



### Thoughts from the Presbytery Moderator

by Jin S. Kim, Moderator  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

*The following is the text of the Moderator's Report, which was presented at the July 14 Presbytery meeting in Coon Rapids, MN.*

I have been a minister member of this presbytery for just over ten years, and I have now officially lived in Minnesota longer than I've lived anywhere in the world! I have enjoyed the friendships and collegiality across our presbytery. I am grateful for the faith that this presbytery had in a tiny Korean-based church plant that dared to dream of becoming a multicultural church. And now, I am humbled by this opportunity to serve you as moderator. In recent years

our presbytery has made some substantive changes in leadership, structure and ways of relating to one another that have generated real improvements in our life together. What excites me most is the sense I get from our presbytery of an openness to rethink our identity and mission that makes sense in our present time.

Last Friday, July 10, 2009 marked the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Calvin's birth. The Reformed movement, of which Calvin was such a major figure, gave birth to Protestant congregations which were also called "evangelical churches." This came from the Greek *euangelion*, meaning "good news," not because the Roman Church did not have access to



Moderator Jin S. Kim gives his report at the July Stated Meeting at Church of the Master in Coon Rapids, MN. Photo by Dennis Sanders.

### In this issue:

From the Moderator: More from **Jin S. Kim** on the **Six Great Ends of the Church**.

Mission: **First Presbyterian, Stillwater** recounts their mission trip to **Cedar Rapids, IA** a city still recovering from floods in 2008.

Transitions: Remembering **Lee Nelson**, a former moderator of the Presbytery, and **Sam Olson**, the grandson of **Ann and Manley Olson**.

On Calvin: PC(USA) Stated Clerk **Grayde Parsons**, shares his thoughts on the hospitality of **John Calvin**.



## Moderator, Continued



**“Royal Typewriter went bankrupt because they thought they were in the typewriter business, rather than the communication business. I believe that the Presbyterian Church is in the gospel business that is reformed and always reforming, not in the regulatory religious bureaucracy business.”**

**-Rev. Jin S. Kim, giving his Moderator’s Report at the July 2009 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.**

the gospel, but the way that the established church communicated the gospel – within a Thomistic, Aristotelian, scholastic and hegemonic framework bound up in a dead language (Latin) – itself did not embody good news in the Renaissance Age.

We need to ask some hard questions not about the content of our faith – after all, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever – but about *the way* we are communicating our ancient faith in our contemporary world. Unlike the Quran in which Arabic is enshrined as holy writ (or the Vulgate throughout medievalism), the Bible requires translation in every time and in every place, and the church is the living community of believers that does that basic work of translation, that the world might believe. Part of the reason that all of the mainline churches are experiencing massive decline is our inability to communicate our message in a winsome and compelling way in this globalized, multicultural and multi-epistemological age. In other words, 500 years after Calvin: compelling content, boring and outdated packaging. Royal Typewriter went bankrupt because they thought they were in the typewriter business, rather than the communication business. I believe that the Presbyterian Church is in the gospel business that is reformed and always reforming, not in the regulatory religious bureaucracy business.

It’s not all our fault. We were all trained to lead 20<sup>th</sup> century churches in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world. The genius of our tradition though is that we are free to always reform our way to new and innovative ways of sharing our faith, remembering the hallmarks of the Reformation: *sola scriptura, sola fide, sola gratia*. As long as we have the Scriptures, our faith and God’s grace, we can rethink our identity and mission to be bearers of good news to a fast-changing world in desperate need of salvation in the Ancient of Days. The content of Jesus as Lord must endure. The packaging must always be open to renegotiation. Therefore the church affirms “*ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*,” that is, “the church reformed, always reforming,” according to the Word of God and the call of the Spirit.

To that end, one of our top priorities must be to


reform the way we gather as presbyters. I believe that every meeting of presbytery can and should reflect the Great Ends of the Church:

1. The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
2. The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
3. The maintenance of divine worship
4. The preservation of the truth
5. The promotion of social righteousness
6. The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

We can improve the quality and experience of our presbytery meetings if we gather for:

- Proclamation and **worship** (Great Ends 1 and 3)
- **Fellowship** (Great End 2)
- Theological reflection and **discernment** (Great End 4)

The “**business**” of social righteousness (Great End 5)

If we do all these well, then we begin to live into Great End 6 and “exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.” In my next communication I will try to spell out how we can fill this vision out more fully, but this presbytery meeting is an initial attempt to move in that direction, and I’m especially grateful to the Presbytery Council’s Worship Task Force that has worked with me to generate many of these ideas. We affirm that while the local church is the fullest embodiment of “church,” that other ecclesial bodies such as presbytery are also “church,” and therefore, 

## Moderator, Continued

framing the whole meeting as a worship service makes theological sense. Having said that, I know a number of presbyteries that have tried this for many years, and it can seem just as artificial and contrived in actual practice. There is no right way, unfortunately – just our wrestling together with faith and integrity.

These are some of the questions we struggled with on your behalf:

- Can we celebrate the Eucharist at every presbytery meeting, signifying sacramentally our unity that is so much more profound than anything that might hurt or divide us?
- Can every presbytery worship reflect the diversity of the global Presbyterian community, including the historic Black Presbyterian tradition, mindful of our Reformed emphasis on the sovereignty of God over ALL people and nations, and the priesthood of ALL believers?
- Can we recover the practice of testimony and include one in every service from a pastor or leader/member of one of our local congregations, that we might practice being the body of Christ AS a presbytery, living into the ethos that when one congregation suffers the whole body suffers, and when one rejoices we all rejoice?
- Can we invite, time to time, some creative, innovative dreamers, thinkers, tinkers, risk-takers and prophets who might preach a timely word to our presbytery at such a time as this?

We have the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful people and gifts that are already part of our Presbyterian congregations and presbytery. I invite our presbyters to wrestle with me until we together wrest a blessing from God for the kingdom's sake.

## Presbyfest 2009



Presbyfest is back! This year's festival of all things Presbyterian will take place on Saturday, November 14 at Oak Grove Presbyterian in Bloomington. The theme is "Celebrating John Calvin and Five Centuries of Reformed Lay Leadership." The Keynote speaker for this year is Cynthia Rigby, Professor of Theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Information on classes will be available in July. If you are a congregational lay leader looking for ideas or resources to further the ministry at your congregation, then Presbyfest is for you. Please go to [www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyfest2009](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyfest2009) to download a promotion flyer .

## Learn More About the Six Great Ends

**Witherspoon Press has a number of books and study materials handy to help you and your congregation learn more about the Six Great Ends of the Church. You can order these resources by going to the Witherspoon Press website at <http://www.pcusa.org/wITHERSPOONPRESS/index.htm>.**

## Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

**Remember Affordable Housing and Homelessness Sunday:** Affordable Housing and Homelessness Sunday, will observed on August 9 of this year. This Sunday provides congregations, specialized ministries and presbyteries with an opportunity discuss and address issues related to homelessness and affordable housing. During this current economic downturn, our nation continues to experience a major housing crisis as more persons and families are becoming homeless or unable to access safe and affordable housing.

The Small Church and Community Ministry office has a collection of worship resources to help you plan your service on this day. Get prayers, scriptures, sermon ideas and suggestions for what congregations can do to help. Find out how you can help in your own community. You can download these resources by going to: [www.pcusa.org/smallchurch/housingsunday.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/smallchurch/housingsunday.htm).

**“Mission” is our middle name:** Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is pleased to announce that the new name was approved by presbyteries and is now official.

“For more than 200 years, Presbyterians have been faithfully responding to the call of Jesus Christ, taking the gospel into the world and bearing witness to Christ’s saving love to the ends of the earth,” said Valentine. “Our new name is a more accurate reflection of the work we do as the mission agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in partnerships with all of our congregations, presbyteries and synods.”

The change – from the General Assembly Council – became official June 28, 2009, one year after the adjournment of the 218th General Assembly where the action was first taken. Presbyteries voted overwhelmingly – 160 to 11 – in favor of the change.

The name change will be implemented over time with a cost-conscious approach to new printed materials such as business cards and letterhead. The new name has already been applied to information on the church’s Web site, [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) comprises 2.2 million members in more than 10,000 congregations, answering Christ’s call to mission and ministry throughout the United States and the world. You can see the GAMC website at: [www.pcusa.org/gamc](http://www.pcusa.org/gamc).

**Christian Vocation Sunday:** God’s call is more than a job — daily service in the world through our jobs, talents and interests is a cornerstone of our lives as Christians. The programmatic emphasis for the Sunday before Labor Day — September 6 — is appropriately, Christian Vocation Sunday.

Cultivate a culture of call in your own congregation by claiming our theological perspective of the priesthood of all believers. Find ways of including this emphasis on call in your congregation’s worship and activities. Get help with resources from the office of Christian Vocation, including a call to worship, dramatic reading and a downloadable bulletin insert by going to [www.pcusa.org/christianvocation/christianvocationsunday.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/christianvocation/christianvocationsunday.htm).

**PDA Lists Need for Help in US Disasters:** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has issued a call for help Thursday in three areas in the United States. PDA’s announcement included the following: (1) Although it is the third most destructive hurricane to hit the United States, Hurricane Ike has been named the forgotten storm. When Hurricane Ike devastated the Texas coast, all of the major media and press outlets were focused on two items: the 2008 presidential election and the downward spiral of the U.S. financial crisis. Less than \$500,000 was received to respond to the massive needs in Texas. Information about Hurricane Ike and ways to provide help can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gustav-index.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gustav-index.htm). (2) The Presbytery of East Iowa has several locations hosting volunteer work teams who want to help with reconstruction and recovery efforts caused by flooding in 2008. The primary need is for skilled workers such as licensed plumbers, electricians and general contractors and volunteers who are experienced with drywall or who can supervise others willing to do the work. Information about volunteering can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pda/teams.htm#ia](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/teams.htm#ia). (3) Volunteers are needed for a period of three months or more to help PDA minister to hurricane survivors through the Presbyterian Volunteer Villages. Volunteer expenses are covered, along with a per diem for food and incidentals. Position information is available at Volunteer Villages on the PDA website: [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda).

**Peacemakers Team Up With World Mission Challenge:** This year’s World Mission Challenge will focus on partnership and it will put that idea into action in a new way. During World Mission Challenge, which runs Sept. 25-Oct. 18, mission co-workers visit presbyteries throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) This year some mission co-workers will be accompanied by International Peacemakers from the same country. International Peacemakers are people engaged in



## Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

peacemaking in their own areas of the world. They are invited to by the denomination to visit with Presbyterians in the United States to help explain peace and justice concerns of others around the world. Every presbytery within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies is a confirmed participant in World Mission Challenge. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09573.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09573.htm).

**Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon will serve as church specialist in the Office of African American Congregational Support:** The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women for the PC(USA), announced today that the Rev. Dr. Jerry Lytle Cannon, senior pastor at C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C., will take on additional responsibilities and join the General Assembly Mission Council as church specialist in the Office of African American Congregational Support. Cannon will be deployed staff working from his office in Charlotte as well as from the GAMC office.

As church specialist, Cannon's areas of focus will be African American evangelism and church growth, congregational transformation and leadership development.

"I am excited for the Rev. Cannon to join the staff of the Office of African American Congregational Support," said Hunter. "His experience as a leader and pastor will benefit our African-American congregations."

Cannon previously served as president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. A graduate of the Masters of Divinity degree program at Johnson C. Smith Seminary, he earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton. He has been pastor and head of staff at C.N. Jenkins since 1992.

"As an active pastor and church specialist, I hope to bring a listening ear to the needs of pastors and congregations, and as a practitioner, I plan to bring some effective principles of congregational transformation and leadership development that work," Cannon said.

"African-American congregations and leaders

have made a tremendous contribution to the Presbyterian Church for more than 200 years," he continued. "It is imperative that the legacy be lifted up, but also that the future leadership be equipped to effectively witness the love and grace of God to the community and the world."

### 218th GA's Civil Union, Christian Marriage Committee Seeks

**Feedback:** What is the place of covenanted same-gender partnerships in the Christian community? It is a question the General Assembly Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage is posing to the church for input. It is also one piece of the mandate the 218th General Assembly of the PC(USA) gave the committee when the assembly called on its moderator to appoint the group. "We not only covet the prayers of folks across the church as we do our work," said the Rev. Jim Szeyller of Charlotte Presbytery, "but we also want as much input as possible." Guidelines for input to the special committee include a maximum of 1000 words and a deadline of August 16, 2009. Responses can be sent electronically to [civilunion.marriage@pcusa.org](mailto:civilunion.marriage@pcusa.org) or mailed to: Civil Union and Christian Marriage Committee, OGA, Room 4621, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09557.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09557.htm).

### North Como Summer Choir for Seniors

North Como Presbyterian Church of Roseville is collaborating with Greenhouse Village, a senior housing complex, on a summer choir, "Vivace Voices". The group is open to anyone 55 or better, regardless of prior choir experience, who live in the complex or attend North Como. The group meets for one hour each week at Greenhouse Village which is just two blocks from the church. Selections include patriotic tunes, sacred pieces, show tunes, folk tunes and other songs familiar to seniors.

While a few in Vivace Voices are still singing in choirs, most are not and some have not done so for many years. At the end of the summer the choir will give a concert at Greenhouse Village and participate in Sunday worship at North Como.

The director of Vivace Voices is Jennifer Anderson, North Como's Director of Music Ministries and Director of the Global Harmony Community Chorus, a volunteer choir of over 100 voices that annually does a series of concerts to raise funds for humanitarian causes. For more information about joining Vivace Voices contact her at [JenniferA@northcomochurch.org](mailto:JenniferA@northcomochurch.org).

-Submitted by Manley Olson

## Positions Available

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

- Director of Music, Presbyterian Church of the Way, Shoreview
- Church Business Administrator, North Como Presbyterian Church, Roseville
- Church Administrative Assistant, Peace Presbyterian Church, St. Louis Park
- Youth Ministries Director, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Christian Education Director, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Youth Ministry Coordinator, North Como Presbyterian Church, Roseville
- Children & Family Ministry Coordinator, North Como Presbyterian Church, Roseville
- Christian Education /Youth Leader, Presbyterian Church of the Apostles, Burnsville
- Director of Christian Education, Trinity Presbyterian, Woodbury

*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.)*

The following PTCA Congregations are accepting Personal Information Forms (PIF):

- Associate Pastor– St. Luke Presbyterian, Wayzata
- Pastor– Buffalo Presbyterian, Buffalo
- Pastor– First Presbyterian, Claremont
- Interim Pastor– Community Presbyterian, Plainview

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

## Events Calendar

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

### **Celebrating Community Together at North Como:**

Celebrating Community Together, or CCT, is a Children and Family program for the summer. Through three evening sessions and one afternoon session, the intention of CCT is to bring children and families of North Como together to learn more about what North Como does outside of its walls and celebrate those activities and affiliations. Each evening activity is from 6-7:30 pm, intended to fit just after dinner and just before bed. Activities are geared toward children up through 5th grade, to be done alongside and with parents. There is no fee for the first three sessions, while only a nominal fee for the Twins game!

### **Wednesday, July 29th: CCT – Creativity**

Come and explore ways that we can celebrate community through music! Stations during this event will include bells, puppets, drama, art, and drums! There will be a lot of joyful noise to be made together! Jennifer Anderson and other members of the music ministry program will be helping with the evening.

### **Saturday, August 15th: CCT – Play!**

In celebration of the end of the summer and as a capstone to the CCT series, we will attend a Twins Game on Saturday, August 15th. The game starts at 3 pm, so we will gather at the church to carpool and then enjoy the game together versus the Cleveland Indians. (The cost is \$10 per person, including a ticket, hot dog, and soda!)

We would love to see you there...if you are interested in attending, please contact the North Como church office by calling 651-488-5581.

If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Bigwood, NCPC Elder serving Education and Nurture, at [gbbigwood@hotmail.com](mailto:gbbigwood@hotmail.com) or by leaving a message at the church office.

**Rummage Sale @ Church of All Nations:** July 31 and August 1, 10am to 4pm. The Interns are hosting a sale to raise funds for a South Africa mission trip. For more information, please call 609-638-9131.

### **Job Support Groups at Christ Presbyterian:**

Christ Presbyterian in Edina offers the following groups to help those in transition:

- **CHRIST IN CAREER SUPPORT GROUP:** Meets first and third Saturdays of the month from 8:30-10:30AM in Room 316

Contact: Jack Baloga at 952.944.5194

\*A ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church

- **INDIVIDUAL MENTORING/ COACHING\***

Contact the CPC Lay Care office at 952.920.8515

\*A ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church

- **MINNEAPOLIS JOB SUPPORT WORKSHOP**

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30PM

Contact: John Wetzel at [john.wetzel@right.com](mailto:john.wetzel@right.com)

Visit [www.mjsw.org](http://www.mjsw.org)

- **WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP**


Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM in the Parlor

Contact: John Wetzel at [john.wetzel@right.com](mailto:john.wetzel@right.com)

Visit [www.mjsw.org](http://www.mjsw.org)

### **Job Support Group at Lake Nokomis:**

The South Minneapolis Job Networking Group meets at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian on Fridays at 9am for support, resources and networking. For more information, please contact the congregation at (612) 721-4463.

**Garage Sale at Faith Presbyterian:** August 13 and 14, at Faith Presbyterian in Minnetonka. The Proceeds will go towards missions. For more information on the sale, please go to the Faith Presbyterian website at 

## Events Calendar

### Summer Office Hours @ the Presbytery Office

www.faithpres.org.

**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 -ergus Falls, MN
- Thursday, October 22nd 2009 - Hinckley, MN
- Thursday, November 5th 2009 - Lakeville, MN

For more information or to register contact Andrea Billings at [aundrea.billings@mchurches.org](mailto:aundrea.billings@mchurches.org) or 612-230-3236 or visit [www.mchurches.org](http://www.mchurches.org).

**Important News about the Bible Content Exam** - The PC(USA)'s Bible Content Examination will now be administered **ONLINE ONLY**. The online Bible Content Examination is a proctored examination administered at seminary testing sites. Test takers will need a computer with internet access in order to take this examination. The examination will be available in English, Korean and Spanish. The exam will be offered twice each year beginning **October 2, 2009**. [Applicants must first read the instructions and explanatory material before visiting the new site](http://www.pcusa.org/exams/bible.htm) ([www.pcusa.org/exams/bible.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/exams/bible.htm))


which allows for online registration and payment for the exam.

**Synod Communicator Event Set for September:** Communicators, and anyone else who might want to attend, are being invited to the second Synod-wide Communicators Conference Wednesday through Friday, Sept. 2-4, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Eagan, Minn. Sarah Moore-Nokes, associate executive presbyter in Winnebago Presbytery, will lead the conference's first session Wednesday evening on Google Tools. Attendees are asked, if possible, to bring their own laptop computer. Shane Whisler, communications director in the Synod of the Sun, will provide details about working with Presbyterian Neighbor News on Thursday morning, and Bethany Furkin will also address the conference about the Presbyterian News Service during that

time. There is also a possibility that the executive director for the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 2010 General Assembly will be on hand before Thursday's lunch. Full registration is \$100 and includes all sessions, accommodations, opening dinner, two breakfasts and a lunch. For those who do not need accommodations, registration is \$40 for all sessions. Registration is easy, simply send an email to Duane Sweep, associate for communications at the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, at [dsweep@lakesandprairies.org](mailto:dsweep@lakesandprairies.org). The email should include name and position. The registration fee can be mailed to Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, 2115 Cliff Drive, Eagan, MN 55122.

**A Conversation on the Future of Faith Communities:** Saturday, September 19th, 2009, 9am - 3pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis MN 55407. Does the church have anything to say anymore to the big questions in people's lives? if so, what? How can the church be engaged with the questions: What is a lifetime? Why do we live it? We will learn about the loss of identity and loss of belonging that characterize so much of life today, and explore how the church might imagine hope and community with and alongside people. We'll talk about how the church can wrestle with questions, enter into suffering, and speak of hope in reality. We will hear from Andy Root (from his forthcoming book, "The Promise of Despair: The Way of the Cross as the Way of the Church"), and also get into some good theological conversation with one another - from many different churches and perspectives.

This is for church leaders, and for regular folks: **it is a day of theological conversation for everyone.**

Registration Including Lunch: \$20 (Lunch by Pepito's) **Registration is limited.** To register, call Jan at 612-721-4463. 

**Monday-Thursday:**  
8:30am-4:30pm

**Friday:**  
8:30am-12:30pm

### Per Capita for 2010:

**General Assembly:**  
\$6.15

**Synod:** \$4.80

**Presbytery:** \$19.06

**Total=**  
**\$30.01**

## Events Calendar

### Next Presbytery Meeting:

Download a flyer at [www.ptcaweb.org/News/Root%20Event%20Flyer-4.pdf](http://www.ptcaweb.org/News/Root%20Event%20Flyer-4.pdf).

Dr. Andy Root is a theologian and professor of Youth & Family Ministry at Luther Seminary, St. Paul and the author of *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry, Relationships Unfiltered*, and the forthcoming *The Promise of Despair: The Way of the Cross as the Way of the Church*.

*Co-hosted by Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church, Edgumbe Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, and Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church.*

**Saturday  
September 12,  
First  
Presbyterian,  
Shakopee  
9AM-3PM**

**Workshop on Mental Illness:** The Disability Concerns Task Force is sponsoring a workshop called, **Mental Illness: A Challenge to our Churches**, September 19, from 9AM to Noon at Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview. This workshop is open to Parish visitors, pastors, family members of persons who live with mental illness, deacons, elders, anyone who wants to understand mental illness and cares about ministry with the one in five who live with mental illness. To register, find more information and for childcare, please contact Rev. Bebe Baldwin at [randbonmarquette@hotmail.com](mailto:randbonmarquette@hotmail.com).

**Elder Commissioners Needed:** One current Elder Commissioner and our Youth Advisory Delegate (age 17-23) to Synod from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area have terms ending in January 2010. While each is eligible for re-election, additional applications will be accepted from elders, or prospective YADs who are active in local churches or in presbytery and are interested in service in the wider church. [Application forms are available on the presbytery web site, \[ptcaweb.org\]\(http://ptcaweb.org\)](#), or they can be requested from the presbytery office (email: [office@ptcaweb.org](mailto:office@ptcaweb.org)).

- **Elder Commissioner to Synod** - 3 year term, beginning January 2010
- **Youth Advisory Delegate to Synod** -1 year term, beginning January 2010

Applications, with a recommendation letter from a session, committee of presbytery, or minister

member of presbytery, should be returned to the Nominating Committee by **August 1**. Election will be at the September presbytery meeting.

Synod meets 3 times a year, usually Sunday evening through Tuesday noon. Dates for 2010 are: January 17-19, May 2-4, and October 3-5. Meetings will be at the Mt.Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. Expenses for travel, room, and board are born by the Synod.

The Nominating Committee will nominate one person for each position and include a brief biographical sketch outlining the nominee's qualifications, service, and commitment to serve. For each person nominated from the floor, the Nominating Committee requires that similar information be published in quantities sufficient for distribution at the presbytery meeting when elections will occur.

All commissioners and YADs are expected to serve on one standing committee, which meet during the Synod meetings. These include Ecclesiastical Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Program Coordination Committee. There are a few Special Committees which meet separately, and a few commissioners are invited to serve on one of these if they so desire: Committee on Congregational Development, Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry, Communication and Interpretation Committee, Synod School Committee.

**Installation of Neil Craigan:** Craigan who recently started his term as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in White Bear Lake, will be formally installed on Sunday, August 2 at 4pm at the Church followed by a reception dinner. First Presbyterian White Bear Lake is located at 4821 Bloom Ave. in White Bear Lake.

**Outdoor Worship Services:** With summer upon us, a number of congregations in the Presbytery are hosting outdoor worship services. Here are a few:

**Presbytery Packets will be available in early September. Go to [www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyterypacket](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyterypacket) to download materials.**

# Events Calendar

## Presbytery @ Prayer

**Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church:** August 9 at the Minnehaha Falls Bandshell, 10:30am. A Picnic will follow.

**Knox Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis:** Knox Minneapolis will also hold an outdoor worship at the Lake Harriet Bandshell at 10am.

**Edgumbe and Randolph Heights Presbyterian:** The two St. Paul congregations will host an outdoor Bluegrass worship service on August 23 at Edgumbe's Outdoor chapel. A family fun day will follow.

**Festival of Fun at North Presbyterian:** August 16 from 4-7pm. A fete complete with ice cream, hot dogs, carnival games and bounce castle and much more. North Presbyterian is located at 2675 East Highway 36 in North St. Paul. For more info, contact the church at 651-777-4044.

**Scottish Heritage Festival:** 11am-5pm, September 12, First Presbyterian, Hudson, WI. Bake Sale, Highlight Games, Scottish Foods and more. For more info, go to First Hudson's website at [www.fpchudson.com](http://www.fpchudson.com).

**"unChristian" Event at Bethel:** Christianity has an image problem. Christians are supposed to represent Christ to the world. But according to the latest Barna Group report card, something has gone terribly wrong. Using descriptions like "hypocritical," "insensitive," and "judgmental," young Americans share an impression of Christians that's nothing short of . . . unChristian.

Find out why these negative perceptions exist, learn how to reverse them in a Christ-like manner, and discover practical examples of how Christians can positively contribute to culture. Enjoy this interactive seminar with an extended Q & A time.

The guest speaker for the event is Gabe Lyons, a coauthor of unchristian. The event takes place Friday October 9 from 10am-3:30pm. To register, please go to [bethel.edu/church-ministries](http://bethel.edu/church-ministries). To find out more, please email [church-ministries@bethel.edu](mailto:church-ministries@bethel.edu) or by phone at 651-638-6301.

**Spiritual Vitality in Turbulent Times** – Personal and Corporate Practices – is the theme of the up-

coming Minnesota Area Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation. The Academy will be held November 8-13, 2009 at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN.

The focus on corporate practices will be taught by Don Saliers, who was the William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Theology and Worship at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia until his retirement in 2007. Don received his B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University, and both his B.D. (Bachelor of Divinity) and his Ph.D. from Yale University. An accomplished musician, theologian, and scholar of liturgics, Don is the author of numerous books on the relationship between theology and worship practices. He recently co-authored A Song to Sing, a Life to Live with his daughter Emily Saliers, a member of the Indigo Girls.

The focus on personal practices will be led by Kathryn Damiano. Kathryn is a Quaker who brings over 20 years of experience as a spiritual director to her ministry. She has a Master of Divinity, a Master of Arts in counseling psychology, and a Ph.D. in spiritual psychology.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is open to laity and clergy. The total cost is either \$575 for a single room or \$525 for a double. This includes linens, private bath, meals and tuition. To receive a brochure with additional information about the Academy, please email Deb DeMeester, Retreat Leader, at [demeesterd@aol.com](mailto:demeesterd@aol.com). To register, click on "Events Registration" at <http://www.minnesotaumc.org/>. The Academy is co-sponsored by The Upper Room and the MN Conference of the United Methodist Church.

## Monday-Friday 9:00am-9:30am

Please note that the staff of the PTCA gathers for morning prayer and devotions each day.

## 1st Pres Stillwater Sends Team of 18 to Cedar Rapids, Iowa



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

**The Presbytery of East Iowa has several locations hosting volunteer work teams who want to help with reconstruction and recovery efforts caused by flooding in 2008.**

**The primary need is for skilled workers such as licensed plumbers, electricians and general contractors and volunteers who are experienced with dry-wall or who can supervise others willing to do the work. Information about volunteering can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pda/teams.htm#ia](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/teams.htm#ia).**

*Editor's note: The following appeared in the August 2009 edition of the Connection, the newsletter of First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, MN.*

Starting April 26<sup>th</sup> of this year our church team embarked on a mission trip to help rebuild Cedar Rapids in the wake of the terrible flooding that occurred in 2008. We were astonished as the devastation evident through large areas of that community, and humbled by the amount of work that had yet to be done. We witnessed block after block of vacant housing, broken windows, heaps of trash by the side of the road, and flood damage obvious above the second floors of hundreds of these residences. Being in some parts of Cedar Rapids gave the distinct impression that one was in a ghost town that had been abandoned for good.

The people and businesses of the community suffered immensely from this tragedy. In addition to the property damage hundreds of people lost their jobs and found themselves nearly helpless to survive in an infrastructure that no longer could function. Those that had insurance often found that it was far from enough to rebuild their homes, and even then they were left with no income. While many had support of family and friends to help them cope, some did not. We heard stories of families enduring the full winter secretly living in the upstairs of their condemned houses, surviving without electricity or running water. I had little understanding of the harsh realities of the fallout from a tragedy such as this, so it was a shock once I got a closer look.

Our team had come down however not to observe but to assist as best we could and to serve the community by utilizing our skills and enthusiasm to help out where we could. Our construction coordinator and organizer Charlie Luedtka did a fantastic job finding jobs for all of us to work on and keeping us busy throughout the week. It was necessary for the team to be split up to some degree in order for us to all have something to work on, but no one found themselves working alone without a partner. Throughout the week our crew accomplished a healthy amount of work and successfully met the needs of the residents we were chosen to work

with. The abundance of skills among our team was impressive, and a diversity of jobs were completed including sub flooring, drywall finishing/repair, painting, window jambs, door jambs, window installation, door installation, suspended ceilings, wallpaper removal, and a host of other anonymous tasks. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provided us the tools needed for our work. Charlie and his team were available through the week to provide needed guidance and made many runs to Menards for materials.

Our lodgings and accommodations at First Christ Presbyterian in Cedar Rapids exceeded all of our expectations, and was a welcome relief from the somewhat threadbare conditions of the Mississippi trips. There was a fully stocked kitchen along with snacks and refreshments available attached to a large community area with tables, television, and internet (and a piano!!). There were clean bathrooms and showers. Perhaps the most welcome accommodation however was the bunks we slept in. They were solidly constructed with comfortable air mattresses provided; the men's area was set up in their gym and stocked with dozens and dozens of units. It was truly remarkable once it dawned on us at the total commitment this church had made to rebuilding it's community, transforming itself into a mission center to house volunteers and make itself available for the effort.

The trip was a huge success for us, and a truly rewarding experience for me personally. It was an opportunity for me to get to know other members of our church better and to provide real assistance to a community in need. I encourage all of you to consider joining us for future efforts and to lend your helping hand to the people that need it most.

## Being connected



**By Rev. Bryon Wade, Vice Moderator— 218th General Assembly**

**RALEIGH, NC** — I enjoy the opportunity to keep in touch and stay connected to others.

I am a part of virtual social networking sites such as Twitter, Dopplr, Classmates and Flickr, to name a few. The one that occupies most of my time is Facebook because it's there that I hear from people who are part of my present and past.

Recently, I was "friended" on Facebook by a classmate I had not seen since we were students at Whitworth College in Spokane, WA. We reminisce about the good times and keep in touch occasionally.

Despite living in what I would call a do-it-yourself world, I truly believe that people have a genuine desire to be connected to each other in some way.

We see this manifested in various ways: people gathering to support and encourage each other in the local physical fitness class, or expressing grief and concerns with others during the death of well-known public persons, or standing in solidarity and praying for others in the outbreak of violence and injustice in other parts of the world, or just being with other people for special occasions such as birthdays, graduations, births of children, and so forth.

These are the times in which being connected to a community brings joy as well as support when life becomes difficult.

As Presbyterians and people of faith, not only are we connected virtually, but also as believers in God through Jesus Christ and the Reformed tradition. We pride ourselves on being a "connectional" church. No matter where we are or what may divide us, we all are called to seek out our common unity in Jesus Christ in times of joy and concern. By doing so, we exhibit "the Kingdom of Heaven to the world" (*Book of Order*, G-1.0200).

As you go through this summer season, my hope and prayer for you is that by whatever means, be it virtually or face-to-face, you will keep the connection to others and to the leading of God's Holy

Spirit in your daily lives and the communities in which you belong.

### THE PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA AND WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

TO

A SERVICE OF ORDINATION

OF

KATHRYN GRACE NICHOLS CAMPBELL

AS MINISTER OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009

3 PM

RECEPTION AND REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1200 MARQUETTE AVENUE

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403

(FOR PARKING INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO:

[WWW.EWESTMINSTER.ORG](http://WWW.EWESTMINSTER.ORG))

**KAT HAS BEEN CALLED TO SERVE AS ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF YOUTH AND CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AT**

**STARMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GREENSBORO, NC**

**"Despite living in what I would call a do-it-yourself world, I truly believe that people have a genuine desire to be connected to each other in some way."**

**-Rev. Bryon Wade, PC(USA) Vice Moderator.**

## Greet a stranger to celebrate Calvin



by Grayde Parsons, Stated Clerk

**LOUISVILLE** — Here is my suggestion for celebrating John Calvin's 500th birthday on July 10: Greet a stranger.

Let me explain.

In addition to his huge theological legacy, Calvin left many practical ethical imperatives. One imperative had to do with the treatment of immigrants — perhaps, in part, because of his life experience.

Calvin never forgot that he was from France, not Geneva. The powers-that-be did not make him a citizen of Geneva until 1559, which was eighteen years after his return to that city. He proceeded to create a social safety net for the many immigrants in Geneva, and he convinced the city leaders to allow worship in more than one language.

In *Harmony of the Law – Volume 3*, Calvin commented on Lev. 19:34 — “[God] recommends strangers to them on this ground, that the people, who had themselves been sojourners in Egypt, being mindful of their ancient condition, ought to deal more kindly to strangers; for although they were at last oppressed by cruel tyranny, still they were bound to consider their entrance there, viz, that poverty and hunger had driven their forefathers thither, and that they had received hospitality, when they were in need of aid from others.”

I think the first three words of that quote are powerful and very Calvinistic. In essence, God recommends strangers to us. God, making the first move, commends to us the giving of hospitality to strangers. This is not a qualified recommendation, nor does it ask for measured hospitality. We are to give hospitality freely and generously, mindful of the hospitality we ourselves have received.

We are not to adjust our handshake based on the nature of the hand offered.

It moves me into the deeper spiritual realm in Eph. 2:19, where Paul writes, “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citi-

zens with the saints and also members of the household of God....” Because of Christ, we are citizens with the saints.

So, go ahead and greet a stranger to celebrate Calvin. It will be okay. The person you greet has God as a reference.

## Transitions: Sam Olson

By Jerry VanMarter  
Presbyterian News Service

The 15-month-old grandson of longtime Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) leaders **Manley and Ann Olson** of St. Paul, MN, died July 17 after a tragic accident in Duluth, MN.

Sam, the Olson's only grandchild, died after becoming entangled in a venetian blind cord while in a porta-crib.

Services were held July 24 at Christ Episcopal Church in Woodbury, MN.

Notes may be sent to Ann and Manley Olson, 1974 W. Summer St., St. Paul, MN 55113-5550.

**“In essence, God recommends strangers to us. God, making the first move, commends to us the giving of hospitality to strangers. This is not a qualified recommendation, nor does it ask for measured hospitality. We are to give hospitality freely and generously, mindful of the hospitality we ourselves have received.”**

**-PC(USA) Stated Clerk, Grayde Parsons.**

**(Photo by Presbyterian News Service.)**

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Presbytery of the  
Twin Cities Area



**"EMerge," is a biweekly 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: Mondays. Deadline: Thursday (two business days before distribution).**

## Transitions: Lee Nelson, Sr.

By **Katies Estes Collins**

Lee Nelson, Sr., elder at First Presbyterian in South St Paul died on July 17, 2009 after a lengthy battle with end-stage renal disease. Ordained an elder in 1960, Lee served First Presbyterian Church faithfully and well, and participated in the larger church in many ways, on committees, as commissioner to presbytery and synod, and as Moderator of the old St. Paul Presbytery, Organizing Moderator of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and Moderator of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. He was proud to attend two General Assemblies as commissioner for our presbytery. A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian on Sunday, August 2, 2009 at 4:00 pm with a dinner reception following.

*Katie Estes Collins is the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul.*

**"Lee served First Presbyterian Church faithfully and well, and participated in the larger church in many ways, on committees, as commissioner to presbytery and synod, and as Moderator of the old St. Paul Presbytery, Organizing Moderator of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and Moderator of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. He was proud to attend two General Assemblies as commissioner for our presbytery."**  
**-Katie Estes Collins on Lee Nelson.**

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