



# EMerge

A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

## Inside this issue:

- More on "Peaceful Presence"
- Call to Stated Meeting
- Revised Form of Government Task Force Meets
- Hope in Iowa
- Presbytery Events
- Presbyterians and Adventists Meet

Volume Two, Issue Eighteen

August 29, 2008

## A 'peaceful presence' in the midst of 'chaos'

### ***St. Paul church offers sanctuary during Republican Convention***

by Dennis Sanders  
IT/Communications Specialist  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area



Central Presbyterian in St. Paul will expand their usual Wednesday Community Meal to all four days of the Republican National Convention.

**ST. PAUL, MN** — [Central Presbyterian Church](#) in Downtown St. Paul, MN is in a unique situation.

It lies only a stone's throw from the Xcel Center, site of the 2008 Republican National Convention (RNC). It's also located on the protest route allowed by the St. Paul police department.

Being in the middle of what will be media madness during the first week of September, you would think the church might decide to close its doors during the week of the con-

vention and take an extended Labor Day break.

You might think that, but you would be wrong.

Instead, when the Republican National Convention comes to the Twin Cities Sept. 1-4 to formally nominate Arizona Senator John McCain for President, Central church will throw open its doors to be a "peaceful presence" offering several activities during the convention as a sign of hospitality.

According to the Rev. David Colby, Central's pastor, the church will open its sanctuary each day as a place for prayer and meditation. Additionally, the congregation's long standing Wednesday Community Meal will be expanded to every day during the convention.

Colby notes the Wednesday meal has long been a tradition in downtown St. Paul, bringing people from all walks of life — from office workers, downtown residents and church members to the homeless — to Central where they are served healthy food at a reasonable cost.

Colby says offering this affordable meal is a good way to "show the hospitality of Jesus.

"Meals were important to Jesus," Colby says.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Peaceful Presence, continued



"We can offer a place not removed from the chaos, but offers a place of contemplation and quiet ... between chaos and daily life."

-David Colby, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul.

The idea of extending hospitality to convention goers surfaced in the congregation shortly after the decision was made that the Twin Cities would host the event. With the RNC taking place only blocks away, church members began thinking how they could be a witness to the visiting crowds. "We've been having conversations about how the church can more fully be the church," Colby says.

Partnering with the nonprofit [Ignatian Associates](#), a Twin Cities-based lay Catholic group, Central's sanctuary will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the four days of the convention for prayer and meditation. A short worship service will take place at the beginning and end of each day. Water will also be provided.

Colby says Ignatian Associates had been in conversation with the St. Paul Police Chaplains office and the Department of Homeland Security to provide a place for prayer and meditation for police officers and other security workers who will be on duty during the convention, which could be stressful for them as numerous protestors are expected.

The congregation will also allow Central's space to be used by outside groups. The Republican delegations from Texas and Louisiana, among others, will be using Central as a place for worship.

Central has developed a slogan that is found on their website and newsletters: "In the City for Good." Asked about how they are living up to their motto, especially during the first week in September, Colby notes that they can offer a sanctuary in the truest sense of the word.

"There will be chaos," Colby says of the convention, adding that being the church in the city means being welcoming. "We can offer a place not removed from the chaos, but offers a place of contemplation and quiet ... between chaos and daily life," he says.

*An extended interview with David Colby is available by downloading the latest episode of "[iWitness](#)," a podcast produced by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. To hear the podcast go to: <http://ptcaweb.podbean.com/>.*

## Call to Stated Meeting

August 25, 2008

Dear Presbyters,

In accordance with Book of Order Form of Government Chapter XI, Section 2, (G-11.0200) and the Bylaws of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (Article I), the Presbytery will meet in Stated Session on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, beginning at 4:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 4821 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, Minnesota. There will be an orientation time for first-time elders and new minister members at 3:00 p.m. and a time of fellowship at 3:30 p.m. Directions to the church are on the back of this document.

There will be on-street parking, with some parking lot space available especially for those with special needs. The building is accessible. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Lunch tickets for 175 will be sold at \$7.00 per meal, (including 12 meatless meals). There will be no child-care provided.

The Presbytery packet materials, will be online no later than September 2, as they become available. Due to the holiday and vacation schedule for the office staff, the usual time limits will be much shorter and more strictly enforced, but the staff will try very hard to keep you informed. There is no password required to access the Presbytery packet materials. A color coded packet will be ready for you at the meeting.

There will be a pre-presbytery meeting in the sanctuary led by the Peace and Justice Task Force, as they are bringing a special guest presenter to lead the worship service. One item of interest and importance to be included on the docket is a report of the Council, as they present for the Presbytery approval, the new down-sized, fluid, Manual of Operations. This manual will be online for your study, and will continue to be available online and regularly updated. If approval is granted, the new Bylaws, which were adopted in January, to become effective when the Manual of Operations is approved, will immediately go into effect.

If a member of Presbytery (minister member of elder commissioner) wishes to bring a new item of business before the Body, please be aware of the following policy regarding this process.

- Contact the Moderator or Stated Clerk prior to the meeting.
- Provide a written motion which will be made, or suggestion to be presented.
- The Docket may then be amended appropriately to accommodate an additional item.
- Items that might require council review should be presented to the Chair of council or Stated Clerk as early as possible. Council usually meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday before the Presbytery meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation in this policy. It is the way that all can be heard in a fair and appropriate manner.

Faithfully,

Nancy Grittman, Stated Clerk

---

## Mending

By Byron Wade, Vice Moderator  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

*A monthly column for the church-at-large by the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This month, the column has been written by The Reverend Byron Wade, Vice Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008).*



"I believe despite our differences that God will "mend" us through the Holy Spirit and the example of Jesus Christ, the Savior who brought reconciliation to a broken world. I believe that God will mend our

differences – whether theological, cultural, social, or economic – to make the PC(USA) a stronger witness in the world, for I truly believe that we are better together than apart."

-Rev. Byron Wade

September 2008

I don't really listen much to the radio while I'm driving. However, when my six-year-old son Andrew is occupied with his Nintendo DS games in the backseat, I listen to the local affiliate for National Public Radio (NPR). One of my favorite broadcasts is *This I Believe* – three-minute essays in which real, everyday people discuss their core values and beliefs that guide their daily lives.

I was particularly struck by the story of Susan Cooke Kittredge, a minister in Vermont. She talked about her grandmother, who was an excellent seamstress. Unlike her grandmother, Susan couldn't sew well, but she enjoyed mending torn clothing.

She said, "Mending something is different from fixing it. Fixing it suggests that evidence of the problem will disappear. I see mending as a preservation of history and a proclamation of hope. When we mend broken relationships we realize that we're better together than apart, and perhaps even stronger for the rip and the repair."

As I travel and listen to the many voices of the people in the pews, I hear a mixture of sentiments being expressed. One is of joy and hope that our church will embark on doing new things. The other is of pain and loss due to the actions of General Assembly. Both have the ability to break apart the unity of the church.

However, I believe despite our differences that God will "mend" us through the Holy Spirit and the example of Jesus Christ, the Savior who brought reconciliation to a broken world. I believe that God will mend our differences – whether theological, cultural, social, or economic – to make the PC(USA) a stronger witness in the world, for I truly believe that we are better together than apart.

I believe that God will mend and mold our hearts to view each other not as adversaries, but as brothers and sisters who have a common unity in Christ in working together to reach the unchurched, develop ways to grow our churches spiritually and numerically, and give rise to a greater emphasis on mission and new ways of doing ministry.

Susan ends her story with, "Mending doesn't say, 'this never happened.' It says, instead, as I believe the Christian cross does, 'Something or someone was surely broken here, but with God's grace it will rise to new life.'"

This I believe.

## Revised Form of Government Task Force begins work

### *Timeline and assignments set over the next two years*

by Sharon Youngs

Office of the General Assembly communications coordinator

**ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**—The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s newly-expanded [Form of Government](#) Task Force (FOGTF) concluded a packed, 24-hour meeting today (Aug. 22), the first gathering of the newly reconfigured task force since this year’s General Assembly.



The focus of the meeting was on building community and laying out a plan that will enable the group to meet its mandate in time for the General Assembly in 2010.

This task force is continuing the work begun by a group by the same name that was appointed at the 217th GA (2006). That task force presented its proposed revisions to the Form of Government to the 218th General Assembly (2008), which met in June.

This year’s assembly referred to the Office of the General Assembly the report of the former FOGTF “for a period of consultation and study with churches and presbyteries through a system or systems designed and implemented by the Form of Government Task Force and members of the 218th General Assembly Committee on Form of Government Revisions.”

The Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow, [moderator of the 218th General Assembly](#) (2008) who appointed this new task force, facilitated the group’s first gathering.

The majority of the newly reconfigured task force members are from the previous task force. This year’s assembly directed that three additional members be added to the group. Those members were to be chosen from this year’s Assembly Committee on Form of Government Revisions by Reyes-Chow, in consultation with the moderator and vice moderator of that assembly committee.

“What are the issues before you? What are the obstacles? What will be different this time?” were some of the questions Reyes-Chow asked the group to consider.

One of the differences for this task force is an abundance of feedback generated by this year’s assembly. In fact, the assembly’s action included the call for the new task force to “revise the Form of Government Task Force Report, taking into account the concerns and suggestions gleaned from the consultation and study process. The guidance of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, the overtures, and the testimony received by the 218th General Assembly (2008) Assembly Committee on Form of Government Revisions and the committee’s comments are referred to the task force for serious and studied consideration.”

In commenting on this revision process, Reyes-Chow said, “I am excited that the church has another couple of years to dive into and think about this vital part of the church’s life. It’s an opportunity for people who haven’t engaged in the church before to do so — to get new and different folks involved in something that really matters in the life of the church.”

He continued, “I want folks to take seriously the significance of this work. It isn’t something that naturally draws interest and passion, but it should.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Form of Government, continued

"I am committed to helping foster good dialogue about this across the church over the next two years, so that the General Assembly in 2010 will make informed decisions. And I hope it goes beyond the folks at the assembly in 2010," he said.

"I hope many more people will bring some understanding of this work and engage in it."

The FOGTF chose co-moderators for the task force: the Reverend Dan Williams (Shenandoah Presbytery) and Elder Cynthia Bolbach (National Capital Presbytery).

Williams served as the vice moderator of this year's Assembly Committee on Form of Government Revisions. Bolbach, who served as co-moderator of the previous configuration of the task force, was asked by her peers to continue in that position.

Williams said, "To be asked to serve as a co-moderator is both humbling and exciting. I have been impressed with the seamless way in which the continuing members of the task force have fully welcomed those of us who are new members into this process."

Bolbach said, "I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the process that takes the feedback we received at the assembly and incorporates it into the revision. It is both fulfilling and challenging work."

The task force set five face-to-face meetings over the course of the next two years, beginning in April of next year. In between these meetings, the group plans to use electronic technology to connect online and work on revisions together in real time.

The task force plans to release its first draft of revisions to the Form of Government at the Fall Polity Conference in Snowbird, UT, which begins September 24, 2008.

Their plan then calls for a period of time for the church-at-large to read the first draft and offer feedback on it between next month's release and March 31, 2009. Based on that feedback, the task force will make further revisions and submit its final draft to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly by Oct. 15, 2009.

A deadline of no later than Jan. 15, 2010, has been set for the revised report to be distributed to the church-at-large. The report will be submitted for consideration by the 219th General Assembly (2010).

A major focus of this task force is communication and marketing. One of the sub-groups formed by the task force already began addressing the issue at this meeting.

"We are very eager to get our work into the hands of every session of every congregation in the PC(USA)," said the Rev. James Kim (Grace Presbytery), one of the members of the task force who is continuing from the previous configuration. "We want them to hear from us, and we very much want to hear from them," he said.

In addition to Williams, the other two new members of the task force, both of whom served on the 218th General Assembly's Committee on Form of Government Task Force Revisions, are Elder Carol Hunley (Pittsburgh Presbytery) and the Rev. Grace Bowen (New York City Presbytery).

In addition to Bolbach and Kim, continuing members of the task force are Elder Diana Barber (Synod of Lakes and Prairies) and the Revs. Gemechisa Guja (Donegal Presbytery), Paul Hooker (St. Augustine Presbytery), Neal Lloyd (Twin Cities Area Presbytery), Paige McRight (Central Florida Presbytery), and Stephen Smith (Pacific Presbytery).

## Hope is the word

**By Kaylene Hoskins**  
**Presbytery of North Central Iowa**

*"Hope is the word which God has written on the brow of every man." – Victor Hugo*

A friend sent me that quote.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has the slogan, "Out of Chaos – Hope." I think that every person affected by the F5 tornado or the flooding is surviving on hope. Hope that their lives will be restored to some sense of normalcy soon. Hope that helps them look to the future. Hope that lends itself to all the people who have come to help. HOPE.

It is easy for us to look at all of the negative press and feel overwhelmed with all of this mess.

What can we do? Where do we begin? Who do we help?

My first visit to Parkersburg, Iowa, was almost overwhelming to me. I live about 20 minutes from there and had seen all of the pictures on television. I used to be an EMT – I thought I was prepared. I got out of my car and stood and looked at the total destruction of homes and business, trying to wrap my mind around it. Then I was looking at a pile of debris near me and thought to myself, how do we begin to help?

Then as I stood and looked at the pile, I could see that it was more than just a pile of wood and sheetrock. In the pile were items that represented someone's life, pictures, knick knacks, a broom, rugs, storage containers a broken picture frame, a lawnmower in a tree. As strange as it sounds, I knew then and there that we would be able to help these folks put their lives back together. Slow and steady.

The people of North Central Iowa have made such a difference in the lives of those affected by the Storms of 2008. Many, many of you have volunteered to pick up debris, serve food, sort clothing, and work in the warehouse. Pastors have walked the streets handing out wristbands and listening to stories of loss, destruction and hope. Others have been able to give gifts of appliances, houses of furniture, gift cards, financial donations, household items, food, clothing, and most of all your love and concern for these people. For all of that I can personally say that the folks affected by the tornados and flooding are so grateful.

I saw how one family was so struck by the kindness of others when one of our churches let them move into their manse. Another of our churches cleaned the house and stocked it with furniture, dishes, beds, appliances and put flowers on the dining table.

Other churches in our presbytery have work groups that come weekly to Parkersburg and pickup debris. Some come a couple of times a week. We have had the use of a dump truck donated to us. No questions asked, just a job to be done. The gift of hope to share.

I have been in the city several times a week over the last few weeks. One day I had the privilege of visiting with a family as a group of volunteers from Nebraska were cleaning debris from the residence. I had been talking with the mother and was giving the family the blue wristbands we had made that say, "Out of chaos – Hope." The little boy was playing with his friend and came to me and said, "Hey blue shirt lady, can I have another bracelet? My friend is feeling sad." That's what it is all about: making sure we share God's love and grace by our actions. Embracing those who are hurting. Knowing each day that we can make a difference in someone's life, no matter how small they are.

*[NOTE: Kaylene has been wearing three hats in the Presbytery of North Central Iowa this summer. She is the administrative assistant and bookkeeper and since late May and early June she has been the presbytery's disaster response point person.]*



"One day I had the privilege of visiting with a family as a group of volunteers from Nebraska were cleaning debris from the residence. I had been talking with the mother and was giving the family the blue wristbands we had made that say, "Out of chaos – Hope." The little boy was playing with his friend and came to me and said, "Hey blue shirt lady, can I have another bracelet? My friend is feeling sad." That's what it is all about – making sure we share God's love and grace by our actions. "

-Kaylene Hoskins

## Presbyterians, Adventists continue conversations

### *Third round of talks in July focus on 'distinctives' of each communion*

by [Jerry L. Van Marter](#)

Presbyterian News Service



Participants in the July 2008 Presbyterian-Adventist talks.  
Photo courtesy of Loma Linda University.

**LOUISVILLE** — After three rounds of conversations, representatives of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Seventh-day Adventist Church say they have found more than enough common ground to continue their talks, perhaps even drawing in representatives of other Reformed denominations.

“Our differences are not of such a nature as to preclude fellowship with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ,” said the Rev. Carlos Malave, associate for ecumenical relations in the PC(USA)’s Office of the General Assembly, “or cooperation in selected areas of joint concern.”

The conversations between the two communions began in November 2006 at the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, MD. Following that “get-

acquainted” meeting — which included discussion of introductory papers prepared by theologians from both churches — a second round of talks was held in August of last year at the PC(USA) offices in Louisville.

Discussion during that round of conversation focused on the respective understandings of sola scriptura, and of law and gospel. Four papers provided a framework for the meeting: “Ellen G. White and Sola Scriptura,” by the SDA’s Merlin Burt of Andrews University; “John Calvin and Sola Scriptura,” by the Rev. Eunice McGarrahan of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC; “The Law and Gospel,” by Dr. Ekkehardt Mueller, of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Biblical Research Institute; and “The Law and Gospel,” by David Jensen of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Malave said that participants concluded that their churches agree on several key theological points:

- The place of Scripture as the ultimate standard of faith and practice;
- The Reformation teaching of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone; and
- The continuing significance of the (biblical) law as a guide to Christian living.

“The conversations exposed significant differences in beliefs and practices,” Malave acknowledged: from the Adventist side, regarding the seventh-day Sabbath, the role of Ellen White and her writings in Adventist theology, and the role of apocalyptic in eschatology; and from the Presbyterian side, the guiding role of historic creeds and confessions, and the doctrine of election.

The third round of talks — July 16-17, 2008 at Loma Linda (CA) University, an Adventist institution specializing in health sciences — focused on the distinctive of each communion.

“Both churches acknowledge and respect the distinctive contributions of the other,” Malave said, “in particular the concern for social justice and divine sovereignty by the Presbyterians, and the Adventists’ emphases on health and religious liberty.”

*Continued on Next Page*

## Adventists, continued

The July talks included a presentation on the Adventists' involvement in health concerns by Dr. Richard Hart, president of Loma Linda University and Medical Center. The Rev. David Cortes-Fuentes of San Francisco Theological Seminary's southern California campus presented a paper on "Presbyterians and Social Policy."

Participants also discussed three other papers that highlighted the distinctive concerns of each communion: "Seventh-day Adventists and Religious Freedom," by John Graz, director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department for the world Adventist Church; "Of Tulips, Daisies, and Lilies: The Garden of God's Electing Grace," by the Rev. Sheldon Sorge of the PC(USA)'s Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and "Exploring the Heart of Seventh-day Adventism," by Kwabena Donkor, associate director of the SDA's Biblical Research Institute.

Malave said the Adventist concern with health "finds resonance with the Presbyterian teaching concerning sanctification."

On social issues, both communions share similar goals for society, but the respective approaches for attaining these goals differ widely: Presbyterians tend to emphasize corporate action and public policy, while Adventists focus on individual ethics.

"The creative tension between Adventist emphasis on personal freedom and Presbyterian stress on divine election provided for rich, mutually respectful conversation," Malave said, "with both sides acknowledging appreciatively the importance of the other's emphasis. Through these discussions, members of both delegations learned much not only about each other, but also from each other."

The next round of Presbyterian-Adventist conversations have tentatively been set for the summer of 2010.

## PTCA Women Fall Gathering: "Christian Concerns about Creation"

**October 3-4, 2008,  
Villa Maria Conference Center,  
Frontenac, MN**

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

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.

**For more information, please  
go the PTCA/PW Page at  
[www.ptcaweb.org/ptcawomen.html](http://www.ptcaweb.org/ptcawomen.html).**



## News for the Common Good: From the Minnesota Council of Churches

### *Darfur: Where is Our Moral Compass*

**Wednesday, September 3, 2008, 5 – 6 PM, State Capitol Grounds**

This non-partisan event will create international awareness about Darfur, focusing on current conditions and what can be done to improve the situation. The event will include an interfaith prayer service, Camp Darfur (a reenactment of what life is like in Darfur), stories from survivors of genocide, and speakers. For more information, contact [Lynne](#) at (612) 230-3211.

### *Get Involved*

Plan fall programming at your church with help from the Minnesota Council of Churches. We offer at no cost:

- Leadership at adult forums
- Worship resources on a variety of topics
- Volunteer opportunities with people of different cultures and faiths
- Advocacy training and support for faithful citizenship

Find out more at our new "[Get Involved](#)" pages at [www.mnchurches.org](http://www.mnchurches.org).

### *Mindful Living: Healthy Churches, Healthy People, Healthy Planet*

**October 9 – 11, 2008, Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN**

Empower yourself and take charge of your health with knowledge about toxic chemicals in the environment. Learn what you can do to remove these chemicals from your home, your church, and your community at this national ecumenical conference that brings together people of faith and eco-justice advocates. Sponsored by the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Division. Contact [Lynne](#) at (612) 230-3211.

### *Prayer at the Fair*

**Sunday, August 31, 2008, 9:15 – 9:45 AM, State Fair Bandshell**

Skipping worship on Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup>? You don't have to! Come to the Bandshell for an uplifting, spirited worship service that celebrates the abundance of life. Sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Churches, the casual service contains both the familiar forms of church including hymns, prayers and a sermon and also gets into the fun spirit of the Fair with our "bulletins on a stick." Celebrants represent the many denominations that make up the Minnesota Council of Churches, making the service a celebration of Christian Unity. For [more information](#) contact [Gail](#) at (612) 230-3210.



### Skill Bank Forms Available

Are you interested in serving on a presbytery, synod or GA committee? Do you have talents and gifts that could be put work in the service of the church and the wider world? If so, consider filling out a skill

bank form. Skill bank forms allow the Nominating Committee to find people with needed skills to serve effectively. To fill out a form, simply go to our Forms and Policies Page, [www.ptcaweb.org/RESOURCES/presbytery-resources.html](http://www.ptcaweb.org/RESOURCES/presbytery-resources.html).

## Presbytery and Churchwide Events

**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 registrations 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](http://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.

**"Reclaiming Christianity in America: Building a More Just and Compassionate Nation:" Talk by the Reverend Timothy F. Simpson** Minister, Presbyterian Church USA; co-founder, Christian Alliance for

Progress; editor, Political Theology; author, [publictheologian.com/blog](http://publictheologian.com/blog)

**Monday, September 8, 2008, 7 pm** Macalester College, Board Room of Weyerhaeuser Hall, 62 Macalester St., St. Paul\* **Free, everyone welcome**. Mr. Simpson holds degrees from Liberty University, University of Florida, Columbia Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary - Presbyterian School of Education. He has been active in Christian Peace Witness in Washington and has participated in civil disobedience leading to arrest. *Sponsored by Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area Peace and Justice Task Force and Peacemakers of Macalester Plymouth United Church, St. Paul. FFI 651-633-4410*

\*Macalester St. is one block west of Snelling Ave., Weyerhaeuser Hall is first building south of Grand Ave.

### **Scottish Festival at First Hudson- Get out your best looking kilt and come to Hudson!**

[First Presbyterian](#) in Hudson, WI is hosting a Scottish Heritage Festival on Sunday September 7, 2008 from 9:30am to 6:00pm. First Pres-Hudson is located at 1901 Vine Street in Hudson.

The festivities will begin with a worship service at 9:30am in the church sanctuary. This is the "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" Worship, which is the blessing of the tartans, where there will be bagpipe music and other celtic music including well-known artist Laura Mackenzie. She has traveled the world singing and playing various instruments including pipes and flutes. Following the worship service, folks will adjourn to the lawn for more activities, including a jumping castle for the children, Highland games for the adults, a bake sale, games and crafts for the children, hair braiding, arts and crafts for sale, raffle for a handmade quilt, and more music and dancing. A lunch of sloppy joes and chips will be available in the church fellowship hall for a nominal fee following the worship service, served from 11:00 to 1:00 .

Clann Tartan, a Medieval living history group, will set up their tents on our property and similar to a military encampment of the year 1630. Dressed in period costume, they will cook their own food over campfires, and engage in weaving, spinning, and other crafts of the period. **They will also fire their muskets without any projectiles.** To read more about this group, go to [www.clanntartan.org](http://www.clanntartan.org).

At 4:00 a Pig Roast Dinner will be served consisting of a pork sandwich, sides, and drink. Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling the church office, 715-386-2851. Advance sale tickets are \$6.00 each or \$20.00 for a family of 4, or \$8.00 at the door and \$24 for a family of 4.

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

## Sidewalks Saving Lives

On Saturday, September 27, youth from Kwanzaa Community Church and other community partners will paint the first ten of twenty sidewalks across North Minneapolis with artworks reinforcing HIV/AIDS prevention messages. Ten more sidewalks will be painted in areas of high foot traffic at a Spring 2009 event. Community partners include Avenues for Homeless Youth, Hawthorne Area Community Council, Homewood Arts Studio, Juxtaposition Arts, Northside Arts Collective, and the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs. From 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., teams of youth assisted by professional artists will come together to create art utilizing the internationally recognized A-B-C's of HIV/AIDS prevention: A-Be Abstinent, B-Be Faithful/Be Tested, C – Consistent & Correct Use of Condoms.

These lifesaving sidewalk messages are needed because communities of color account for a combined total of 65% of the approximately 56,300 new HIV infections occurring in the United States in 2008. African-Americans have the highest proportion of persons infected with HIV/AIDS among all native-born ethnic groups in Minnesota, more than ten times the rate of white Minnesotans. The purpose of this event is to create an intergenerational public health campaign aimed at reducing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in North Minneapolis with an emphasis on the African American community.

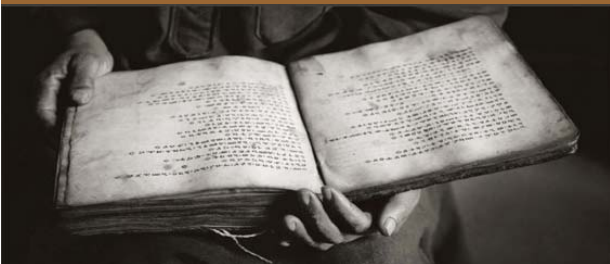
The black church has historically stood in solidarity with the lost, the least and the locked out. This is why it is important that Kwanzaa Community Church stand in community with those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The art being produced for this effort is a call to action, inviting all to participate in their own health and that of future generations and to expand the conversation beyond the scientific and public health communities. Everyone is welcome – please join us as we paint to save lives.

Schedule for the day:

- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Opening Street Rally at Kwanzaa Community Church  
Information & Entertainment to Continue All Day
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Transport of Artist/Youth Teams to Painting Sites
- 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. Painting begins (*list & map of sites available soon upon request*)
- 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch for teams on-site
- 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Painting continues
- 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. Transport of Artist Youth Teams to Closing Celebration
- 4:30-5:00 p.m. Closing Celebration at Kwanzaa Community Church

For more info, please contact Kwanzaa church at, [kwanzaachurch@gmail.com](mailto:kwanzaachurch@gmail.com).

## A Lived Life: Spirituality and Writing@ Hamline University





Students will immerse themselves in the writings of authors from various faiths who merge the ongoing movements of the sacred in their lives with universal themes. Students will then try their hand at writing about their

own spirituality through poetry and creative non fiction.

The courses are taught by Julie Neraas, a minister member of the Presbytery and other professors. For more information, please go to [www.hamline.edu/gls/](http://www.hamline.edu/gls/).

### 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](http://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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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>.

- **Youth Coordinator Assistant (Part-Time), Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul**
- **Director of Children's, Youth, Family Programming, St. Luke Presbyterian, Wayzata**
- **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**
- **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**

*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.)*

---

### PTCA Churches Accepting PIFs

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

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

### 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.

## 2008 Self-Development of People Grants



The [Committee for the Self Development of People of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area](#) is pleased to announce their 2008 grant cycle. The committee is looking for grant proposals from organizations that are initiated by people in the Twin Cities Area, for people in the Twin Cities Area and controlled by people in the Twin Cities Area.

The Committee for the Self-Development of People is eager to establish partnerships with groups who are oppressed by poverty or social systems and want to take charge and decide what to do to create systemic change. The deadline for applications is October 15. For more information, please download the informational flyer available on the [Forms and Policies page](#) of the PTCA website or contact Rev. Joshua Heikkila, at 651-223-7549.

## Christian Education Assistance Available for Congregations



Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching (POINT) is a network of educators who offer Christian education expertise and curriculum interpretation skills to churches in their area. These volunteers, appointed by each presbytery and equipped through the General Assembly Council, lead the way in assisting churches with their educational ministry.

### How can a POINT representative help my church?

A member of the POINT network can visit with your Christian education committee to discuss existing programs and brainstorm new possibilities for ministry, including evaluating curricula to meet educational goals.

### Who is my POINT network member?

The POINT network representative for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is Martha Rockenstein, Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Hudson, WI. You can contact her by email at [christianeducation@ptcaweb.org](mailto:christianeducation@ptcaweb.org).

You can find out more about POINT, including resources by going to their website at [www.pcusa.org/point/index.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/point/index.htm).

## Remembering Two Servants

The Presbytery was informed recently of the two deaths of pastors who were members of the PTCA. Rev. David Bierschwale of Presbyterian Church of the Master in Coon Rapids shared with us the recent passing of the Rev. Ronald McDuffie, who died on August 17 after a long illness. McDuffie was pastor of Church of the Master from 1966 to 1981. Memorial services were held in Wisconsin (where he lived) and Minnesota in late August.

Kirsten Berry, the co-chair of the Committee on Ministry and a member of Hope Presbyterian in Richfield, told us of the death of Rev. Elmon Ward, a retired member who attended Hope in his retirement. Kirsten notes that Ward was "muched loved and respected" at Hope.

The Presbytery thanks God for the service these two men gave to work of Christ in the world.



## Fall Retreats at Clearwater Forest

- **OCTOBER 17, 18, 19 :Middle School Fall Retreat  
More than Conquerors**
- **OCT. 31, NOVEMBER 1, 2:  
Senior High Fall Retreat  
The Saints Go Marching**
- **NOVEMBER 14, 15, 16:  
Confirmation Retreat**

*Download Church Registration Forms and Individual Registration Forms from the web:*

*[www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org)*

*Send in the Church Registration along with a \$75 deposit to:*

*Presbyterian Clearwater Forest*

*16595 Crooked Lake Road*

*Deerwood, MN 56444*

*Cost is \$75 per participant and leader.*

## Gleanings from Congregations

- **Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian** in Chaska is offering a seven week course on Faith and Politics, which will meet every Monday up to Election Day.
- **Community Presbyterian** in Rochester is teaming up with a local United Methodist congregation to offer a noon meal on September 20. The meal provides warm food for those in need.
- **Presbyterian Church of the Apostles** in Burnsville will be hosting a state legislative candidate forum on September 23. The forum is sponsored by Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing or MICAHA. MICAHA is a non-partisan faith-based organization working to expand opportunities throughout the metro region.
- **Cherokee Park United Church** has chosen Amy Wick More as their new Minister of Children and Youth. Amy is a 2008 graduate of United Seminary and candidate for ordination in the United Church of Christ.
- If you are going to the Minnesota State Fair, you might want to consider parking at **Presbyterian Church of the Way** in Shoreview. Church of the Way's parking lot has been chosen as one of the "free" park and ride lots where fairgoers can catch busses to the Fairgrounds.

## *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](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering).

PRESBYTERY OF THE  
TWIN CITIES AREA

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

Phone: 612-871-7281  
Fax: 612-871-0698  
E-mail:  
communications@ptcaweb.org  
Web: www.ptcaweb.org

Presbytery Staff

Robert Cuthill, Interim  
Transitional Executive Pres-  
byter: ep@ptcaweb.org

Nancy Grittman, Stated  
Clerk: stated-  
clerk@ptcaweb.org

Risa Anderson, Office Man-  
ager: office@ptcaweb.org

Dennis Sanders, IT/  
Communications Specialist:  
communica-  
tions@ptcaweb.org

Joann Hart,  
Administrative Assistant:  
admin@ptcaweb.org

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

## GOD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU



### 2009 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Louisville, Kentucky  
July 11–15, 2009

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

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

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

CWG-09-031

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