



EMerge

A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Inside this issue:

- More on Racial-Ethnic Ministry in PTCA
- Statement from PCUSA leaders on Knoxville Shootings
- Ongoing help needed in Iowa
- 35W Memorial Events
- Presbytery Events
- Sermon Spotlight: Paul and Amy Moore
- Update on Chain of Lakes NCD

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August 1, 2008

Diverse Group Gathers to Discuss Ministry

by Duane Sweep
Synod of Lakes and Prairies for Presbyterian News Service

MINNEAPOLIS – Nineteen leaders in racial ethnic ministry within the Twin Cities Area Presbytery



Rev. Jin Kim, pastor of Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights, was one of the participants at Monday’s meeting. Photo courtesy of Presbyterian News Service.

shared the struggles and successes of their efforts when they gathered at the Minnesota Church Center here Monday, July 28. And they hope to continue meeting.

Organizers of the event – the presbytery and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – scheduled the luncheon meeting as a means to start a dialogue among racial ethnic ministry leaders, according to Elona Street-Stewart, associate for racial ethnic minis-

tries at the synod.

Before inviting everyone to offer introductions and greetings, Street-Stewart noted that it was an honor to greet them, adding, “Some of you probably don’t even know one another, so I’m excited to welcome you all together.”

The Rev. Michael Ngeru Kamau, pastor of the Kenyan Christian Outreach Fellowship in St. Paul that became the presbytery’s first immigrant fellowship in July, talked about the challenges he faced in transferring his membership from the Presbytery of Nairobi to the Twin Cities Area. But he went on to note the growth of his Kenyan congregation and he called this week’s gathering “a very encouraging thing.”

The Rev. Stephen Muhia, leader of the African Fellowship at the Presbyterian Church of the Master in Coon Rapids, Minn., said the meeting provided the opportunity learn and borrow from one another.

And the Rev. Alika Galloway, co-pastor at Kwanzaa Community Presbyterian pointed out the need “to discover what influences our preparation for urban ministry and then challenge that process.”

While no one at the meeting wanted to formalize the structure of the group into a committee form, a

Continued on Next Page

Diverse, continued

large proportion of those present expressed a views similar to Muhia, who noted, "This is a good forum. I pray that we have more forums of this type."

The Rev. Jin Kim, pastor at Church of All Nations here, a diverse congregation where, he said, "everyone is a minority," called on the group to serve in an advisory capacity to "the whole presbytery." He said the minority voice can be lost when only one individual represents the minority view on a presbytery committee.

While informal, the group, he said, could act in a similar capacity to the PC(USA)'s Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns, which advocates and monitors the implementation of policy and corresponding actions, decisions, and issues of racial ethnic concern.

Street-Stewart and the Rev. Bob Cuthill, interim executive presbyter for Twin Cities Area, noting the enthusiasm within the group, called for another gathering within the next two months.

"A Very Special Lunch"

The following are the reflections of Rev. Bob Cuthill, Transitional Interim Executive Presbyter of the Twin Cities Area on Monday's luncheon. It appeared on the Executive Presbyter's blog (<http://ptcaweb.typepad.com/epblog/>):



There have been highlights in my six months of serving as Interim Transitional EP but lunch yesterday has to be at the top of all of my experiences. Elona Street Stewart a member of the Synod Staff suggested to me that we ought to gather the Racial/Ethnic Pastoral Leadership of the Presbytery. Yesterday was the day.

I had thought maybe eight to ten people might be on such a list. Even though we did not have everyone in attendance we had twenty people around the lunch table at the Church Center. There were at least eight nations represented by international persons at the table. To expand this further when we identified other persons being ministered to in the worshiping communities we counted more than twenty five nations plus Native American and African American representation.

What a thrill to see the richness of this diverse group. The energy, commitment, and positive attitude of faith and hope was overwhelming. In spite of the difficult times many have had at becoming part of our Presbyterian Church in the USA and in PTCA their perseverance has paid off. They are clear who they are as Presbyterian Christians. They have made a difference and they will make a difference as to who we are as the Presbytery of Twin Cities Area.

One of the Pastor's of a multi racial/multi national congregation told of his concern for how this diverse group of people could ever get along. To his amazement the diversity has added a richness to the congregation he did not expect. There is so much to share from the various cultural expressions of the Presbyterian Christian experience that the dialogue has produced harmony and creativity rather than anxiety. and conflict.

The radical nature of the Gospel of Jesus in transforming people and communities is clear to this diverse group. They want to get on with ministry and stop being shackled by issues and behaviors that hold back the excitement of the Spirit of God.

For a significant time I have been talking about how we need to redefine the Church in the 21st century as we discover what God has in store for us. Yesterday I caught a glimpse of what part of that Church might look like. The Spirit of God is working wonders. It is not your "Parents' Church" we are talking about. There is a developing energy that is not going to be denied.

I told Elona after the meeting, this group of leaders may just be the real hope of PTCA as it finds its way into the future!

Presbyterian church shelters children fleeing Tennessee gunman

by [Evan Silverstein](#)

Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE—Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN, became a temporary refuge Sunday (July 27) for children fleeing a Unitarian church where a gunman opened fire killing two adults and leaving seven others injured.

As many as two dozen children fled to Second Presbyterian during the shooting at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC), which is directly adjacent to Second Presbyterian.

News reports said a man entered the Unitarian church at about 10:15 a.m. and began shooting during a production of the musical "Annie." About 200 people were watching the production, which was being put on by 25 children, the Associated Press reported.

At least three TVUUC church members subdued the shooter and held him until officers arrived, police said in published reports.

At the time adult and youth Sunday school was taking place at Second Presbyterian, shortly after the congregation's regular morning service had concluded, according to Charlotte Klieman, a deacon at Second Presbyterian who was at her church when shots rang out next door.



Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN, became a shelter Sunday for children fleeing a shooting at a neighboring church. Photo courtesy of Second Presbyterian Church

She said some children from TVUUC fled to Second Church on their own while others were directed there by members of the Presbyterian church who had gone outside to help. No children are believed to have been hit by the gunfire.

Klieman said most of the children from the Unitarian church were taken to an upstairs youth room at Second Presbyterian. She said parents started arriving at about 11 a.m. to pick up their children.

"A number of the children would say, 'Are we safe here? Is it safe now?'" Klieman said. "We didn't know how many [gunmen] there were. We didn't know if he had left the building. We got our preschool into lockdown. We were running around closing the doors, trying to get adults to come back into the sanctuary instead of hanging around outside wondering what was going on."

A suspect, Jim Adkisson, 58, of Powell, TN, was charged with one count of first-degree murder, Knoxville Police Chief Sterling Owen told reporters. Bail was set at \$1 million late Sunday.

Adkisson is not believed to have been a member of the Unitarian church, said Owen, who told CNN on Monday that the shooter was motivated by frustration over being unable to obtain a job and hatred for liberals. The news agency reported that authorities recovered a four-page letter in which Adkisson described his feelings and motives.

Continued on Next Page

Shelter, continued

Five others were hospitalized in either critical or serious condition, police said. Two other people hurt in the attack were treated and released, Owen said.

A woman from another nearby Presbyterian church brought flowers to the scene, the *Knoxville News Sentinel* reported on its Web site. Carrie Niceley, 19, said an announcement about the shooting was made while she was attending services at First Presbyterian Church.

She selected flowers from arrangements in the First Presbyterian sanctuary, placed them in a vase and drove to TVUUC, according to the newspaper. She said the church members should know “they’re in our thoughts and prayers.” Klieman said the Knoxville community remained in shock on Monday.

“In this case it was in a place of sanctuary,” she said. “The church is so important here. It’s just like a violation.”

The Rev. Dr. William Waterstradt, interim pastor at Second Presbyterian Church, could not immediately be reached for comment on Monday.

Sunday’s attack was the fourth time in 15 months that an American church became a scene of a fatal shooting, and the second time a Presbyterian church was in some way involved.

In May 2007 in Moscow, ID, 36-year-old Jason Hamilton fatally shot a police officer and a sexton at First Presbyterian Church, then killed himself before police stormed the building. Hamilton’s wife was found shot to death in the bedroom of their Moscow home after the church shootings.

The following August, 52-year-old Eiken Saimon shot and killed three people and wounded five others at a Congregational church in Neosho, MO.

And in December 2007, a 24-year-old former missionary candidate killed two people at a suburban Denver, CO, missionary training center and two more at a Colorado Springs megachurch the following day. The gunman, Matthew Murray, killed himself after being shot by a security guard.

Children and adults of Knoxville’s Unitarian Universalist church community will be offered “debriefing sessions” tonight at Second Presbyterian Church. TVUUC announced on its Web site that crisis intervention professionals will be at Second Presbyterian this evening prior to a candlelight gathering at 7:30 p.m.

“Any kind of facility support they want or need we’re going to be here for whatever is needed,” Klieman said.

About Unitarian Universalism

According to the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, “Unitarian Universalism is a liberal, creedless religion with Judeo-Christian roots. It draws also from Eastern, humanist and other religious traditions, and encourages its members to seek religious truth out of their own reflection and experience. The denomination teaches tolerance and respect for other religious viewpoints, and affirms the worth and dignity of every person.”

“In this case it was in a place of sanctuary...The church is so important here. It’s just like a violation.”

-Carrie Nicely, a Presbyterian who brought flowers to the Unitarian Church where the shootings occurred.

Church leaders lift up Knoxville faith community in wake of shootings

by [Jerry L. Van Marter](#)

Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Four top leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have sent a letter to all of the denomination's congregations asking them to pray for those affected by the shootings in a Knoxville, TN, church on Sunday (July 27). The full text of the letter, dated July 29 and signed by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly; the Rev. Byron Wade, vice-moderator of the 218th General Assembly; the Rev. Grady Parsons, stated clerk of the General Assembly and Elder Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Council:

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This past Sunday morning, the enthusiasm and joy that surrounded a children's production at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC) in Knoxville, Tenn., were shattered by the horror of shotgun blasts. Eight people were wounded or injured, two of them fatally.

The overwhelming response of support from congregations in Knoxville has been a strong example of the visible unity of Christ's church. Second Presbyterian Church, located next to TVUUC, was a refuge for children running for safety in the immediate aftermath of the shootings, as well as a host of a candlelight service that same evening. First Baptist Church held a community prayer service earlier today. No doubt, countless more opportunities for ministry to TVUUC congregation and to everyone affected by this brutal violence will be made available, and we who watch from a distance are grateful for such generous acts of kindness and presence.

We are writing to ask that you continue to pray for the victims of the shootings – for the families of those who were killed and those who survived; for those who witnessed the violence, especially the children; for the pastoral leadership of TVUUC; for the pastors and members of neighboring and area congregations, as well as all caregivers who are ambassadors of God's grace; and for those who feel compelled to resort to violence in the midst of their anger.

While we have no answers for why these senseless acts happen – anytime, but especially in a church sanctuary – we do profess our strong faith that, even in this terrible circumstance, God's sure and certain hand holds all of us securely. From the apostle Paul, "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God the Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word" (2 Thess. 2:16).

Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator, 218th General Assembly (2008)

Byron Wade, Vice-Moderator, 218th General Assembly (2008)

Grady Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director, General Assembly Council

Ongoing Help Needed in Iowa

From the Presbytery of East Iowa:

The number one question we get asked is, How Can I Help?

We need day volunteers to help clean out homes but please give us a week's notice to plug you into one of the work sites since we are now coordinating with out of state volunteer teams to work on homes in need of repair. Call the Presbytery office, 319.354.9220, and ask for Richard.



Volunteers clean up flood-damaged home. Photo courtesy Presbytery of East Iowa.

Overnight Work Groups

If you are interested in sending a work team to help with the clean-up and you need overnight accommodations, contact: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Call Center | Penny Noel | 866.732.6121

Existing Work Sites:

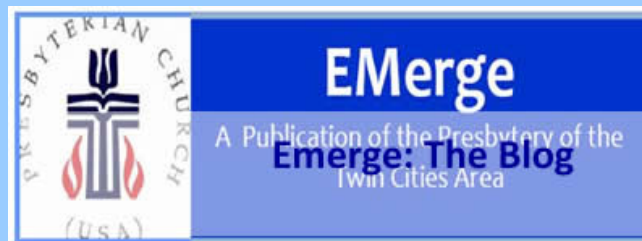
1. Vinton Presbyterian Church in Vinton
2. Westminster Presbyterian in Cedar Rapids
3. Christ Church in Cedar Rapids
4. St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Iowa City
5. Louisa County

We need donations to buy building materials. Please send donations to the presbytery office so we can apply the funds di-

rectly to local projects. Make checks payable to: Presbytery of East Iowa | 1700 S. 1st Avenue, Suite 23 | Iowa City, IA 52240. In the memo section, write 2008 Flood Relief. All administrative costs will be absorbed by the presbytery and 100% of donations will be used for flood relief.

The Next Great Need

If you are looking for ways to help people fix their homes but you cannot volunteer to work in person, consider giving a gift card from Menards, Home Depot or Lowe's and sending it to the Presbytery office. We will distribute them to the work sites listed above. Our address is PEIA, 1700 S. 1st Avenue, Suite 23, Iowa City, IA 52240. Thank you for your generosity!



Don't Forget Emerge: The Blog!

If you want up-to-date opinion and information, don't forget to go to Emerge: The Blog. The weblog version of the Presbytery's newsletter, links to opinion within the Presbyterian family, offers information of events and resources to help you and your congregation. To find out more, please go to http://ptcaweb.typepad.com/emerge_the_blog/.

Bread for the World newsletter offers hunger resources to pastors on the go

by [Evan Silverstein](#)

Presbyterian News Service



LOUISVILLE — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) anti-hunger partner [Bread for the World](#) has launched a new email newsletter geared to pastors and church leaders on the move.

Each monthly edition of “Bread for the Preacher,” which is being called “a free service for busy pastors,” features preaching aids and worship resources surrounding issues of hunger and poverty.

“Bread for the Preacher” is delivered directly to the email inbox of pastors and other church leaders who ask for it, and includes:

- Lectionary-based reflections on hunger and poverty.
- Prayers and other worship resources.
- Children’s activities.
- Bulletin inserts and announcements.
- Information about additional resources and opportunities.

The Rev. Gary Cook, Bread’s director of church relations, said “Bread for the Preacher” was created in response to requests from member churches.

“Local pastors want to lead their churches in hunger advocacy, but so many of them are overburdened with a tremendous amount of responsibility. ‘Bread for the Preacher’ is designed to make their lives and ministries a little bit easier,” said Cook, who previously served as coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program and later as the associate director for Global Service and Witness in the PC(USA)’s former Worldwide Ministries Division.

Church leaders can sign up for “Bread for the Preacher” by visiting the [Bread for the World Web site](#) (www.bread.org) and entering their email address in the “newsletter signup” box on the homepage. They will then be taken to a page to fill out contact information and check the “Bread for the Preacher” box in the online newsletters section.

Bread for the World is a Christian anti-hunger advocacy group based in Washington, DC. The 58,000-member, non-partisan organization is supported by 2,500 churches and more than 45 denominations and church agencies, including the PC(USA), the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) and [Presbyterian Women](#). The group urges Congress and the administration for public-policy changes to address the root causes of hunger and poverty in the United States and abroad.

Interim Pastor Needed

Hazel Park Congregational Church United Church of Christ (in East St. Paul) is in need of a full-time interim to begin on or about August 15. The interim would be for at least 3 months, probably 4-6. They are therefore looking at a month-to-month contract with 30 days notice. Primary among the needs during the interim time, in addition to the "normal" day-to-day ministerial needs, are: (1) development of sound lines of communication among the staff, the leadership of the church, and between the minister and the leadership; (2) role clarification of the staff; (3) development of administrative protocols; (4) working with the church's governing bodies to build trust, open communication, and mutual accountability in the carrying out of the church's governance; (5) leadership development; (6) finalizing of a music plan for worship. If you are interested, please be in contact with Howie Tobak, Interim Associate Conference Minister at howardt@uccmn.org, or 612-871-0359 (cell).

Christian Vocation Sunday is August 31, 2008



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. Plan a special worship service in your congregation August 31, 2008, with resources from the office of Christian Vocation. Go to www.pcusa.org/christianvocation/christianvocationsunday.htm for more information.

From the Minnesota Council of Churches– 35W: One Year Later



Public Ceremonies to Commemorate I-35 W Bridge Collapse Anniversary

The collapse of the 35W Bridge one year ago reminded us that life is precious, and in an instant hopes and dreams can be cut short or changed forever. As people of faith we realize that we rely on a greater reality for comfort and guidance. But as part of a community we also have a responsibility to each other. Acknowledging with appreciation all those who responded to this tragedy one year ago, we call this community to continue to be compassionate to those whose lives have been changed forever by this

tragedy.

Interfaith Prayer Service

Friday, August 1, 2008, 11-12, Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis

The one-hour service has been designed to reflect the various faith traditions of the victims of the 35W bridge collapse. Clergy participating in the service include Father John Bauer of the Basilica, Bishop Sally Dyck of the United Methodist Church, Rabbi Harold Kravitz representing the Minnesota Rabbinical Association, Imam Hassan Mohamud of the Minnesota Da'wah Institute, Dr. Shakhishant Sane of the Hindu Society of Minnesota, Father Sean Govostos of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.



Governor Tim Pawlenty and Mayor R. T. Ryback will also offer reflections.

Sacred sounds will be provided by the Basilica of St. Mary, a vocal group from Christ Church International, Tibetan Buddhist monks, and the Healing Spirit Drum from the Division of Indian Work.

The service is open to the public. Free parking is available in the parking ramp of Minneapolis Community and Technical College just east of the Basilica.

The service has been coordinated by the Minnesota Council of Churches and the Basilica of St. Mary with cooperation of the office of Governor Tim Pawlenty and Mayor R. T. Ryback. For more information contact [Gail Anderson](#) at (612) 230-3210.

Outdoor Memorial Ceremony

Friday, August 1, 2008 4:30-6:30PM, Gold Medal Park, West River Road, Minneapolis

Artists from different cultures will perform until 5:30 pm when a procession led by first responders and community leaders will walk to the Stone Arch Bridge (or viewing area on West River Parkway for a shorter walk). The public is invited to join in the procession. At 6:05 pm –the time that the bridge collapsed –a moment of silence will be observed, ending with the ringing of bells across the city and state. For more information contact [Jeremy Hanson](#).

Minnesota Churches Invited to Ring Bells

The Governor of Minnesota invites churches throughout Minnesota to participate in an observance of the 35W bridge collapse with bell ringing at 6:06 PM on August 1, 2008.

- On August 1, 2007 at 6:05 p.m. the 35W bridge in downtown Minneapolis collapsed, killing 13 people and injuring many others. Many more in our communities were affected by this tragedy.
- On August 1, 2008 Governor Pawlenty is asking the state to observe a minute of silence at 6:05 p.m. in honor of the victims, the survivors and the rescue workers.
- At 6:06 pm the Governor is asking churches throughout the state to ring their bells.

Please consider participating in this community observance. For more information contact [Gail Anderson](#) at (612) 230-3210.

Sermon Spotlight

By Paul and Amy Moore



Paul, Amy and Hannah Moore.
Photo courtesy of Paul Moore.

The following is a sermon given by Paul and Amy Moore on July 27. Paul is the pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Plainview. His wife, Amy, is Catholic and is the administrator at Pax Christi Church in Rochester. The couple shared the joys and challenges of being from to different faith traditions.

Last month Amy and I celebrated ten years of knowing each other. Over the past ten years we've had many opportunities to practice our faith. Our faith is the central part of our relationship. The way we practice our faith is different than most couples. Amy is Catholic. She's been Catholic her entire life. Right now she is the administrator of Pax Christi church in Rochester, the largest Catholic church in the diocese of Winona. I am the pas-

tor of the Presbyterian church in Plainview.

Our very first conversation involved faith. We met through a personal ad in the newspaper. The first time we talked was over the phone. During the conversation we spent some time getting to know each other. After about a half hour of talking this conversation took place.

Amy: So what do you do for a living?
 Paul: I'm a professional from Plainview
 Amy: A professional from Plainview—what does that mean?
 Paul: I'm the pastor of the Presbyterian church in Plainview
 Amy: You're the pastor of a church? Like ___ you are. *Actually I used some words that I normally wouldn't say in church.*
 Paul: Yes.
 Amy: Well that's kind of interesting!!

For the past ten years we've had the interesting opportunity to be involved in two churches. It has been interesting. Today we want to share with you our experiences.

Our current participation in the Catholic and Presbyterian church

Paul: We frequently go to Mass at Pax Christi on Saturday afternoons and then to worship here on Sunday mornings. We don't always go to Mass on a weekend; for example yesterday we were driving back from Brainerd and didn't go to Mass. But when we go to Mass we almost always attend as a family. Paul and Amy sing in the choir at the 5:15 Mass at Pax Christi on Saturday afternoons. I occasionally go to fellowship events at the church and have gotten to know many people in the congregation. Amy often attends worship at Community Presbyterian Church. She has been the choir director for the past two years and has volunteered in many ministries during the past ten years.

Continued on Page 12

Presbytery and Churchwide Events

Seattle Peace Chorus @ Church of the Apostles – The Seattle Peace Chorus tours internationally and seeks to promote peace and justice through music and ideas. This concert is part of their summer Peace Train tour.

The 30 member chorus includes 10 local musicians as well as a brass quintet consisting of two trumpets, French horn, trombone, tuba; and an oboe, two drummers, piano and one timpanist with timpani.

Song genres include folk, spirituals, gospel and pop. Their major work is *Let America be American Again*, composed by Frederick West, based on a poem by Harlem Renaissance writer Langston Hughes. Dr. Lawrence Burnett, Carleton College Choral Director will be the featured baritone soloist.

Thursday, 6:30 to 8:15 p.m., August 28th

Presbyterian Church of the Apostles

**701 East 130th Street
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-890-7877**

There will be a freewill offering to help defray the cost of the soloist and musicians.

Co-sponsored by the Presbytery Peace and Justice Task Force, Macalester Plymouth United Church Peacemakers, Peace Presbyterian Church, Peace Prayer Group of Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church and Open Circle Church.

2008 PW/PTCA Fall Gathering-Villa Maria Conference Center, Frontenac, MN

(Handicapped accessible facility south of Red Wing on Hwy 61)

October 3 (Friday late afternoon) - **October 4** (Saturday afternoon)

“Christian Concerns about Creation”

Come explore ways to “save our creation for future generations” and experience Christian fellowship with other women in our Presbytery

in a peaceful setting among the fall colors of Southeastern Minnesota.

3 Options :

- Registration + Overnight stay + Breakfast and lunch on Saturday (single room) - \$90
- Registration + Overnight stay + breakfast and lunch on Saturday (double room) - \$75 each
- Registration + breakfast and lunch on Saturday - \$33

*****Prizes awarded to churches with largest number of attendees*****

This is just an appetizer of what is to come. You will be receiving registration forms in the middle of August.

Registration Deadline – Friday, September 19. (Money and registra-

tions due—no late registrations!)

Questions can be addressed to Margie Petersen (507-843-4649) or Rosey Peterson (507-477-3140)

Academy for Vital Christianity @ United- United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, in partnership with the Minnesota Conferences of the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church, is pleased to announce the inaugural year of our ACADEMY FOR VITAL CHRISTIANITY. The purpose of the academy is to energize and equip people to hear more profoundly the voice of God and to make that voice more audible in our neighborhoods, nation, and world.

Students in the Academy have the opportunity to learn to read the Bible in creative and eye-opening ways, draw on the wisdom of 2000 years to answer questions about God and life, expand skills for leadership in a congregation, and bring faith to bear on the great needs of the world.

Fall classes begin September 2008. For more details or to register, go to www.unitedseminary.edu/ce/academy.asp or call 651.255.6138. You may register to take a class or earn a Certificate in Christian Studies. Evening and weekend classes available around the metro and in Rochester and Duluth.

Communicator’s Conference—Part of the mission of the Presbyterian Communicators Network is to connect with one another, provide training, share best practices and grow as communicators and Presbyterians. From the Midwest to the west, from now through October, the Communicators Network has slated two more regional conferences, including one that will serve communicators in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies at the Stronghold Conference Center in Oregon, Ill., Aug. 25-27. Some scholarships are available. To learn more about the conferences, check out the network’s spot on the Web site of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at <http://www.pcusa.org/comnet/>.

If you have an event you’d like to share, please send it to Dennis Sanders at communications@ptcaweb.org.

Sermon, continued

Our experiences with the other denomination before we met each other

Amy: When I was 4 years old I met my best friend, who was English Lutheran. We are still friends, some 43 years later, and yet we have never attended one another's churches except for weddings. Growing up in a community much like Plainview, a small farming community in Wisconsin, we attended our own churches. However in high school, a group of us decided to visit a Bethel church that one of our classmates played piano at each Sunday. It was so different. They had a hymn fest, in which members of the congregation just shouted out a song number and the pianist had to play all 4 or 5 or 6 verses without having time to rehearse. It seemed different not having a set ritual, and of course trying to figure out if we were trespassers, debtors, sinners or what during the Lord's Prayer. I don't know if we were discouraged to attend other churches because we may be tempted to stray from the Catholic faith (doubtful), or if it were some kind of rule. I always envied my girlfriend when they had VBS because we never had anything fun like that. As a matter of fact, in Catholic grade school I think we only had art when the pope died, which, wasn't very often. I actually grew up just down the block from the Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth. They had these pre-recorded chimes that played the same 3 hymns every day at 8 am, noon and 6 pm from the bell tower. My mom would get so tired of the chimes, probably because they played the same three songs over and over again. And she would share her opinion, saying "Those Presbyterians need to get a new recording for their chimes." So I guess I always associated Presbyterians with chimes.

Paul: When I was growing up I knew nothing about the Catholic church. I remember attending a funeral at the Catholic Church in Worthington when I was a teenager. I didn't know that the Lord's Prayer was different than the Lord's Prayer that I learned at the Presbyterian Church. So I was very embarrassed when I was the only person saying the Lord's Prayer when everyone else in the church had finished it.

I learned quite a lot about the Catholic Church after I graduated from college. When I worked for the farm workers in Los Angeles I would often go to Catholic churches to tell them about the grape boycott. I got to know Catholic priests, sisters and many Catholic lay people. I received an inside view of the Catholic Church.

What we thought about dating someone from another denomination

Paul: I was so thrilled to be out on a date that it didn't matter what church Amy attended. I was just happy to get to know her and learn that faith was such an important part of her background.

My parents didn't mind that I was dating a Catholic. They were just glad that I was going out on a date!!



AMY: My thoughts about dating someone from another denomination? To be honest, my first husband was born and raised Catholic, and yet did not attend mass, or appear to be very spiritual in his day to day behavior. I was not looking for a person who was specifically religious; I just wanted someone who was in touch with their spirituality. The first time Paul and I met in person, we had a very long conversation about the beliefs of the Presbyterian faith in contrast to Lutherans, Methodists, and of course Catholics. I was a church organist since grade school, and had many opportunities to play at weddings in different denominations, but it wasn't until 10 years ago that I came to a more mature understanding of the differences between Catholic, protestant and non-denominational Christian religions.

I remember my Mom saying, "You attended a Catholic grade school, Catholic college, were married to a Catholic for 15 years, and now you fall in love with a Presbyterian PASTOR?! Only you!"

Continued on Page 15

Presbytery Packets Available for Download

The Presbytery Packet for the July 2008 Stated Meeting is now available. The packet is no longer located at our old site, but has moved to what will soon be the [brand new website](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org) (www.presbyterytwincities.org) for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. This prototype website will give people a peek at what will be the future for our web presence.

To get to the Presbytery Packet, please go to www.presbyterytwincities.org and click on "Presbytery Packets." As has been the case in the past, not all the materials are online all at once. However, there is a way to be notified when the page is updated using Real Simple Syndication or  RSS. Simply look for the  RSS Symbol and click on it. This will take you to the RSS version of the prototype website. Click on where it says "subscribe to this feed." You will then have a "Feeds" link placed on your bookmarks, which will be updated every-time the page is updated.

Fall-term Weekend Courses at UTS

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Announces 4 weekend classes for Fall Term 2008.

Each of these classes will meet on a Friday evening and Saturday morning, one weekend a month, beginning in September.

Justice, Liberation and Hope in the Theology of Paul (CH231)

Taught by the Rev. Neil Elliot, editor with Fortress Press and author of "Liberating Paul"

We will examine developments in recent scholarship that challenge the traditional picture of the apostle Paul. Specific topics include Paul's critical engagement with Roman slavery, the patronage system, and Roman imperial ideology; the problem of theology and praxis in Paul; Paul's relationships with emancipated persons in the assemblies, especially women prophets; the presence of subordinationist or "kyriarchal" themes in Paul's letters; and the challenge of interpreting Pauline texts rightly in the contemporary global context. **Class will meet on United's campus in New Brighton.**

Major 20th Century Moral Thinkers – Katie Geneva Cannon (TR552)

Taught by the Rev. Alike Galloway, organizing co-pastor of Kwanzaa Community Church in Minneapolis and working towards her doctorate at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia

This seminar is a close reading of selected works by Katie Geneva Cannon. Dr. Cannon was the first African-American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); she focuses her work in the areas of Christian ethics, Womanist theology, and women in religion and society. **Class will meet at Kwanzaa Community Church, Minneapolis.**

Empowering Lay Leadership (CL541)

Taught by Dr. Jean Morris Trumbauer, Director of United's Doctor of Ministry Program

An emerging paradigm of church requires us to move beyond our view of members as "volunteers," or satisfaction with "maintaining church programs," and our reliance on "time and talent" forms to invite laity to ministry. Leaders of the church are challenged to re-envision the foundations and practice of sharing the ministry. This course explores a holistic approach to gifts-based ministry and the multiple components of a shared ministry system for today's congregations.

Class will meet at Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Duluth MN.

Reimagining the Church (TR820)

Taught by Dr. Eleazar Fernandez, professor of Constructive Theology at United

This is a course that introduces students to the classical as well as the various contemporary models of the church or ecclesiologies. Then these ecclesiologies will be critiqued in light of the tradition and contemporary challenges that the church is facing. Furthermore, students will engage in reconstructing or re-imagining an ecclesiology that is not only faithful to the Christian heritage but also responsive to the current context, both globally and locally.

Class will meet at the Carriage house of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Duluth MN.

For more information, contact United Seminary at www.unitedseminary.edu/admissions/index.asp.

Positions Available

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

- **Music Director (Part-Time) - Valley Presbyterian, Golden Valley**
- **Nursery Attendant (Part-Time)- Trinity Presbyterian, Woodbury**
- **Director of Communications- Christ Presbyterian, Edina**
- **Organist (Part-Time)- Calvin Presbyterian, Long Lake**
- **Minister of Administration (Full-Time)- Dayton Avenue Presbyterian, St. Paul**
- **Youth Program Director (Part-Time)- Dayton Avenue Presbyterian, St. Paul**
- **Music Director (Part-Time)- Stadium Village Presbyterian, Minneapolis**
- **Nursery Attendant- Plymouth Presbyterian, Plymouth**
- **Youth Coordinator- Presbyterian Church of the Way, Shoreview**
- **Part-Time Youth Director- Buffalo Presbyterian, Buffalo**
- **Director of High School and College Age Ministries- Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis**
- **Director of Children and Youth Ministry, Cherokee Park United Church, St. Paul (persons of color strongly encouraged to apply)**

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 2008 Stated Meetings and Locations

- **July 8, 2008, 4:00pm-8:30pm, Buffalo Presbyterian, Buffalo**
- **September 9, 2008, 4:00pm-8:30pm, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake**
- **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**
- **Solo Pastor- First Presbyterian, Claremont**

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

Summer Hours for PTCA

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the PTCA office is open half-day on Fridays from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Sermon, continued

Why we decided not to try to get the other person to switch denominations

Amy: I knew that Paul had a calling to serve in the Presbyterian church. We are both very independent, people who met, not as teenagers or young adults in our twenties, but rather, we were both established in our careers and lifestyles and met when we were in our 30s. Being Catholic to me is sort of like my being Norwegian. I was born to eat fish on Friday, and Lutefisk at Christmas.

Paul: As I got to know Amy it was very obvious to me that being Catholic was part of her identity. It made no sense to try to get her to become Presbyterian. It would have been like trying to fit a circle into a square hole. She is Catholic and will probably always be Catholic. I didn't want her to give up her religious roots because I was a Presbyterian pastor.

How we saw our faith bringing us together when we were dating

Paul: One of my favorite statements about Amy and my relationship is "our faith brings us together as a couple; it doesn't cause us to be apart." I've always been attracted to the spirituality that Amy carries with her. To me it doesn't matter whether her faith tradition is Catholic, Presbyterian, or Lutheran. She has a very deep faith and where she practices her faith really doesn't matter too much to me. As long as I can practice faith with her then I'm happy. So when other people would question us about being involved in two churches or when we would face the inevitable challenges of participating in two congregations I always come back to this statement. It's what I believe. No one is going to change this belief and nothing that the wider church does will change my belief. The faith that we have together is not about a church—it's about how we view God and the world. The local congregation is an expression of our faith. It's a means to a wider end. The wider end has brought us together.

"I love being a part of two congregations. I feel spoiled that I have the best of both worlds."
-Amy Moore

Amy: Our faith really brought us together when we were dating because I knew that no matter what happened between Paul and I, we could give our concerns over to God. Paul was always confident that all would work out, whether it was a situation with Drew, or a career concern I was having, or financial concern. I was able to let go of so many worries that a single mom had, because of this renewed faith. I had a difficult time trusting men, but with Paul, it was so beautiful to be able to trust again, because I knew that the source of his love for me was from God, not a superficial man-made love.

The joys of participating in two communities

Amy: I love being a part of two congregations. I feel spoiled that I have the best of both worlds. I can celebrate the Eucharist and ritual and community at Pax Christi, and feel very welcome and at home here at Community Presbyterian. I always feel something is missing when I've been away from here for a few weeks. It's like I'm missing my friends. The spirit of oneness is amazing. This congregation has always been extremely kind and accepting of me. You have opened your hearts and homes to me, treated me with patience and love. You understand when I am unable to participate in events because of time restraints, and are appreciative when I can share my time, music, or other gifts with you. I feel as though I could approach anyone here for help and it would be genuinely offered.

Paul: I've enjoyed being a lay person at Pax Christi. My participation there has allowed me to get a view of the church from the perspective of someone in the pews. It's a joy for me to go to a congregation and not have to be a leader. I've had the opportunity to develop new relationships there. I would say that I know at least thirty people there by name. I've especially enjoyed singing in the choir at Pax Christi. It's fun to just go and sing. My participation at Pax Christi has made me a better pastor at the Presbyterian Church. Sometimes I will be inspired by what happens at Pax Christi and I will bring that to my work as a pastor. Or I'll come across an idea that I can try at our congregation.

Taking Communion at Pax Christi

Paul: When I first attended Pax Christi I didn't participate in Communion. For a while I was angry that the Catholic Church had a closed table policy regarding Communion. One of my core beliefs is that God wants the

Continued on Next Page

Sermon, continued

Communion table to be open to all who believe. So I was upset that I—a Presbyterian pastor who distributes Communion to other people—wouldn't be allowed to participate in Communion at a church. Over time I got to know the priest of that church. I asked him once if I was welcome to participate in Communion. He said that he couldn't publicly welcome me to the Table. I then asked him if he could privately invite me to participate in Communion. He didn't come out and say "yes", but I sensed that he was okay with me participating in communion. Since then I have taken communion at Pax Christi. It is still a tricky issue. When I attend Mass at Pax Christi I see myself attending as an individual—I don't see myself attending as the pastor of the Presbyterian church in Plainview. If I attended Mass at St. Joachim's in Plainview where people knew me as a pastor I probably wouldn't participate in communion. I don't want my participation to cause tension with anyone or be a problem for anyone. So if I was asked not to participate in

"One of my favorite statements about Amy and my relationship is 'our faith brings us together as a couple; it doesn't cause us to be apart.'" I've always been attracted to the spirituality that Amy carries with her. To me it doesn't matter whether her faith tradition is Catholic, Presbyterian, or Lutheran. She has a very deep faith and where she practices her faith really doesn't matter too much to me. As long as I can practice faith with her then I'm happy. "

-Paul Moore

communion, or if I thought my participation was a problem, I would stop doing it.

Amy: I leave Paul's decision to participate in communion up to him. It is probably one of the biggest areas of discussion for us to be honest, because of the different ways in which we view communion. Transubstantiation is not a simple concept to understand even after years of Catholic upbringing, so I won't try to explain it today; but in essence I believe that at Mass, the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ. I respect that here at the table, we share a representation of Christ's sacrifice for us. The act of being in communion with one another is especially beautiful and life giving.

The challenges of being in two communities

Amy: Just the time factor. I wish I had time to participate in more study groups. There are times that I cannot attend events, or bring Hannah to things that we would love to be involved with, simply because of time factor. It is not lack of desire. And of course both churches have events going on at the same time during Holy

week, and Christmas for example. But in regard to identifying myself with one community or other, I feel like a very welcome guest at CPC and feel very good talking about the church here to others.

In my position at Pax Christi there are people who will learn that I am married to a Presbyterian pastor and be very curious about "How does that work?" It's actually fun telling them our story and sharing how it works out. I realize that there are not many men like Paul—someone who would sacrifice so much for me. I am very fortunate that Paul loves to experience worship and mass.

Paul: We do have challenging moments. Sure I have days that I wish that the three of us would worship every Sunday at the Presbyterian Church and devote ourselves to that community. I have times when I hear something at Pax Christi that I fundamentally disagree with. I have disagreements with the Catholic Church about Communion and the Open Table. But as I shared earlier I will always believe that there is more that brings Amy and I together than separates us. So on the challenging days I celebrate the faith diversity that God has given to Amy and me.

Raising a child while attending two churches

Paul: I'm thrilled that our daughter Hannah is willing to participate in both of our faith communities. As I've shared with people our family's life is all-church, all the time. I'm not looking forward to the day when Hannah discovers that kids don't go to church on Saturday and Sunday. But Amy and I have been able to work through all of the challenges. We were thrilled that Don Connelly was willing to officiate at Hannah's baptism in the Presbyterian sanctuary. Hannah has already celebrated Communion in this sanctuary. Next spring she will celebrate her first Communion at Pax Christi. We take each situation as they come up. We can't plan or worry too far ahead because just negotiating the challenges of each week are enough. We are just happy that she has two churches who care for her as a person.

Amy: Well, so far so good. But I fully realize that Hannah could someday get tired of spending so much time at church. We are not only a two church family on the weekend, but we're a two church family seven days out of the week. She has friends at Pax Christi, friends here in Plainview and there are probably opportunities for her to participate in a church activity 5 nights out of the week during the school year. Hannah was baptized here in the sanctuary by Fr Don Connelly, a Catholic priest and Pastor Roger Ring, a Presbyterian pastor. While one day she will decide how to continue her weekly faith practice, I can say with confidence that she has a wonderful base from which to build her spirituality. She seems to balance it all right now, and can keep track of whether she is suppose to say "Trespases" or "Debts"; whether she is making the sign of the cross or sitting on the

Continued on Next Page

Sermon, continued

steps for the children's moment; and whether she is kneeling during communion, or coming to the table for bread and juice. I guess like a lot of things, I just take it one day at a time and try not to figure it all out in one sitting. If I tried to do that I would make myself crazy.

What would we recommend to couples who come from different churches

Paul: I wouldn't recommend to couples that they do what Amy and I do. Instead I would encourage couples to choose one faith community and then devote their lives to it. But obviously this isn't possible for all couples. So the next best option is to participate in both faith communities. I know this can work because it works in our household. I know that my relationship with the two women who are most important to me would be so far diminished if they didn't worship with me. One of the best moments of my week is when Hannah comes into my office and gives me a kiss before we go into worship. So I encourage couples who are involved in different faith communities to worship in both.

Amy: The most important thing is to be respectful, flexible and keep a sense of humor. If you are stubborn, narrow minded and serious, you are not going to succeed. I try to think "What would Jesus want me to do in this situation?" We are lucky in that there is a Saturday night mass. If the only opportunity for me to attend my church would be on a Sunday morning, it would be sad for me to miss out what takes place here every Sunday. I think compromise is really important and key to making a two church family situation work out.

Concluding thoughts

Amy: Thank you for letting me share some of my thoughts. It has been a great 10 years and I appreciate being asked to think about some of these questions that I hadn't really given much thought to over the past few years. I think it would be much more difficult to be in a relationship with someone who had no faith background or challenged my beliefs. Thankfully Paul's God is my God and we choose to celebrate that rather than challenge one another's traditions.

Paul: I pray for the day when Jesus' prayer in John 17 comes true—that we may be one. I don't think we should have one church, but I do believe that all churches are called to lower their walls and work with people from other denominations. I hope that in a small way my relationship with Amy can help people see that this is possible.

2008 Peacemaking Offering: Break the Bread of New Creation



2008 Peacemaking Offering

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 5



Break the Bread of New Creation

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly.

Most churches receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 5. We encourage churches to use whatever Sunday works best for them.

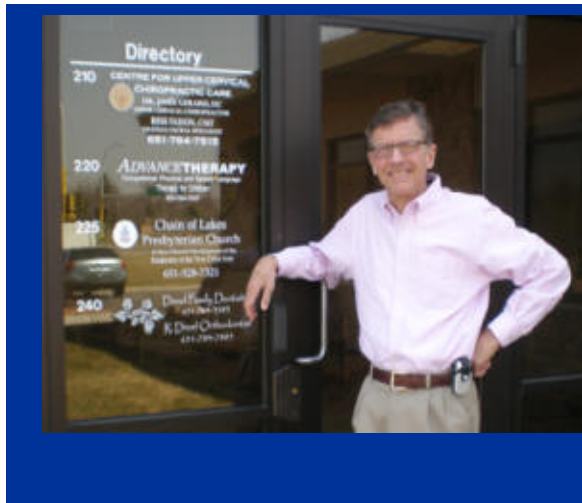
Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

To help your congregation effectively promote the Peacemaking offering, the PC(USA) has resources available. Go to www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering.

Chain of Lakes NCD: Progress Update

By David Liddle

The "gathering phase" of the Chain of Lakes New Church Development (NCD) is moving forward. Last month the Steering Committee approved the final draft of a Church Information Form (CIF) as the first step in calling an organizing pastor. The CIF will be available online, including our website, to solicit Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from ordained ministers interested in applying for the organizing pastor position. The Steering Committee will act as the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to receive and review any PIFs submitted, conduct interviews, select a candidate, and recommend that person to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. Once the organizing pastor is in place (we hope by mid-autumn, or the end of the year at the latest), he or she will work with the core leadership group that was pulled together over the last



Gathering Pastor David Liddle stands outside the offices of Chain of Lakes NCD. Photo courtesy of Chain of Lakes Presbyterian.

few months to discern where the fledgling congregation will gather, begin regular worship services, establish community, and continue to seek individuals and families who feel God is calling them to help start a new church.

The vision is that this new church will be a Christian community of diverse people interested in building relationships, exploring biblical faith, experiencing personal and spiritual growth, and seeking ways in which God might be calling them to relate to their local and global contexts. The church is particularly interested in welcoming those who have little or no church background, or who may have belonged to a church at one time but, for any number of reasons, may have become disconnected from a meaningful church experience.

While the new congregation will be firmly grounded in the Presbyterian/Reformed way of being Christian, it will seek to meet the needs of people where they are in faithfulness to the biblical witness rather than dictating that the church experience should be the same for all. Further, it will encourage the living out of Christian discipleship in ways that are unique to each individual, yet still within the context of a supportive community.

If you think God might be calling you to consider being part of this newly emerging church, I encourage you to contact me so that we can discuss what the promptings of your heart might mean, as well as any questions you may have.

Meanwhile...stay tuned!

Pastor David

David Liddle is the gathering pastor for Chain of Lakes Presbyterian New Church Development (NCD) in Lino Lakes. You can find out more about Chain of Lakes by going to their website at www.colpres.org. This article was originally a post on Chain Link, a blog of the Chain of Lakes Presbyterian NCD.

Register Now: NCD Training for Presbytery Teams

"The Spirit is willing but the process is weak!"

While we've taken liberty with a well known saying, this summarizes the feelings of many Presbyteries as they have tried to be about the work of starting new churches. Over the past few years, The Office of Church Growth along with the NCD coaches and field staff has developed a discernment process to assist Presbyteries and churches in the development of new churches. At the recent General Assembly, we released a new guide called **"Beginning New Churches: A Discernment Process 1.0."** The process is 16 gatherings designed to take you from zero to calling a Pastor. Our first training with this new resource will be held from September 29-October 2 at the Tradewinds Resort (www.justletgo.com) in St. Pete's Beach Florida. Over the course of those days, we will overview the process for starting a new church as well as work through the specifics of creating a theological foundation for the church and what it looks like to develop a vision for the new church and a plan for Presbytery wide work in the area of new church development. Bring your team and join us as we launch this new resource.

For more information, please go to the Presbygrow website: www.presbygrow.net.



Introducing "iWitness"

The second episode of iWitness is now available for download. The second episode features the Rev. Dean Seal, "Minister of Drama." You can download this and future episodes by going to: <http://ptcaweb.podbean.com/>.

IRS Increases Mileage Rates



The Internal Revenue Service has increased the allowed mileage rate to \$.585/mile. For congregations, this will affect the terms of call of your pastors. For more information, please contact the Stated Clerk at 612-871-7281 or statedclerk@ptcaweb.org.

Ordination Anniversary Report– August 2008

25 Years:

- Chris Carlson



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CHURCH (USA)

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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).

Assistant Stated Clerk Needed

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is seeking someone who would be available at Presbytery meetings to assist Stated Clerk Nancy Grittman as "minutes recorder". The person performing this volunteer service will be someone must be familiar with Microsoft Word, and capable of completing a prepared template as the meeting progresses. Accurate recording of motions and the actions taken, as well as recording of votes relating to printed reports of committees will be the most crucial.

The Presbytery meets 6 times each year, with the next meeting being scheduled for September 9, at First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, MN, at 5:00 p.m.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Nancy Grittman at the Presbytery Office by phone at 612-871-7281, ext 18 or email at statedclerk@ptcaweb.org.