



EMerge

A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

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Volume Three, Issue Ten

May 14, 2009

Annual Meeting Highlights

by Dennis L. Sanders
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Red Wing, MN — The Rev. Jin S. Kim and Vince Gin were chosen to be Moderator and Vice Moderator respectively at the Annual Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, held Tuesday May

14 at First Presbyterian Church in Red Wing.

New Leadership for the PTCA



Jin S. Kim, left and Vince Gin, right converse before the Annual Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Red Wing. Kim and Gin were installed as Moderator and Vice Moderator, respectively at the meeting. Photo by Dennis Sanders.

Rev. Kim is the Head Pastor of Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church in Columbia Heights, MN, a multicultural congregation started in 2004. Vince Gin is an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Hudson, WI. He has served on the Presbytery Council in the recent past and headed the Executive

Presbyter Nominating Committee in 2008 which resulted in choosing the Rev. Chaz Ruark to the Executive Presbyter for the PTCA.

Other highlights from the meeting include, the reappointment of Nancy Gritman to a three year term as Stated Clerk. Gritman has served in the position of Stated Clerk of the PTCA since 2006.

The Disabilities Concerns Taskforce held a special presentation during the meeting on ministering to returning veterans. A panel including retired pastor Roger Ezell, a

Continued on Next Page

Highlights, continued

Vietnam veteran, and the Rev. Donald Milloy talked about the need for congregations to be more mindful of ministering to returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan as well as their families.

The next Stated Meeting is Tuesday, July 14 at Presbyterian Church of the Master in Coon Rapids. The meeting starts at 4:00PM.

Photo Highlights from the Annual Meeting



JoAnn Simser and Ward Sessing confer before the Annual Stated Meeting in Red Wing. Simser, an Elder from Macalester Plymouth United Church in St. Paul stepped down from her position as Moderator and is now chair of the Presbytery Council. Sessing stepped down from being the chair of the Presbytery Council after service as Vice Moderator in 2006-07 and Moderator in 2007-08.

Rev. Don Genereaux and Tom Bartholemew smile for the camera before the Annual Meeting. Genereaux is the pastor at First Presbyterian in Belle Plaine, MN and Bartholemew is the Clerk of Session at the congregation.



Presbytery Leadership for 2009-10

Moderator: Rev. Jin S. Kim, Pastor, Church of All Nations
Vice Moderator: Vince Gin, Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Hudson
Treasurer: James Payne, Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater
Chair of Presbytery Council: Jo Ann Simser, Elder, Macalester Plymouth Church
Stated Clerk: Nancy Grittman, Elder, Buffalo Presbyterian

Committee Chairs:

- Advocates for Integrity in Ministry: Rev. Sandra Stuart Gray, Minister, Honorably Retired
- Bills and Overtures Committee: Barbara Anne Keely, Minister, United Theological Seminary
 - Board of Trustees: Cindy Ray, Minister, Presbyterian Homes
 - Church Development Team: John Ivers, Elder, Presbyterian Church of the Way
 - Commissioned Lay Pastor: Ken Ribe, Minister, Member-at-Large
 - Committee on Representation: Robert Cross, Elder, Valley Community
- Committee on Ministry: Kirsten Berry, Elder, Hope and Patricia Milloy, Elder, Westminster-Minneapolis
 - Mission and Witness: Walter Chuquimia, Minister, Familia de Fe
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Denise Dubar-Perkins, Minister, Abbot-Northwestern Hospital and William Davnie, Minister, Member-at-large
 - Personnel : Jerry McKinney, Elder, Westminster-Minneapolis
 - Nominating: Elizabeth Raitt, Minister, Honorably Retired
- *Self-Development of People Committee: Joshua Heikkla, Minister, House of Hope

**The Self Development of People Committee Chair is elected in November.*

[Presbytery Packets Available for Download](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presyterypacket)

**[www.presbyterytwincities.org/
presyterypacket](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presyterypacket)**

Answering the higher call

by the Rev. Gradye Parsons
PC(USA) General Assembly stated clerk

LOUISVILLE — Maybe we need an Extreme Planet Makeover.

As if 3.7 million people unemployed since January, tornadoes, and flooding were not enough, now we have swine flu. I am sure there are locusts warming up somewhere.

The difference between the first three disasters and swine flu is that the first three bring people together. Swine flu, on the other hand, makes us want to stay as far apart from each other as possible. People who are co-workers and neighbors suddenly become strangers in our midst if they show the slightest hint of a sniffle.

Barbara Brown Taylor has given us an excellent new book, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* (HarperOne, 2009). Taylor explores our relationship with strangers in the chapter, "The Practice of Encountering Others." Using Matt. 25:34-37 as a starting point, she explores the difference between *philoxenia* (love for the stranger) and *xenophobia* (fear of the stranger). Taylor points out that, for most of us, fear of the stranger comes much more naturally than the other.

It is impossible in a 2.2 million-member denomination for everyone to know each other. We can be strangers even in our own congregations. We can find ourselves greeting long-time members as visitors if they don't sit in our pew zone. We can also find ourselves excluding from our internal membership roll those with whom we don't readily agree.

We are coming to the end of the season of debate on the amendments to the *Book of Order* that were proposed by the 218th General Assembly (2008). Some of the votes on "Amendment B" have been surprising and close, which means the debates were probably very intense.

Having a strong difference of opinion can transform sisters and brothers in a presbytery into strangers, or move us closer to the community that God intends. For we are a church of strangers that God has chosen to call a people of faith. We must not become *xenophobic*, but answer the higher call to be *philoxenic*.

May the gracious love of God help us do just that, healing our hearts, souls and minds in Christ Jesus.



Presbytery-by-presbytery, the Presbyterian News Service is reporting on congregations around the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who are engaged in innovative outreach programs in order to "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide" – a churchwide emphasis adopted by the 218th General Assembly (2008) to help congregations grow through evangelism, discipleship, servanthood and diversity. If you have a story to tell about a congregation that's growing Christ's church deep and wide, contact Jerry Van Marter or Bethany Furkin at the Presbyterian News Service, by calling (888) 728-7228 x5493 or by contacting IT/Communications Specialist Dennis Sanders at 612-871-7281 or email communications@ptcaweb.org.

Presbyterian News Briefs

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Environmental Ministry Office reopens – Katie Holmes to serve as program assistant

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — At the 218th General Assembly (2008) the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognized and accepted the responsibility of restoring creation as a central concern of the church to be incorporated into its life and mission at every level. As a result the Environmental Ministry Office has officially been re-opened. It had been asked to cease its work in 2006 after having been in operation since 1991.

Katie Holmes recently joined this office, a part of Social Witness Ministries in Compassion, Peace and Justice as program assistant. This staffing re-assignment is concurrent with the re-opening of the Environmental Office.

While the funding for the re-opening of this office has yet to be finalized Sara Lisherness, director for Compassion, Peace and Justice stated, "I'm pleased that the church sees the importance of caring for God's creation and I'm very excited that Katie brings knowledge and a faith-based approach to her work." Quoting scripture, Lisherness continued, "In God's hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being", and as Christians we need to honor that."

Holmes will transition from her work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Prior to that Holmes worked with the Kentucky Waterway Alliance where she obtained a significant experience in environmental work. That experience will be valuable in re-establishing this important ministry the General Assembly has called the church to do.

Holmes' work will take particular direction from the 1990 policy entitled "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice." The goals are to strengthen the Stewardship of Creation Enabler network, interface with volunteer networks within the PC (USA) and equip and network with individual PC(USA) members as well as congregations committed to environmental ministry.

The Thoughtful Christian offers new deal for subscribers in response to challenging economy

LOUISVILLE, Ky — The Web-based resource center The Thoughtful Christian has introduced a 40% discount for new and existing subscribers. From now through December 2009, new one-year subscriptions will be offered for \$195.00, down from the regular rate of \$350.00, while renewals will be \$150.00, down from the regular rate of \$225. The temporary discount has been implemented to aid subscribers — made up of individuals, churches, and other organizations — struggling with a difficult economic climate. "We've heard since its inception that a Thoughtful Christian subscription, with all its added advantages, is a valuable resource for local churches," says Executive Editor David Maxwell. "If reducing the price can help more of these churches get a greater benefit from us, that's great!"

The Thoughtful Christian is filled with studies covering a range of topics in the following areas: Bible and Theology, Spirituality, Christian Living, Contemporary Issues and Popular Culture. The site expanded last year to include studies specifically designed for youth, an addition to existing adult and parenting studies, and they are all available as part of a regular subscription. Studies can be downloaded as Acrobat PDF files, printed out and photocopied for use in classes or for personal study and devotion. New studies, including rapid responses to current events, are added to the site on a regular, ongoing basis.

The Thoughtful Christian is one of three imprints of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, the official denominational publisher of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). PPC's other imprints are Westminster John Knox Press and Geneva Press. PPC publishes approximately 85 books each year and maintains a backlist of approximately 1,700 titles that are sold throughout the world.

News Briefs, continued

From social media to newsletters: Full slate of workshops announced

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The Presbyterian Communicators' Network is pleased to announce topics and leaders for more than a dozen workshops to be held at the national conference from June 11-13 in Atlanta, Ga. Communicators from any denomination are invited to attend the conference and workshops.

Beyond Language: Multicultural Communication – Rev. Dr. Sharon Mook of Avondale, Ga. has served as a pastor, professor, chaplain and counselor in various settings. She presents a workshop that examines the differences between how various cultures communicate and the role of non-verbal communication.

Care and Feeding of your Web Site – Dana McMahan and Jonathan Dennis, Web content developers for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), conduct a workshop designed to help Web managers keep content fresh, links vital and visitors coming back. This workshop can help communicators get the most from their Web sites.

The New Tool Box: Podcasting, Blogs, Wikis, RSS and More – Dianna Ott, director of Creative Services for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), leads a workshop exploring a range of new communication tools. The workshop is designed to help participants understand and use these tools more effectively.

Beyond Screen Stigma: Using Communication Technology in Worship – Bryan Dunagan, teaching pastor at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and **Nathan Young**, graphic communication and technology administrator for the Olympia Presbytery, present a workshop on making the best use of today's technology without distracting from or overwhelming the message coming from the pulpit.

Church Newsletters: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly – Genie Hambrick, communication director at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., and **Marta Kramer**, communication director at the Synod of Lincoln Trails, discuss gathering content, deciding between print and electronic formats, desktop publishing options and elements of good design and layout in this informative workshop for newsletter editors and others.

The Story behind the Numbers – David Crittenden, co-executive of the Synod of Lincoln Trails, offers help to "word people" who struggle to interpret numbers and data in a meaningful way. This workshop will help participants use numerical data to tell the stories behind the figures.

Communicating through Controversy – Sue Westfall, associate executive presbyter for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, discusses how to keep the conversation going when emotions run high. She will examine techniques to help disparate groups move past barriers, build consensus and work productively together.

Social Media 101 – Bruce Reyes-Chow, tech-savvy moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) leads a workshop exploring the use of Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, instant messaging and other social media tools and techniques.

Web Site Development – Kevin Hoffman and Chris Cashdollar of Happy Cog, discuss key considerations for building a new Web site or redesigning an existing one, including content, design, navigation, security and content management systems.

Worth a Thousand Words? A Graphic Design Primer – Lucy Ke, graphic designer for KeFactors, Inc. of Avondale, Ga., leads a workshop to help communicators use photos, tables, graphs, drawings, color, fonts, layout, white space and other visual elements to make a stronger impact and more effectively convey news and key messages.

Telling the Story with Digital Photography – Erin Dunigan, freelance photographer and writer, leads this workshop on using powerful visual images to tell compelling stories. She will also explore various camera features and technical issues related to digital photography. Participants should bring cameras.

In addition to the workshops, conference participants can attend three plenary sessions, or join an optional CNN tour, a networking reception, and the Presbyterian Communicators' Network lunch, where the winner of the Presbyterian Writers Guild's Angell Award will be announced.

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Presbytery and Churchwide Events

Open House and Art Show at First Presbyterian, Rochester: Join us for worship at First Presbyterian Church in Rochester 9:30 or 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, May 17 and come to the **Open House and Art Show** from noon - 2:00 P.M. The church began a \$2.5 million dollar capital campaign in the fall of 2007 to renovate the building and the work is near completion this spring. Check out the new foyer/atrium area with vaulted ceiling, remodeled bathrooms, new lower level, expanded columbarium, and enhanced access to the social hall. Tours will be given and refreshments served. Along with the Open House will be an Art Show featuring paintings, woodworking and textile arts of church members. This part of the event will help to support the 9th annual mission trip from this congregation to our sister congregation in Somogyjad, Hungary. The public is invited. The church is located at 512 3rd St SW in Rochester. For more information, you can contact the church at 507-282-1618.

Reception at Central, St. Paul for Joshua DuBois: The Minnesota Council of Churches and the St. Paul Foundation invites the public to a reception for Joshua DuBois, Director of the White House Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, On Wednesday, May 20, 2009 from 4:45 – 5:45pm. The reception takes place at Central Presbyterian Church Friendship Hall, 500 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN. To RSVP contact Aundrea Billings at 612.230.3236 or Aundrea.billings@mchurches.org

Parking is available in the World Trade Center parking ramp located on the northeast corner of 7th and Wabasha streets, kitty corner to the Children's Museum.

Following the reception, *Religious Life in the Obama Era: A Conversation with Joshua Dubois*, will be held at 7pm at the Fitzgerald Theater, hosted by Minnesota Public Radio. If you'd like to attend visit www.fitzgeraldtheater.publicradio.org/events/

Four Sunday Introduction to Christianity at Chain of Lakes: If Jesus walked into the room and said you could ask him one question that started with the word, -why? you could do it in a heart beat.

We're a new and forming church.

On four Sunday nights we'll respond to questions you might have. Come and check us out.

- Sunday, May 17 : Why doesn't God intervene to stop suffering, especially among children?
- Sunday, May 31: Why is the Bible relevant if it was written over 2000 years ago?
- Sunday, June 7: Why does one God have so many different denominations?
- Sunday, June 14 : Why make time for church?

All are Welcome! 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

We're meeting at: Abundant Life Church
1105 117th Ave NE
Blaine, MN

Enter the front of the church.
Child Care is Provided.

For more information contact Chain of Lakes Church at
(651) 528-7321 or colpres@comcast.net

Pastors Boundary Waters Canoe Trip-August 23-29, 2009

PCF is offering a unique opportunity to Pastors this summer. We recognize that pastors need time away to reflect and connect with God and other clergy. The amenities are not

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Presbytery and Churchwide Events, continued

material things but rather things that you experience including scenery, refreshing waters and time immersed in God's creation.

The wilderness journey will feature demanding aspects of back country travel including portaging canoes, hefting packs, and surviving the elements.

You can register for these events by going to the Clearwater Forest website at www.clearwaterforest.org.

Theology on Tap @ Church of the Apostles- Attention Young Adults - (Ages, 20s - ?) you're invited to a round (square) table discussion to talk about theology and how faith connects or disconnects with the current issues in our world. We'll meet at Jo Jo's Rise and Wine (952-736-3001) located at 12501 Nicollet Ave., Suite 100, Burnsville (just north of Burnsville Pkwy on Nicollet Avenue). There is a table reserved for us in the back. The plan is for this young adult group to meet the second Monday of each month at a coffee house, PCA's Fellowship Hall, a restaurant, or even a bar. Each event will feature an engaging speaker who will present a relevant theological topic; time for discussion and faith sharing, and creating community. Come and join us and bring a friend! For more information, please contact the church office at 952-890-7877 or office@presbyterianapostles.org.

Synod School 2009 - Building a Culture of Peace—Synod School 2009, slated Sunday through Friday, July 26-31, at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, will convene around the theme, "Building a Culture of Peace." Synod School is an educational ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

Synod School offers a welcoming and safe community for people of all ages and interest to learn, to grow spiritually, and to share in fellowship. Special programs for children and youth - infant through grade 12 - allow parents - grandparents, aunts and uncles and more - to attend classes with other adults, knowing that their children are in good care and having a great time.

Sara Lisherness, director of the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be the 2009 convocation speaker.

For more information as well as tools to promote the School, please go to the Synod website at: <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html>.

Register Early for Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering: Don't let the early registration deadline for the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering pass you by. Register by May 15 to save \$50 on your registration fee.

The Churchwide Gathering is the perfect place to nurture your faith, learn about mission and advocacy opportunities and connect with other women of faith. You'll learn from Horizons Bible study authors like Mary Mikhael and be inspired by mission work like New Orleans disaster recovery. You will also meet women from as close as your neighboring presbytery or as far away as Eastern Europe. To learn more, please go to: www.pcusa.org/pwgathering.

NATIONAL EVENT SET FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: The Presbyterian Association for Collegiate and Higher Education Ministries is sponsoring what it calls the "first-ever event for people seeking creative ways to be in ministry with young adults and college students." The event, called Young Adult Ministry Jam Conference - or YAM Jam - is slated May 27-30 at Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Seminary. It will provide time for participants to spend time together to "cooperate, encourage and stimulate each other's ministries, a process similar to musicians' 'jam' sessions," according to promotional materials. The conference is open to a limited number of participants. Additional information can be found at <http://www.pachem.org/YAMJamConference/tabid/40218/>.

Phillip Newell Comes to the Twin Cities, May 19 - 21, 2009, Various Lo- *Continued on Page 10*

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 /Youth Leader, Presbyterian Church of the Apostles, Burnsville**
- **Director of Christian Education, Trinity Presbyterian, Woodbury**
- **Bookkeeper, First Presbyterian Church, Shakopee**
- **Accompanist, First Presbyterian Church, Belle Plaine**

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

Future 2009 Stated Meetings and Locations

- July 14, 2009, 4pm-8pm, Church of the Master Presbyterian Church, Coon Rapids
- September 12, 2009, 9AM-3PM, First Presbyterian Church, Shakopee (tentative)
- November 10, 2009, 4pm-8pm, Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina (tentative)

Please go to the PTCA website for more updates. Locations are tentative.

PTCA Churches Accepting PIFs

- **Solo Pastor– First Presbyterian, Claremont**
- **Associate Pastor– St. Luke Presbyterian, Wayzata**

To find out more information about these openings, please go to the Church Leadership Connection Opportunities webpage (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.

Presbytery Events, continued

cations: Internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality, Philip Newell has a passion for peace in the world and a fresh vision for harmony between the great spiritual traditions of humanity. This poet, Church of Scotland minister, scholar and teacher is perhaps best-known as the author of *Listening for the Heartbeat of God and Christ of the Celts*, which was called a "landmark" in its contribution to spirituality today by readthespirit.com. Philip Newell will be in the Twin Cities for three days of worship and exploration.

Events

- **Tuesday, May 19, 9:00am-1:00pm: Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Minneapolis**
- **Tuesday, May 19, 7:30pm: Evening Concert with Marty Haugen at Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis**
- **Wednesday, May 20, 9:00am-1:00pm: Forum at Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality and Sacred Ground Center for Spirituality in St. Paul**
- **Wednesday, May 20, 6:51pm: Celtic Communion Service at Pilgrim Lutheran in St. Paul**
- **Thursday, May 21, 9:00am - 2:00pm: An Episcopal House of Prayer Retreat at Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis**
- **Thursday, May 21, 7:00pm: A Celtic Mass for Peace at Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis**

For more information about Philip Newell's Twin Cities appearances or about any of the programs listed above, please email newellinfo@wpc-mpls.org or go to Westminster Presbyterian's website at http://www.ewestminster.org/jphilipnewell_may2009.

Movie Salon @ St. Luke: The next Movie Salon will take place on Friday, May 29 at 7:00 pm in the West Room at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Wayzata. All are welcome to view and discuss "Who Killed the Electric Car," a 90-minute documentary about the electric vehicle crossed with a scathing expose of the oil and automotive industries.

The film traces the history of the electric car, from its inception at the turn of the 20th century to its demise at the turn of the 21st. The main focus is the cars' surge in popularity in recent years with the 1990 Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate, and its abrupt disappearance when the California Air Resources Board modified the mandate, prompting car companies to recall and destroy all existing electric vehicles. Although there were waitlists for EV1s at the time of the recall, GM claimed that there was little demand, and EV1 drivers were prohibited from purchasing the vehicles, despite their best efforts."

St. Luke is located at 3121 Groveland School Road in Wayzata. For more information, contact the church at stluke@pclink.com or (952) 473-7378.

Preaching, Teaching and Leading from Hope: A Series For Clergy and Lay Leaders :

- gain resources for preaching and teaching on hope in daunting times
- explore the subject of hope for its inspiration, practical application and biblical foundations
- receive suggestions for the use of poetry in sermons and classes

Sponsored by: The Graduate School of Liberal Studies and The Office of Church Relations at Hamline University
All classes meet from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and can be taken singly, or all together

- June 5, Preaching, teaching and leading from hope, with Prof. Julie Neraas, author of: *Apprenticed to Hope: A Sourcebook for Difficult Times*
- June 12, Poetic Resources for Preaching, with poet and Prof. Angela Shannon, author of *Singing the Bones Together*
- June 19, Biblical foundations for Hope, with Prof. Timothy Polk, biblical scholar, author of *The Biblical Kierkegaard, The Prophetic Persona: Jeremiah and the Language of the Self*.

cost: \$50 for individual sessions, \$140 for the series. for more info. call: 651 523-2047. *Continued on Next Page*

Presbytery Events, continued

Summer institute in Spirituality and the Arts @ United Seminary: June 9-12, 2009. Are you needing time to nourish your soul this summer? Are you looking for a Continuing Education opportunity close to home? Are you a religious leader wanting an opportunity to renew your ministry skills? Are you seeking an educational opportunity as part of a sabbatical or study time?

The Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts provides a place to expand your awareness and knowledge about the intersections of art and religion. Participants are offered an opportunity to explore those intersections in their personal lives and faith communities.

The Summer Institute format is a four-day event (Tuesday-Friday). For full-day attendance, participants select one of two morning workshops and one of two afternoon workshops. For half-day attendance, participants select either one morning workshop or one afternoon workshop. The theme of the workshop(s) selected indicates the theme for all four days of study. Please visit our website for more information, or to register: <http://www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/summerinstitute.asp> or you may call: Cindi Beth Johnson Director of Community Programming in the Arts, Religion and Spirituality @ 651.255.6137.

Alt7 Conference at Montreat: The alt7 Conference, designed for clergy under the age of 40, is slated at Montreat (N.C.) Conference Center June 8-11. Conference literature notes that clergy under the age of 40 are younger than the average Presbyterian, adding, "We may be online, energized, underpaid, frustrated, creative, isolated, prophetic, weary, traditional, misunderstood, innovative, disillusioned, post-modern, hopeful, or all of the above." The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly, is one of the conference leaders. Information and registration materials are available at www.montreat.org/current/2009-alt7-conference.

Celebrate the Calvin Jubilee at Montreat: July 8-11, 2009, Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, N.C. Celebrate the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth by participating in a conference on Calvin's legacy July 8-11 at Montreat Conference Center. We will explore Calvin's continuing influence on Reformed faith and life through lectures, panels, discussion and worship. An expanded bookstore will feature both new and classic publications. To register or to get more information, please go to: www.pcusa.org/calvinjubilee.

Boundaries Training Available: This training is offered on three different dates in three different regions of Minnesota. All sessions are from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Lunch and materials are included.

- Thursday, October 8th 2009 - Fergus Falls, MN
- Thursday, October 22nd 2009 - Hinckley, MN
- Thursday, November 5th 2009 - Lakeville, MN

For more information or to register contact Aundrea Billings at aundrea.billings@mnchurches.org or 612-230-3236 or visit www.mnchurches.org.

Do you have an event you'd like to publicize? Please send it to Dennis Sanders at communications@ptcaweb.org.

General Assembly Council Offices Closed May 17-23

Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), distributed a letter yesterday to the church, outlining the impact on GAC services during the unpaid furlough it has scheduled next week, May 17-23.

Valentine noted that "no work may be performed by GAC staff" during the week. "Compliance to the 'no work' rule is critical in order to comply with applicable federal and local laws," Valentine wrote.

The original announcement of the furlough can be found online at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/gac09001.htm.

The complete text of Valentine's letter is below.

Colleagues in Ministry,

As we announced a few months ago, next week, May 17-23, General Assembly Council staff will be taking unpaid furlough leave as one of our measures to provide savings in the 2009 General Assembly Mission Budget during this challenging economic time. I am grateful to my colleagues for their personal sacrifice for the sake of General Assembly mission during this time.

During the furlough week, no work may be performed by GAC staff. Compliance to the "no work" rule is critical in order to comply with applicable federal and local laws, therefore most GAC offices will be closed next week.

We have arranged for a few staff to work during the week, in the event of an emergency. These staff will take their furlough leave at another time.

In the event of an emergency, these are phone numbers that you may use:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (888) 728-7228 x5840

Legal Services (888) 728-7228 x5350

Risk Management (888) 728-7228 x5549

World Mission (888) 728-7228 x5272

Presbyterian Center Facilities (888) 728-7228 x5843

Other offices at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, including the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and Presbyterian Women, will remain open during this week. Here are direct dial numbers to their offices:

Office of the General Assembly

Office of the Stated Clerk (888) 728-7228 x5424

Constitutional Services (888) 728-7228 x5808

Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (888) 728-7228 x5868

Presbyterian Publishing Corporation

Churches and individuals interested in calling PPC about These Days and Theology Today should call (800) 624-2612. Individuals and churches with questions about TheThoughtfulChristian.com should call (800) 554-4694. Churches and individuals wishing to place orders should call Cokesbury at (800) 672-1789. Bookstores who wish to place an order should call (800) 523-1631.

Presbyterian Distribution Service staff is pleased to offer you and your congregation continued service during this time. Your fall curriculum orders for the newly revised We Believe: God's Word for God's People curriculum and other PC(USA) materials may be placed by calling (800) 524-2612. If you have questions or need further information before placing your order, our curriculum help-line, (888) 728-7228 x8100, will also be staffed for your convenience. Visit www.pcusa.org/marketplace anytime to order online.

Presbyterian Women (888) 728-7228 x8015

GAC staff will return to the office on Tuesday, May 26, following the Memorial Day holiday. Thank you for your continued partnership in ministry.

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Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
presents:

Presbyfest 2009

Saturday, November 14,
2009

Oak Grove Presbyterian
Church



Celebrating John Calvin
and Four Centuries of Reformed Lay
Leadership

Keynote Speaker: Cynthia Rigby, PhD

Professor of Theology,
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Featuring Worship, Workshops and Resources
to equip congregational lay leaders.

More information and registration available
July 2009



Proposals for Workshops are now being accepted.
Download proposal forms at www.ptcaweb.org.

News Briefs, continued

Nine other Presbyterian conferences are being held during the Big Tent event. The various conferences will share worship services, an exhibit hall and selected meals. Registration is \$285 for the full conference and day rates are available for those who can attend only a day or two.

For more information, visit the Comnet and Big Tent sites (www.pcusa.org/bigtent).

PNS review task force is set to meet

by Jerry L. Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — A six-member task force appointed by General Assembly Council chair Carol Adcock to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Presbyterian News Service (PNS) will hold its first meeting May 11.

The meeting will be by telephone conference call. A face-to-face meeting will be held during the summer. The group — two GAC members and four at-large members — is scheduled to make its report to the September 2009 meeting of the council.

It has been asked to evaluate:

- * The contemporary context for news distribution;
- * The role, purpose, and scope of the Presbyterian News Service;
- * Editorial standards for PNS' reporting;
- * Measures of effectiveness; and
- * Appropriate PNS reporting relationship(s) and funding.

The task force was authorized by the GAC last fall as part of an overall review of all the departments within Communications and Funds Development (CFD), which was created as part of a GAC restructure three years ago.

In addition to PNS, CFD encompasses Executive Office Communications, Creative Services, Funds Development and Funds Development Services, Mission Communications and Mission Interpretation, including Presbyterians Today.

PNS is the last of the CFD departments to be reviewed. The GAC last assessed PNS in 2002 and by a one-vote margin decided not to make any changes in the role, function and editorial freedom of the denomination's official news agency.

The task force is chaired by Elder Carolyn McLarnan, a GAC member from Hattiesburg, MS. Joining her from the GAC is Elder LaVert Jones of Roswell, GA.

The four at-large members of the task force are:

- Elder Rick Ufford-Chase, co-director of the Stony Point Conference Center and moderator of the 216th General Assembly (2004);
- Elder John Bolt, a commissioned lay pastor and stated clerk of West Virginia Presbytery and a former Associated Church Press reporter for many years;
- Elder Robert Maggs, president and CEO of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Board of Pensions; and
- the Rev. Judy Fletcher, synod executive for the Synod of the Sun.

Karen Schmidt, deputy executive director for Communications and Funds Development, will provide staff support. Melissa Vella, a CFD administrative assistant, will provide administrative support.

Continued on Next Page

News Briefs, continued

Clearwater Forest Announces New Administrative Assistant: Kimberly Goeser Janes has joined the staff of Presbyterian Clearwater Forest in the newly created position of administrative assistant, according to David Jeremiason, the camp's executive director. She will provide support for the administrative staff and work with Jeremiason in marketing and developing new community partnerships in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Goeser Janes brings camp experience to the position and recently relocated to the Deerwood, Minn., area after serving as assistant manager of employee relations and negotiations with St. Paul Public Schools. Presbyterian Clearwater Forest is online at www.clearwaterforest.org.

Clearwater Forest Looks to raise funds for Camp Scholarships: It is the goal at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest that no camper who wishes to camp will be denied due to financial limitations. Last year over 200 scholarships were given totaling nearly \$16,000. At least one of every four campers in the camp's summer programs received financial assistance to attend camp. We all know that there are many families facing serious financial pressures and we want to make sure that camp is a possibility for every person who wishes to attend.

If you are a family wondering if you can afford to send your child to camp this summer, Clearwater Forest encourages you to apply for a scholarship. To apply, please go to our web site at www.clearwaterforest.org and print off a scholarship application under the 2009 Summer Camps tab.

If you are a family that has the means to help build our scholarship fund, please consider making a special gift this year to help make camp possible for another family that may be in need. We do not have enough in our scholarship fund to cover all the requests that we project for this summer. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for our Scholarship Fund by June 14th which is the first day of summer camp.

Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

Through the Pentecost Offering, the church expresses a common commitment to provide hope for children at risk, opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in their faith, and short-term mission service options for young adults.

Please give generously.

The Pentecost offering is received on May 31 in local churches or give online at www.pcusa.org/pentecost.



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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. Usual distribution: Fridays. Deadline: Wednesday (two days before distribution).

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