ruark as the new Executive Presbyter. Chaz was installed dur-

ing worship, and received the charge of the call to this office. The Rev. Dr. Bob Cuthill, The Rev. Dr. Phil Brown, Synod Executive and members of the Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee participated in the service. The choir of Knox Presbyterian Church performed an anthem that had been commissioned to honor the Centennial celebration of the congregation. The Rev. Paul Moore preached the sermon of installation on the theme of “hope”. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated.

The Manual of Operations was approved by the Presbytery, including several amendments. With that vote of approval, the Bylaws, approved in January are now in effect, as well. Both are online in their correct and complete form.

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## Highlights, continued

An exciting and creative plan for the continued life of Andrew-Riverside Presbyterian Church was approved, which includes the sale of the property currently owned by the church and the lease-back of worship and gathering space in the new building which will be built on the property. The building will be primarily a senior condo residence. This is an innovative venture on the part of that congregation, in an effort to maintain their Presbyterian presence and mission in that community.

Building loan applications were approved for Arlington Heights Presbyterian and First Presbyterian, Rochester.

Synod Commissioners from the Presbytery were elected for the next three years. They are: The Rev. Stephanie Anthony, Elder Florian "Gus" Gutzmer. Jose Chipoco will serve as Youth Advisory Delegate for the next year. Several other new committee members were also elected.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented two new Inquirers to the Presbytery, Simone Tyler, Kwanzaa, and John Nelson, Church of All Nations.

The Rev. David Colby was approved for installation as installed pastor of Central Presbyterian, St. Paul. David is currently service Central as designated pastor. The Presbyter received two new members, The Rev. Joon Hyuk Lim, Assembly of he Reformed Church of Korea, South Korea, to serve as a chaplain in the U.s. Army Reserves; The Rev. Daniel Graham, HR, Presbytery of Northern Iowa.

A delicious Italian meal of lasagna was served by members of Knox Presbyterian Church. We thank them for their wonderful hospitality.



Sandy Hawley, Elder Commissioner from Plymouth Presbyterian in Plymouth, MN offers an amendment to the Manual of Operations at the November 11, Stated

Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. Photo by Dennis Sanders.

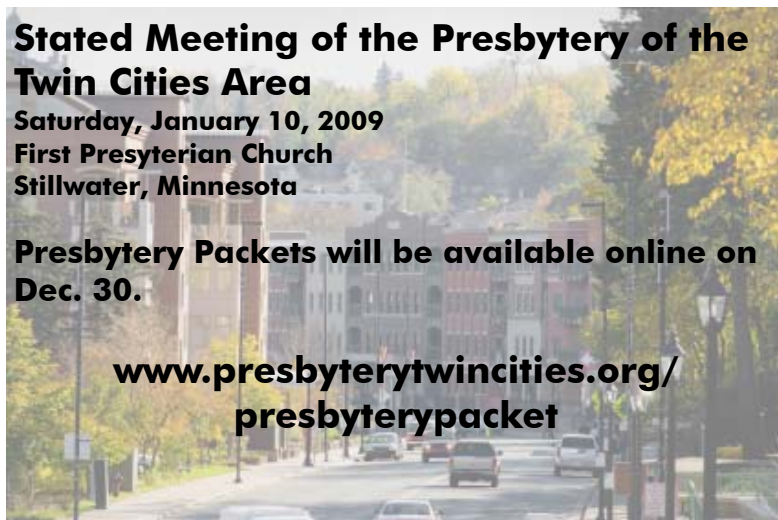
### Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Saturday, January 10, 2009

First Presyterian Church  
Stillwater, Minnesota

Presbytery Packets will be available online on Dec. 30.

[www.presbyterytwincities.org/  
presbyterypacket](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyterypacket)



## Xela, Hanna Kim's New Home: A Guatemala Diary

By Hanna Kim

*Note: The following is a blog entry by Hanna Kim, a member of Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church in Columbia Heights, MN. She is spending a year as a Young Adult Volunteer in Guatemala. If you would like to keep in contact with her, you can go to Hanna's blog at: <http://www.hanna-guatemala.blogspot.com/>. This entry was written on November 5.*

What an exciting time for our country (the United States)!!! The Guatemalans (and can I mention, the world) I know here are very excited for our new president.

So, I moved to Quetzaltenango a few weeks ago and have been settling in my new environment. Couple things: 1, they call Quetzaltenango- "Xela" for short, (pronounced shay-lah). 2, it is cold here!!!!!! Rainy season has just about ended, but now the cold front is about to move in. It's nice during the day when the sun is out, but inside anywhere- houses, church (really the only places I'm in) are really cold because there isn't much heat available. In the evenings of December and January it's supposed to get down to 30's (Fahrenheit), which is cold without heat! I didn't realize it would be so cold in Guatemala, but because of the high altitude the temperature pretty much stays pretty cool year round.

Here's just an idea of what it's like:

Denver, Colorado- 1,609 meters (5,280 feet)  
 Jug, Switzerland- 2,126 meters (6,973 feet)  
 Xela, Guatemala- 2,333 meters (7,795 feet)!!

So if you are reading this, please send warm things!!!! like socks, tea, chocolate, whatever! My address, seriously:

**Apartado Postal #315  
 Antigua, Guatemala**

Besides the weather, I've really loved my time here! Let me tell you, my host family is amazing!! I can't think of a more extravagant word to describe the generosity and kindness they've shown me. My first few days I would tear up randomly because I couldn't believe how blessed I was to have such a great family to be a part of. I live with dad- Marlon, mom-

Mimi and 3 year old son Alejandra. They're a pretty young couple so they're not only my family who takes care of me, but they're my friends to have fun and joke with. Marlon is a music teacher, musician, and worship coordinator at our church. He teaches youth how to play all kinds of instruments, and even has a little band with 2 of his students from the high school. He's pretty involved in the music scene in Xela, and plays jazz, latino, or classic music in cafes a few times a week. Oh, and since he has a mini music studio in the house, I get free guitar lessons! Mimi is my favorite though, I would say. She just has so much love, so much joy, and so much excitement for life that it's contagious to be around. She also knows English but won't use it so I can learn Spanish... but that's nice to know if I'm ever in a Spanish emergency I can turn to her.



Hanna Kim, second from the left with friends in Antigua, Guatemala.

My family is amazing. I mean, they really take hospitality to a completely different level than I'm used to, and I'm moved by that. I'm moved by the love they exude and that they love God and are in deep relationship with Christ that shows in and out of the house. and I love that they are humble and desire peace, and care about being in relationship with people. They are incredibly amazing people to know, and have been more than generous (I can't stress that enough!) in caring for me. I feel greatly encouraged.

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## Xela, continued

Church is still a working progress. I mean that in a good way, and mostly by work I mean learning the Spanish language. (Spanish will always be the underlining working progress in everything I do here in Guatemala). But let me tell you more about the church. It's an Episcopalian church, which to me seems more or less like a Presbyterian church but with more liturgy (if you can imagine that). But what I love about the service is that there's more call/answer type songs and prayers, and prayers that extend within the congregation but also beyond church walls. What I also love is the church's love for the community and neighborhood of xela. With the sponsorship of a church in Jacksonville, Florida, we're starting up a program for the elderly (*los ancianos*) in the community to provide hot lunches 5 days a week, open up a comfortable space to visit and rest, and few recreational activities in the afternoon. What's interesting about this project is that it's completely uncommon. There are hardly any programs that specifically serve the elderly population in Guatemala despite its increasing need (is what I've been informed by some locals). So when they first opened the doors to those that were interested, only expecting a handful to show or if those had even heard of the program, 70 showed. It was neat to meet a few of them and begin at least the introductions before we officially have everything ready to begin the program. Some came in with great big smiles and plenty of understood nonverbal communication, and other times there were definite language barriers. I'm really excited though!!!! Slowly by slowly, *poco y poco*, i will learn. We still have details to work out until the program can start, so when it does I'll update more on that.

I also had the opportunity to accompany Padre Roberto on a trip to train *las comadronas* (midwives) and other woman leaders of a small community near volcano Santa Maria, a little outside of xela. They gave a presentation about HIV/AIDS involving awareness, prevention, birth control options, so that these women could educate their village that never had the resources to learn about HIV/AIDS. What was also interesting was that part of the discourse was to address stigmas or stereotypes people had about HIV/AIDS. Some thought it was a disease only contracted by prostitution. Some thought it was airborne or could be passed on through saliva, by which hostile stigmas were created. It was a fairly brief discussion lasting maybe an hour, but it was powerful to see how education brought awareness, awareness including prevention, and the possible change it could bring to a community of people. I really understand more the necessity of education than maybe I have understood it back home... which sounds ridiculous to not have understood or appreciated it before, but to see how directly it changes the outcome of a person's life is a whole other story. And to think I've only gotten a few glimpses, a few stories during my month here, and this is only the beginning of what I'm learning.

Okay, I'll write to you again soon. Some days are hard, like when I'm sick or when I can't speak Spanish. But most days, if not every day, I praise God that I'm even here. Because i think there's a lot I don't know about a lot of things. What privilege is, what suffering is, what illness is, the power of education, the power of the church universal (or lack of, abuse of)... so many things. There are just SO many things!!!! And I know I won't learn all of these things in Guatemala alone, but some of this is just so rampant here that you can't not think about these things. So keep praying for me if you could, friends.

*You are Invited...*

### Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area Holiday Open House

Friday, December 5, 2008

2-4pm

Minnesota Church Center,  
2201 W. Franklin Ave, Minneapolis



Come join us for snacks and refreshments, and meet the Presbytery staff and others from around the Presbytery. We hope to see you there!

## Winning isn't everything

### As latest G-6.0106b amendment is voted, Covenant Network urges Presbyterians to continue dialogue about gay ordination

by Jerry L. Van Marter  
Presbyterian News Service

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Buoyed by a string of victories at the recent 218th General Assembly but aware of overwhelming defeats in previous attempts to remove the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s constitutional ban on the ordination of sexually active gays and lesbians as church officers, 400 people attending the 11th annual conference of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians ambivalently and mutedly assessed current prospects here today (Nov. 7).

"Every single announced goal of the Covenant Network was realized at the Assembly," said Tricia Dykers-Koenig, national organizer for the organization, which since 1997 has worked to overturn the constitutional provision adopted the previous year which requires "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness." The Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen, pastor of host Westminster Presbyterian Church here and a founding member of the Covenant Network — referring to the Assembly's action to rescind all previous authoritative interpretations that effectively barred the ordination of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Presbyterians — said, "A door that has been shut since 1978 [when the first of the prohibitive interpretations was issued] swung open ... and some have been walking through that door."



"A door that has been shut since 1978 [when the first of the prohibitive interpretations was issued] swung open ... and some have been walking through that door."

-Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen, Senior Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis.

The Assembly's action reaffirmed an action by the 2006 Assembly, which in adopting the report of its Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church issued an authoritative interpretation returning the denomination to its historic ordination rubric of national ordination standards which are applied to individual candidates by the ordaining body.

The authoritative interpretation reinstated the historic practice of "scrupling," in which an ordination candidate may declare a "departure" (conscientious objection) to any provision of the constitution and the ordaining body then determines whether that departure is disqualifying for ordination.

Doug Nave, a New York attorney and Covenant Network board member, said the Assembly "created a clean slate on the subject of same-sex relationships, but acknowledged that the PC(USA) remains deeply divided on the issue of gay ordination."

Still in force is the constitutional prohibition, G-6.0106b, but the Assembly sent a proposed amendment to the presbyteries that would replace "fidelity and chastity" with an ordination requirement more closely tied to adherence to the ordination vows without specifically singling out sexual conduct.

Two previous attempts to delete G-6.0106b, the last in 2001, have been overwhelmingly defeated by the presbyteries. To date four presbyteries have voted on the current proposed amendment — all four have rejected it.

Dykers-Koenig outlined the organization's strategies for trying to secure passage of the proposed amendment this year. They include trying to influence the proce- *Continued on Next Page*

## Winning, continued

dures for considering the amendment in presbyteries so that genuine conversation happens, not just a parliamentary debate and vote; organizing “get out the vote” campaigns in presbyteries; framing conversations around historical Presbyterian polity and theological concerns; and encouraging dialogue between Presbyterians who disagree on the issue.

“Make no mistake, we want to win,” she told the crowd. “Until this blight is removed we’ll have to keep working on it, but we also care about how we do that, so we’re organizing for conversations, not combat.”

Dykers-Koenig said it’s “important how these conversations happen. Regardless of the chance for [the amendment’s] approval, it’s important that we each make a statement, a witness to our faith about a church that is as grace-filled and welcoming as Jesus Christ.

“What we need to do as Christians is to witness to God’s love,” she continued. “We will win eventually because God’s will is inevitable, but it’s important now to talk about these issues because they are so important. No matter the outcome of this vote, Presbyterians will have to live together, do mission together, witness together to Jesus Christ...”

Covenant Network board member the Rev. William Calhoun, co-pastor of Montview Presbyterian Church in Denver urged those present to engage three persons with whom they disagree in conversation before their presbytery votes on the proposed amendment. “We want to align ourselves with God’s grace,” he said, “so the church can be as welcoming as God.”

Evangelical Presbyterian leader the Rev. Jin Kim, pastor of the Church of All Nations here, also implored the group to engage in heartfelt dialogue with those with whom they disagree. “I tell you the same thing I told the Presbyterian Coalition [the largest anti-gay ordination group in the PC(USA)] a couple weeks ago,” he said, “our church would be so impoverished if either side was driven out or left the church. “Whatever we do, we must find a way to be church together.”

Asked why those who are tired of fighting — and losing — the gay ordination battle shouldn’t just leave the church, Nave said, “Don’t leave, because it makes it that much more difficult for those of us who stay to return the Presbyterian Church to what it should be.”



“I tell you the same thing I told the Presbyterian Coalition [the largest anti-gay ordination group in the PC(USA)] a couple weeks ago... our church would be so impoverished if either side was driven out or left the church. “Whatever we do, we must find a way to be church together.”  
-Rev. Jin Kim, pastor of Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church in Columbia Heights, MN.

## Musings on race in a post-race America

*A monthly column for the PC(USA) by the General Assembly moderator*

by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow  
Moderator of the 218th PC(USA) General Assembly (2008)

**SAN FRANCISCO** — When “Barack Obama has been elected President of the United States of America” rang out, I wept, cheered, and prayed. Our world has changed. Our children’s view of “American” will never be the same — here or around the world.

While Obama is not just a person of racial designation, we must not underestimate the symbolic nature and corresponding power of having a person of color as president.

The memories of my grandparents’ struggle through injustice in this country came flooding back. My Filipino grandmother in Alabama struggled with where to sit on the bus because no one knew if she was white or black.

Miscegenation laws were repealed just decades ago that would have prohibited my White wife from marrying this Filipino man. At least a few layers of historical injustice were peeled back through this election to reveal a reality of pure joy. I felt, if just for a moment, a promise was fulfilled.

However, let us not be naive and think this election has made us a post-race culture and world. We have a long way to go before we have solved racism.



**“My Filipino grandmother in Alabama struggled with where to sit on the bus because no one knew if she was white or black. Miscegenation laws were repealed just decades ago that would have prohibited my White wife from marrying this Filipino man. At least a few layers of historical injustice were peeled back through this election to reveal a reality of pure joy. I felt, if just for a moment, a promise was fulfilled.”**

**-Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the PC (USA).**

The biggest concern I have is the idea that this generation is somehow so past race that we no longer need institutional safeguards against systematic and institutional injustice.

I strongly believe we would be foolish to claim success in defeating racism simply because we have elected an African American president and/or all the generational assessments about race that have punctuated the political discourse. At the same time, I don’t think this idea is totally off. I see glimpses of truth that hold the potential for changing the way we deal with issues of race.

Those glimpses include our flattening world and the increasing interactions between different ethnic groups; open source technology, with the idea that the community will correct and police itself along the way; and changes in population percentages.

I hope we will embrace the opportunity and challenge to talk about and deal with issues of race in new ways, with new vernacular and new institutional approaches.

Live in hope.

## Thanksgiving for things not visible to the human eye

***A monthly column for the PC(USA) by the General Assembly stated clerk***

**by the Rev. Grady Parsons  
General Assembly stated clerk**

**LOUISVILLE** — Maybe we should skip Thanksgiving this year.

After all, it has been a rough fall. Our investment crops have been devastated. Our long election campaign has left us an angry divide. We still have sons and daughters in harm's way. The number of people who are homeless, sick, and hungry grows daily.

Perhaps a look back at the roots and the two sets of personalities that make up our Thanksgiving tradition would be helpful at this point.

The pilgrims and the Native Americans known as the Pakanokets who gathered together in the fall of 1621 make up the first set of personalities.

Nathaniel Philbrick has written an excellent account of the pilgrim experience in his book *Mayflower*. He tells the story of the first fall harvest, with the ready availability of wild game (including turkeys) and the five freshly killed deer that the Pakanokets brought to the event.

They did not have a long table with a white tablecloth in the dining room; rather, theirs was a giant outdoor picnic where the dinner guests outnumbered the continent guests by about two to one.

The second personality to our Thanksgiving tradition is Abraham Lincoln who issued the Thanksgiving Day proclamation in 1863.

Both those in 1621 and in 1863 did not have much reason to give thanks back then. The little pilgrim band did not have a family among them who had not suffered loss during that first year. Less than half of those who landed on Plymouth Rock were still alive. And Lincoln's proclamation came during the Civil War. The nation was a country of widows and grieving parents. The bloodiest war in its history had destroyed families and fields.

Perhaps their acts of thanksgiving were a reflection of the great Hebrews 11:1 definition of faith — "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Thanksgiving this year may be one of those times when we will be reminded that the things not visible to the human eye are what bring us the greatest joy and peace.



### Prayers for the Family of Bruce Reyes-Chow

Please keep the family of Bruce Reyes-Chow in your prayers. His brother-in-law, Brian Pugh was killed in a workplace shooting, November 14 in Silicon Valley. Presbyterian Church (USA) Stated Clerk, Grayde Parsons, wrote a prayer to the Reyes-Chow family in their time of grieving. You can read it by going to: [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08856.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08856.htm)

# Christmas is coming...

## Breathe.

Advent Meditation Thursdays

December 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

Sanctuary open from 6:30-9:00 pm



Blue Christmas Service

December 18, 6:30 pm

A service of grief and hope

Sanctuary open until 9pm

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church  
1620 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street • South Minneapolis  
[www.lakenokomispc.org](http://www.lakenokomispc.org) • 612-721-4463

## “Labor-In/Labor-Out” Requests

By Kirsten Berry and Pat Milloy, co-chairs, Committee on Ministry  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

“Labor-In/Labor-Out” requests for one-time events such as weddings and administering the sacraments have made up a sizable portion of every Committee on Ministry (COM) agenda and ultimately every COM report to presbytery. On COM’s behalf, Synod Associate Diana Barber informally polled other presbyteries about this practice, as did Stated Clerk Nancy Gritman at an OGA conference for stated clerks. It appears very few presbyteries continue to expect ministers to ask permission for one-time events. The consensus is that G-11.0401a,b pertains to ministers seeking to labor outside their presbytery’s jurisdiction or geographical bounds in actual ministry positions of a contractual nature. This plain-sense interpretation of G-11.0401a,b allows for better time-stewardship for COM, the stated clerk, the particular ministers who participate in one-time events and the presbytery as a whole. We are therefore happy to report that at its 11/11/08 stated meeting, the presbytery voted to approve the following recommendation from COM:

***“M/S/C to recommend to presbytery that the presbytery no longer require ministers to ask permission to Labor Outside/Inside the Bounds for a one-time event, i.e. a wedding or administering the sacraments. Permission continues to be required for ministers who work in a position of a contractual nature and labor outside the presbytery’s jurisdiction or geographical bounds. (G-11.0401 a-b)”***

## Foreclosure Prevention Assistance Available

As the financial crisis grinds on and as our nation tumbles into recession, more and more families in Minnesota and Wisconsin are in danger of losing their homes. In the wake of the November 11 pre-Presbytery event on the how the church can respond to this economic downturn, resources are now available to help people who are facing foreclosure. At the request of Rev. Jamie Schultz, pastor of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian in Minneapolis, the Presbytery is making some of the material presented at the November 11 event. The packet includes tips on to prevent a foreclosure and where to go for help. You can download them by going to: [www.ptcaweb.org/News/Foreclosure\\_Prevention\\_Resources.pdf](http://www.ptcaweb.org/News/Foreclosure_Prevention_Resources.pdf).

. You can also find assistance by visiting the webpages of the Minnesota Home Ownership Center ([www.hocmn.org](http://www.hocmn.org)) and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity ([www.tchabitat.org](http://www.tchabitat.org)).



## New Tool Available to Discuss Proposed Amendments



Several Amendments to the Presbyterian Church (USA) constitution were passed at the 218th General Assembly in San Jose, CA. Now, all of the amendments go to local presbyteries across the nation for approval, including the PTCA in early 2009.

To help local Presbyterians become more informed, the Bills and Overtures Committee of the PTCA is in the process of setting up a blog called "...Always Being Reformed," which will give PTCA ministers and lay members the chance to look at the proposed amendments and discuss them in a civil manner as fellow sisters and brothers in Christ.

To start discussing the various amendments, feel free to go [www.presbyterytwincities.org/billsandovertures](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/billsandovertures).

## Analysis of Amendments to PC(USA) Constitution Now Available



The following analysis of the proposed amendments to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) constitution has been prepared by the Association of Stated Clerks of the presbyteries and synods of the denomination. Commissioners should use this information, along with the document prepared by the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, in deciding how they wish to vote at the Presbytery meeting in March, 2009.

You can download this analysis by going to [www.presbyterytwincities.org/billsandovertures](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/billsandovertures) and clicking on the link "Analysis of Amendments by Association of Stated Clerks." An open discussion time with the committee on Bills and Overtures will be held at Presbyterian Homes, Gideon Pond in Bloomington, on February 7. More information will be available on this opportunity as the time draws closer. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact Nancy Grittman, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area, at [stated-clerk@ptcaweb.org](mailto:stated-clerk@ptcaweb.org).

## Thanksgiving Hours



The Presbytery office will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The office will reopen on December 1.

## A Time For Prayer



The office hours of the PTCA office are Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Please keep in mind that the office has a daily time for devotion and prayer from 9:00am-9:30am and we will not be answering the phone or email at that time. Please feel free to leave a message and we will get back to after morning devotions.

## Presbytery and Churchwide Events

### Save the Date: Day on the Hill February 3, 2009

Sponsored by the [Joint Religious Legislative Coalition](#), Day on the Hill is the largest, most influential lobbying day in Minnesota.

**Christmas Tree Sale at Valley**-The annual Youth Mission Trip Christmas Tree Fundraiser will begin on Saturday, November 29 at Valley Presbyterian Church in Golden Valley. There will be several variety of trees available: Balsam Fir, Canann Fir, Colorado Spruce, Fraser Fir, White Pine and White Spruce. This year there will be a large selection of trees for \$25 or less. As always, your tree will have a name.

#### Hours of Operation:

**Thursdays and Fridays: 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Sundays: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

The tree lot is open through Saturday, December 20. Valley is located at 3100 Lilac Drive, Golden Valley. You can contact them at (763)588-0831 or by email at [vcpc@minn.net](mailto:vcpc@minn.net).

**Gifts Encircling the World**, A Justice-Centered Holiday Marketplace, will be hosted by Cherokee Park United Church on Saturday, December 6th from 10 AM to 2 PM. The church is located at 371 W. Baker St. on the West Side of St. Paul. Shoppers will have the opportunity to purchase fair-trade goods, as well as make donations to global-aid and earthfriendly organizations as holiday gifts for friends and family. Refreshments, music and educational presentations for people of all ages will be available.

**"Film and Faith: Differing Views of Jesus through Film"** at Presbyterian Church of the Way, 3382 N. Lexington Ave. in Shoreview, January 14, 21, 28, & February 4, 2009(4-week series open to both adults and youth).

How has Jesus been portrayed through various films? How have these portrayals been shaped by the events and culture of the movie's contemporary times, and how did the portrayals themselves help shape the viewers' attitudes and impressions of who Jesus was? Is the film and its message about Jesus relevant to us today, and if so, why?

Four films have been selected based on their differing time periods, points of view, assumptions, and messages. The films and presenters are:

- January 14: Last Temptation of Christ (1988).  
Directed by Martin Scorsese (Kathy Smith, Presbyterian minister).
- January 21: Greatest Story Ever Told (1965).  
Directed by George Stevens (Marilyn Husnik, PCOTW member).
- January 28: Passion of the Christ (2004).  
Directed by Mel Gibson (Reverend Todd Allen).
- February 4: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973).  
Directed by Norman Jewison; based on 1970 musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice (Kathy Smith).

During the classes, the films will NOT be shown in their entirety; however, short clips may be shown to illustrate a point. You are encouraged to view the film ahead of time, but it is not necessary since the presenters will give a brief history of the film including the background of the director's motivation and the contemporary times. For more information, please contact Church of the Way at (651) 484-3346 or by email at [info@pcotw.org](mailto:info@pcotw.org).

**Association of Presbyterian Church Educator Annual Event** - January 28-31, 2009, San Antonio, TX. For more information or to register, please go to the organization's website at [www.apcenet.org](http://www.apcenet.org).

**Travel to Greece and Turkey**-Join Revs. Tom & Lisa Watson on a journey to Turkey and Greece this April 25-May 6. The program themes include Apostle Paul, Byzantium and the Modern World with visits to Istanbul, Troy, Izmir, Pergamon, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Corinth and Athens. The tour is comprehensive with airfare from the Twin Cities, seven nights hotel, two nights on a Greek Island cruise and professional guides throughout. For a brochure and details contact: Tom Watson at First Presbyterian Church, South St. Paul: 651-451-6223 or [tomw@fpcssp.org](mailto:tomw@fpcssp.org).

*Do you have an event you'd like to publicize? Please send it to Dennis Sanders at [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org).*



*First Presbyterian Church  
602 Vermillion Street, Hastings, MN  
proudly presents*

*InVocation Singers  
for the first of its  
Third Annual Christmas concert series*

*Let Heaven and Nature Sing  
Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.*

*The music will ring with the joy of all creation at the birth of the Savior. Songs of the stars and angels, animals and people like us will tell the Christmas story as heard in Australia, China, France, Hungary, Africa, and Huron Nation, as well as through the offerings of local composers such as J. David Moore and Stephen Paulus. Come and share the quiet glory and dazzling brilliance of the Christmas season.*

*Admission is free, but a free will offering will benefit Second Harvest Heartland. Refreshments provided after the concert.*

## Financial Aid Available

Do you know a senior in high school who is considering attending a Presbyterian-related college next year? Visit [www.pcusa.org/financialaid](http://www.pcusa.org/financialaid) to determine if he or she might qualify for the National Presbyterian Scholarship. The application is due Jan. 31. For a complete list of PC(USA) related schools go to <http://www.pcusa.org/financialaid/pdfs/pcusaschools.pdf>.

Presbytery Packets Available for Download

[www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyterypacket](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyterypacket)

## Year-end Giving Opportunity

**By Mark Klemm**  
**Sr. Vice President, Development**  
**Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation**

As a service to you all, I have attached a summary of a change in the Tax law that allows individuals to give directly from their IRAs both this year and next without having to pay taxes on the withdrawal. This law was in effect in 2006-2007 and expired at the end of last year. In that two year period, donors gave the Presbyterian Foundation more than \$2 million in gifts from their IRAs to support their favorite missions. As a part of recent Congressional action on other matters, this law was extended through the end of 2009.



### QUALIFIED IRA DISTRIBUTIONS ARE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR:

- Taxpayers who do not itemize their charitable deductions: Direct gifts may reduce tax liability equivalent to a charitable deduction;
- Taxpayers unable to claim full contributions due to 50% AGI limitation: Direct gifts don't affect other gifts subject to limitations;
- Taxpayers who lose exemptions, credits, itemized deductions because of high income; Direct gifts will lower income, safeguarding other exemptions, credits, deductions;
- Taxpayers living in states that do not allow charitable contribution deductions: Direct gifts may reduce state income tax liability

I share this information with you in the hopes that you will share it with your churches. While the value of many people's IRAs has decreased, there is still interest in giving from them. Since the law passed less than 60 days ago we've already had a couple of people contact us to take advantage of the opportunity! Should anyone need additional information or have questions, please direct them to the Foundation Development Officer in your area or ask them to call Pat Ohlmann at (800)858-6127 x 5957. We have bulletin inserts that may be used and they can be ordered through our website (see link below) under the tab "Resources".

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

I hope all is well with you and if there's anything I can do to help you, please feel free to call me!

You can contact Mr. Klemm at (800)858-6127 ext. 5953 or (502)569-5953.

## Listen to the Children

Starting in January, Presbyterians Today magazine will feature a Presbyterian young person between the ages of 12 and 21 in each issue. If you know a young person who would like to be considered for the feature, sharing their thoughts and opinions with the rest of the church, find the questionnaire at [www.pcusa.org/today/spotlight-form](http://www.pcusa.org/today/spotlight-form).

## Positions Available

For more information on the positions listed below, please go to the PTCA website at <http://www.ptcaweb.org/RESOURCES/openpositions.htm>.

- **Christian Education Coordinator (Part-Time), Grace-Trinity Community Church, Minneapolis**
- **Youth Coordinator Assistant (Part-Time), Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul**
- **Director of Children's, Youth, Family Programming, St. Luke Presbyterian, Wayzata**
- **Organist (Part-Time)- Calvin Presbyterian, Long Lake**
- **Music Director (Part-Time)- Stadium Village Presbyterian, Minneapolis**
- **Nursery Attendant- Plymouth Presbyterian, Plymouth**

Do you have a church staff position that needs to be filled? Send in your job announcements to Dennis Sanders at [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org). (Oh, and let us know when you fill the position, so we can remove it from the job listings.)

### Future 2008 Stated Meetings and Locations

- **November 11, 2008, 4:00pm-8:30pm, Knox Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis**

Please go to the PTCA website for more updates.

## PTCA Churches Accepting PIFs

- **Designated Pastor- Knox Presbyterian, St. Paul**
- **Pastor- Oak Grove Presbyterian, Bloomington**
- **Solo Pastor- First Presbyterian, Claremont**
- **Pastor- First Presbyterian, White Bear Lake**
- **Pastor (NCD)-Chain of Lakes Presbyterian, Lino Lakes**

To find out more information about these openings, please go to the Church Leadership Connection Opportunities webpage ([www.pcusa.org/clc](http://www.pcusa.org/clc)).

### Skill Bank Forms Available



Are you interested in serving on a presbytery, synod or GA committee? Do you have talents and gifts that could be put work in the service of the church and the wider world? If so, consider filling out a skill bank form. Skill bank forms allow the Nominating Committee to find people with needed skills to serve effectively. To fill out a form, simply go to our Forms and Policies Page, [www.ptcaweb.org/RESOURCES/presbyteryresources.html](http://www.ptcaweb.org/RESOURCES/presbyteryresources.html).

## News from PTCA Congregations

**-Compiled by Dennis Sanders, Communications Specialist,  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area**

- For the 23<sup>rd</sup> year, members of **Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church** in St. Paul will provide a Thanksgiving meal to the residents of the Montreal Highrise Apartments in the area. Volunteers will come together on Thanksgiving Day to cook and serve the meal. The congregation is looking for volunteers as well as cash donations to cover the costs of cooking the meal. For more information, please contact the church at 651-698-8220.
- **Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church** in St. Paul will be hosting a community Thanksgiving Meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, at the church beginning at noon. This is the sixth year that the congregation will be hosting this event. If you are interested in helping with the food, washing a few dishes, or even showing up, contact the church at (651-698-3889) or email church administrator Eleta Pierce ([Eleta@randolphheights.org](mailto:Eleta@randolphheights.org)).
- Delaney Jones is the top CROP Walk fundraiser for **Cherokee Park United Church** in St. Paul. CPUC broke all previous records for the congregation by raising a total of \$1,236. Delaney raised over \$300. This is the first year Cherokee Park United Church hosted this annual walk. The CROP Walk, is a national effort to raise funds for hunger needs at home and abroad. 25% of the funds raised remain in Minnesota for use by area food shelves. The national and international funds will go to Church World Services, which is affiliated with the National Council of Churches. Locally, the CROP Walk is organized by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches. Cherokee Park is affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- On December 5 Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian in Minneapolis will be giving informal high school music bands the chance to perform, win awesome prizes, and promote their music. All interested bands will audition on Wed. Dec 3 to ensure their place in the contest. Then on Friday, December 5, the four best bands will perform here in the basement of Aldrich. Judges, along with the screaming crowds of fans, will determine the winning band. The winners will receive prizes, including a promotional package valuing over \$1000! This will include studio time at Edgewater Studios to create a demo album, 200 demo cds, a professional photo shoot with Jonny Hoffner Photography, and a CD release party at Aldrich when the demo album is finished.
- The web address of **Oronoco Presbyterian Church** has changed. You can now find them on the Internet at [www.pcomn.org](http://www.pcomn.org).
- Did you know that Korean Presbyterian Church of Minnesota has an English Ministry website? You can find it at: [www.kpcmem.com](http://www.kpcmem.com).
- The Rev. Joy Smith, pastor of **Presbyterian Church of the Apostles** in Burnsville received word of her acceptance to be a participant in a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land, an all expense paid trip through Wake Forest University. Her trip will take place sometime in January, 2009. Clerk of Session Betty Walker stated, "It is not only an honor bestowed upon her but truly a blessing for our congregation."

***If there is a tidbit of news that you would like to share, please send it to the Presbytery office by email to [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org).***

# NEWS

Presbyterian News Service

## Presbyterian News Service Index

The following news stories can be found at the Presbyterian News Service website:  
[www.pcusa.org/news](http://www.pcusa.org/news)

- Gifts that keep on giving: 'Symbolic gift' program lets Presbyterians support Peru artisans- [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08868.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08868.htm)
- John Knox Presbytery votes to enroll openly gay man as candidate: *Scott Anderson, who set aside ordination in 1990, re-enters process*- [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08867.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08867.htm)
- Water for the thirsty: Consultation told that churches need to step up involvement in international water issues- [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08864.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08864.htm)
- GAC office of racial ethnic and women's ministries reorganized: *Hunter says focus is on strengthening ties to congregations*- [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08860.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08860.htm)
- Star journalist lost with Evan's death: A tribute to Evan Silverstein, PNS reporter dead at 42- [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08841.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08841.htm)
- Open-ended evangelism: 'Growing Christ's Church Deep and Wide' consultation explores variety of approaches, tools: [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08838.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08838.htm)
- How deep? How wide?: Evangelism consultation challenged to consider welcome extended to gays and lesbians- [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08847.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08847.htm)
- Alaskan Abraham: Walter Soboleff, first Alaska Native Presbyterian minister, turns 100- [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08852.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08852.htm)



## JOIN IN THE VISION! TO END POVERTY IN MINNESOTA BY 2020.

*Join your voice to a growing movement that began in 2004 when thirty-five religious leaders in Minnesota signed "A Common Foundation: Shared Principles for Work on Overcoming Poverty". In 2006 the Minnesota State Legislature, using the text of "A Common Foundation," passed and funded a bill to create a Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota. Since then thousands of citizens of faith in Minnesota have also signed their names to "A Common Foundation", increasing the wave of public will to end poverty by 2020.*

### **A COMMON FOUNDATION: SHARED PRINCIPLES FOR WORK ON OVERCOMING POVERTY**

- We believe it is the Creator's intent that all people are provided those things that protect human dignity and make for healthy life: adequate food and shelter, meaningful work, safe communities, healthcare, and education.
- **We believe we are intended to live well together as a whole community, seeking the common good, avoiding wide disparities between those who have too little to live on and those who have a disproportionate share of the world's goods.**
- We believe we are all called to work to overcome poverty, and that this work transcends both any particular political theory or party and any particular economic theory or structure. We believe that overcoming poverty requires the use of private and public resources.
- **We believe we are called to make alliances within the faith community and with others in society who share the commitment to overcome poverty.**
- We believe that overcoming poverty involves both acts of direct service to alleviate the outcomes of poverty and advocacy to change those structures that result in people living in poverty.
- **We believe government is neither solely responsible for alleviating poverty, nor removed from this responsibility. We believe government is the vehicle by which people order their lives based on their shared vision. We believe society is well served when people of faith bring their values into the public arena. It is this remarkable convergence around issues of poverty and the common good that leads people of varying faith traditions to unite in calling on government to make a critical commitment to overcoming poverty.**
- We believe the desire to overcome poverty is not simply a human idea, but is the desire of our Creator, and that the work to create a more just and whole society will be empowered by the Creator's presence.

### ***Add your name in support***

*of "A Common Foundation" today at [www.mnwithoutpoverty.org](http://www.mnwithoutpoverty.org).*

**Click on "Sign Foundation" and add your name.**

**Send to others and invite them to sign also.**



## The Welcome Table

Rev. Don Milloy and Louis Brouhard of First Presbyterian in Rochester, staff the a table for the Disabilities Concerns Task Force at the November 11 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery at Knox Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. The task force works to help churches become more aware of those persons with mental and physical disabilities and how to be a place of welcome for persons with disabilities.



## Peacemaking Grants Available

St Luke Presbyterian Church has \$ 15,000 available for grants to organizations or individuals for projects related to peacemaking. We are open to new ideas which will make a difference. Applications are due on December 31, 2008. Contact the church for application forms.

St. Luke Presbyterian Church  
 Peace and Justice Focus Group  
 3121 Groveland School Road  
 Wayzata, MN 55391  
 (952) 473-7378  
[stluke@pmlink.com](mailto:stluke@pmlink.com)

PRESBYTERY OF THE  
TWIN CITIES AREA

112 W. Franklin Ave.  
Suite 508  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: 612-871-7281  
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"EMerge," is a weekly publication from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA). The mission is to share brief highlights with links to resources and news. Recipients include congregations, minister members, other members, committees, and friends. Please send submissions and e-mail corrections to Dennis Sanders, editor, at [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org). Usual distribution: Fridays. Deadline: Wednesday (two days before distribution).

## GOD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU



### 2009 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Louisville, Kentucky  
July 11–15, 2009

- ◆ Experience the wonder of being in community with more than 3,000 Christian women from across the country and around the world.
- ◆ Be challenged and inspired by plenary speakers and worship leaders.
- ◆ Attend morning forums and afternoon workshops on a variety of topics, including the 2009–2010 *Horizons* Bible study, *Joshua*, by Mary Mikhael.
- ◆ Visit the Great Room—a place to wander and wonder—for music, mission projects, resources, exhibits, Global Marketplace, conversation and relaxation.
- ◆ Celebrate working together for 20 years as Presbyterian Women, inheriting the legacy of Presbyterian women's groups before us.
- ◆ Witness the installation of PV leaders for the 2009–2012 triennium.
- ◆ Learn how God can and will do wonders among you!

Registration for the full event includes 10 meals, all programs, tote bag and program book. Registration booklets will be available in the September/October 2008 issue of *Horizons*. Additional copies may be ordered from Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/524-2612, item CWG-09-001.

Early-bird registration (on or before May 15, 2009)—\$380  
Regular registration (after May 15, 2009)—\$430  
Weekend (Saturday evening and Sunday) registration—\$150  
One-day registration—\$140

CWG-09-031

For more information, visit [www.pcusa.org/pwgathering](http://www.pcusa.org/pwgathering).