



EMerge

A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Inside this issue:

- More on November Stated Meeting
- Skyping the Moderator
- PTCA GA Amendments Blog Online
- Update from Board of Pensions
- Presbytery Events
- Stated Clerk Responds to Presbyterian Lay Committee
- Presbyterian News Index

Volume Two, Issue Twenty-Five

December 5, 2008

Notes from the Executive Presbyter: Presbytery Council

By Chaz Ruark, Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area



Rev. Chaz Ruark, PTCA Executive Presbyter.

Hello Presbytery,

I want to thank you all for the warm welcome Janet and I have received in our first weeks among you. Even the first day in the office {11/3} was a delightful 70 degrees. (Whoever did that one please give me a call about a possible retainer.) I also want to thank you all for an inspiring installation service at the Presbytery meeting at Knox Church of Minneapolis. As was mentioned by Phil Brown I am trying to be a "green horn," meaning I am attending meetings and trying to say as little as possible while I get to know y'all and how you do your work here in PTCA.

I haven't come to impose answers but to work with you as we find them together.

With that in mind I do want to share with you some of the work that was done at the Presbytery Council Retreat on 11/15. Some time was spent in providing resources and doing some basic training on how the Council and Presbytery work. Part of the time was spent talking over the new design of the Council and we heard from each committee that has formal representation on the Council, the nature of their work and how that impacts Presbytery and our member churches. This was a good time of clarification and education as the Council reflected on its own work.

We then spent some time in what Gil Rendle would call "Balcony thinking." That is imagining the big picture of PTCA and how we can be a presbytery that facilitates ministry in our churches and brings glory to God. Members of the council shared what they believed to be the strengths and weaknesses of our presbytery. Many of the items mentioned even made it on both lists. A sampling of these are: Strengths; Passionate people, diversity, creativity in mission, good polity, wisdom and history, our constitution, strong congregations, resources both human and dollar, We are the body of Christ; weaknesses, scarcity of time for fellowship, diversity, individualistic people and churches, the size of presbytery, tough polity, a sometimes boring constitution, over sensitivity, the fact that we don't celebrate our connectedness. Some of the goals that were shared (none of these were voted on or groomed for recommendation at this point) building an effective network of collegiality, getting along better, more trust, overcoming fears, harmony, celebrate our polity, get to know one another, growth spiritually and numerically, develop respect for one another, move from reactive to proactive, share our faith with the world, share our good news with one another.

Continued on Next Page

Presbytery Council, continued

We also spent some time thinking of how to write a purpose paragraph that describes our work to those who wonder what the Council does. This is all a work still in progress, after all we were only together for one day. Balcony thinking is an important exercise, that finds its meaning in actions that make the group more effective in the ministry to which it is called. The Council will continue to fine tune it's purpose and calling we as seek to make PTCA a vital and supportive body to the ministers and member churches of our area. Please keep our presbytery and its council in your prayers as we seek to serve God and you.

About the Presbytery Council

The Presbytery Council of the PTCA is the Presbytery's main visioning agency, leading the PTCA in developing mission strategy and fund development. It is also the executive committee in the Presbytery and designs the Presbytery meetings. Below are the members of the Council for 2008-09:

Rev. Jin S. Kim

Rev. Walter Chuquimia

Rev. Timothy D. Hart-Andersen

Rev. Ronald D. Wilson

Rev. David Colby

Rev. April M. Davis Campbell

Rev. Cynthia L. Ray

Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins

Rev. Elizabeth J. Raitt

Rev. Linda Gillon Post

Mr. Vincent Gin

Mr. Jerry McKinney

Mr. James M. Payne

Mr. Ward A. Sessing

Ms. Kirsten Berry

Ms. Ann Foote

Ms. Nancy E. Gritman

Ms. JoAnn Simser

Ms. Janet Youel

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

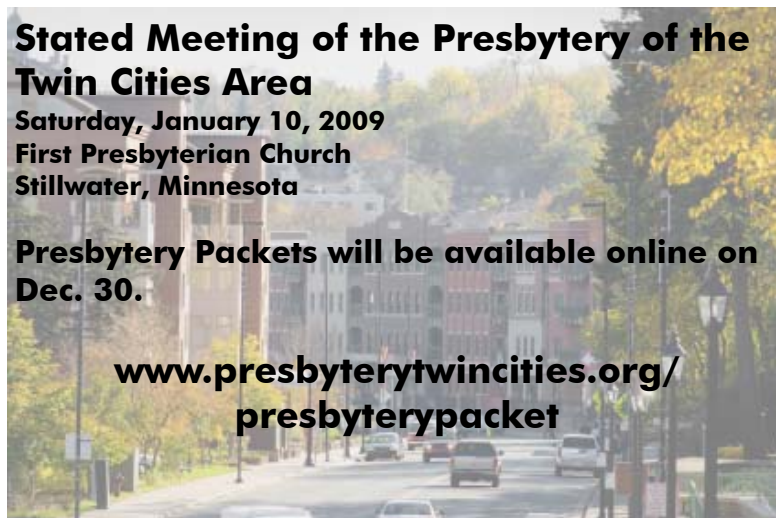
Saturday, January 10, 2009

First Presbyterian Church

Stillwater, Minnesota

Presbytery Packets will be available online on Dec. 30.

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



“Skyping” the moderator

**By Duane Sweep, Associate for Communications
Synod of Lakes and Prairies**

Note: The following originally appeared as a blog post on the Synod MySpace page.

As I mentioned in the previous post, Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly, appeared at the Collegiate Ministries Conference on the campus of the University of Dubuque Wednesday, Nov. 12, via Skype.

With the moderator's busy schedule, it's typically difficult to have him appear at a conference or meeting. It's certainly not as easy as getting on the phone and asking, "Hey, do you have time to stop by for a few words?"

But for the conference, we did something different.

We – meaning Duane Sweep, synod associate for communications, and Elona Street-Stewart, synod associate for racial ethnic ministries – went through the appropriate channels to request that the moderator attend the conference. His schedule, however, did not permit him to attend.

In brief, Elona had a chance to visit briefly with Bruce at a national conference in Louisville. Bruce said that he would like to connect with the conference in some way. He suggested that we "skype" the appearance.

And we did.

Here's a step-by-step of how it worked.

1. I downloaded the Skype program – free – from the Internet. It can be found at www.skype.com. The instructions for the use of the program are simple. They had to be. And while sitting in my office, I made my first call that afternoon to my bride – no camera and only using the internal microphone on my laptop. It worked. I also checked the Skype directory and found the moderator's listing.
2. We purchased a camera and headset (earphones and microphone) the weekend before the conference.
3. We arranged with the University of Dubuque to insure an Internet connection and projector.
4. We made final arrangements with Bruce for the time of the connection.
5. At 10 a.m. I connected to Skype in the Welch Dining Room at the University of Dubuque – where we were holding our last morning events for the Collegiate Ministries Conference. I tested the sound and video – or my microphone and camera.
6. At 10:30 a.m. I clicked on the Skype directory listing for Bruce and there he was, sitting in a church out east. He spoke to us, we asked him a variety of questions and we enjoyed a very interactive 30 minutes. He saw us; we saw him. The connection worked splendidly.

It's obvious that without the technology, the meeting with Bruce would not have taken place.

And it was easy. It requires both parties to have a computer with a camera, microphone and speakers, an Internet connection, projector, and Skype program. Adding a camera, microphone and speakers is not an extremely costly proposition. We used the speakers and projector within our meeting room at the university, and only purchased the camera and headset.

According to Bruce, this was the first meeting of this type in which he had taken part.

We hope it can be something we repeat more often.

PTCA GA Amendments Blog Up and Running

By Andrew Lindahl, Member

Bills and Overtures Committee, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area



The Bills and Overtures Committee has a blog set up for members and ministers of PTCA churches to dialogue over the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the PCUSA that were approved by the 218th General Assembly. The hope of this blog, is to give all a chance to speak on the important issues facing our denomination.

It is our hope that this dialogue will promote a civil and open dialogue amongst a wide variety of people within the presbytery. The members of the Bills and Overtures Committee sees this discussion as important aspect of their deliberations.

Our hope with the blog is not to deepen the chasm between the two sides of the issues. Instead, we desire the following:

- respectful conversation and continued dialogue within the Body of Christ.
- conversation that will help us to move forward past the votes to some kind of palatable future as a Presbytery.

Click on the Blog of the Bills and Overtures Committee (www.presbyterytwincities.org/billsandoveratures) and see what others are thinking or to voice your own thoughts.



Instructions on Using Bills and Overtures Blog

If you are new to blogging, here are a few instructions on how to participate in this discussion:

- Go to the Bills and Overtures Blog (www.presbyterytwincities.org/billsandoveratures). At each post is a link (usually) marked "comments." Click on that link and you will go to a page where you can leave a comment.
- You will need to be registered to leave a comment. If you are not registered with Wordpress (the blogging software we are using) follow the links to get registered. Simply give an email address and a password.
- Feel free to leave a comment in the comment box. Remember to leave your full name, the PTCA church you belong to (or your ministerial role if you are a pastor) and an email address. Once you are done, click the "submit" button. That's it!

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at communications@ptcaweb.org.

Guidelines to Using the Bills and Overtures Blog

As the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area begins this important discussion on proposed amendments, it is necessary to lay out the guidelines for debate.

- Only ministers and members of congregations in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area are allowed to participate. The purpose of this exercise is to help the Presbytery before it votes on these amendments in early 2009. We ask that people from outside the Presbytery not take part in these discussions.
- Anonymous comments will be removed. It is vital to have an open discussion on these topics. Therefore, we ask that all who comment please register and also leave their name, the church they belong to or minister role, and an email address in each comment.
- Please keep a civil tone. The old camp song, "And They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love," applies here. As Jesus said: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35) As Christians we are called to love each other which in this case means we must learn to respect each other in our discussions. Understand that the Committee has the right to not post inflammatory comments.

Regional Rep Review, November 2008: News from the Board of Pensions

**By Doug Kelly
Board of Pensions**

Secure pensions in uncertain times

Despite the severe downturn in global markets and a negative return on the Balanced Investment Portfolio, Plan members are assured that their pension benefits are secure.

The Balanced Investment Portfolio had a return of negative 26.6 percent from January 1, 2008 through October 21, 2008. However, the Investment Team has followed its disciplined guidelines, rebalancing the Balanced Portfolio throughout 2007 and 2008 to assure adequate cash for the ongoing payment of benefits. While returns in 2008 are disappointing, the Portfolio is well structured for long-term gains.

For additional details, please see the fall 2008 issue of The Board Bulletin.

Fall 2008 Issue of The Board Bulletin now available

The fall 2008 issue of The Board Bulletin is now available on Pensions.org. Some of the highlights from the fall 2008 Board of Directors meeting include:

- Pensions are secure in uncertain times.
- Retirement Savings Plan Adoption Agreements are due from participating churches and employing organizations by December 31, 2008.
- The Salary Continuation Benefit for retirees will increase.
- The monthly subscription dues for Medical Continuation for former Traditional Program members will increase.
- The monthly subscription dues for Medicare Supplement for former Traditional Program and Affiliated Benefits Program members will increase.
- Please read this issue of The Board Bulletin for a comprehensive look at the Board's actions and news.

The Board to host its annual Tax Tips for Ministers and Churches Teleconference

This year's Web-enhanced Tax Tips for Ministers and Churches Teleconference will take place on December 11 at 3:00 p.m. This free, one-hour event helps ministers and churches understand clergy taxes. Renowned clergy and church tax expert Richard R. Hammar, J.D., LL.M., CPA, will explain:

- Recent tax law changes that will affect ministers and churches
- Eligible deductions that are often overlooked in church and clergy tax returns
- The right way to handle the housing allowance, cell phone expenses, church member donations, and more



Doug Kelly is the Board of Pension's Regional Representative for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies (which includes the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area), Synod of Lincoln Trails and Synod of Mid-America. Below is his contact information:

tion:

Phone: 800-773-7752, ext. 7045

Email: dkelly@pensions.org

Board of Pensions, continued

Remember to check Pensions.org for the latest news and information from the Board of Pensions. Recent articles include:

- What's new? Read the latest Board Bulletin
- Open Enrollment for Optional Dental Program and Supplemental Death Benefits Program
- 2009 Dues Schedule Available
- Adoption Agreements Due from Churches and Employing Organizations
- Benefit from the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment
- Rob Maggs Speaks to the Long-Term Expectations for the Balanced Investment Portfolio
- Clergy Effective Salaries Compared by Congregation Size and Years of Service
- Robert W. Maggs, Jr., President and Chief Executive, Addresses Financial Market Conditions

And don't forget to take advantage of the information and tools available through the BenefitsConnect section of the site. It enables members to view and update their personal information and review their Plan benefits. To register for this secure, easy-to-use site, just visit the Pensions.org homepage and click on "Register" under the BenefitsConnect heading.



Foreclosure Prevention Assistance Available

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

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

PC(USA) Stated Clerk Responds to Letter from Lay Committee

by the Rev. Grady Parsons
General Assembly stated clerk

Note: During the week of November 17th, the Office of the General Assembly released a letter written by Stated Clerk Grayde Parsons. The letter was written in response to another letter authored by the Presbyterian Lay Committee that was sent to all moderators and clerks of session in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Below is the text of the letter.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,



**Stated Clerk
 Grayde Par-
 sons.**

Congregations in your presbytery recently received correspondence from the Presbyterian Lay Committee that contained many factual errors and may cause great misunderstanding. The purpose of this letter is to speak to those errors and misunderstandings.

Re: Constitution Legal Defense Fund

The General Assembly did not create a \$2 million defense fund, as requested by the Presbytery of Northern New England. The assembly chose, instead, to create an Extra Commitment Opportunity (ECO) fund that would receive voluntary contributions. The name of the ECO is Constitution Legal Defense Fund and it is numbered E052058. To date, we have received no contributions to this fund, and no money from the per capita budget has been allocated for it.

Re: presbyteries' actions about property

The letter suggests that presbyteries have taken aggressive actions to deprive congregations of their pastors and property via ecclesiastical processes and the secular courts. The letter misrepresents the actions of presbyteries and misinterprets recent General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission cases.

Virtually all actions by presbyteries are reactions to aggressive schismatic behavior by individual congregations and sessions. Of the thirty-nine cases in civil courts, thirty-six have been filed for local sessions. The three filed by presbyteries have sought only that sessions and congregations be required to follow the processes provided by the Book of Order. When sessions/congregations have followed those processes, they have usually been dismissed to the reformed denomination of their choice.

It is true that presbyteries served with civil lawsuits have had to expend significant resources in defending our Book of Order processes. In the Sundquist v. Heartland Presbytery case, the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC) recently affirmed the validity of those processes, which include permitting presbyteries to create structures that can respond to civil lawsuits when they arise, but such processes do not provide for aggressive actions by presbyteries.

Re: per capita

The correspondence also states that the GAPJC has given sessions "absolute and unequivocal authority to direct and disburse all funds received from the congregation." This, too, misinterprets the GAPJC's decision. The most recent case contains the following statement: "The congregation's responsibility is not to itself, but to itself in light of its call to 'fulfill its responsibilities as the local unit of mission for the service of all people, for the upbuilding of the whole church, and for the Glory of God' (Book of Order, G-4.0104)." (Johnston v. Heartland Presbytery)

Some final words

The action of the 218th General Assembly (Item 04-28) reminds all of us, congregations and governing bodies alike, to heed the words of 1 Cor. 6:7 and avoid lawsuits. No doubt, all conversations about dismissal are tough and painful, but as many of you know, they can also be Christ-like. I know that has been the goal in a majority of cases, but fear has sometimes changed the discourse. Hopefully, this recent action of the assembly can help us avoid future civil cases by having established clear presbytery policies.

You may find it helpful to refer to the Advisory Opinions that are posted

Continued on Next Page

Lay Committee, continued

online(<http://www.pcusa.org/constitutionalservices/advisory-opinion.htm>), especially #19: "Implementing the Trust Clause for the Unity of the Church," and #22: "Actions of the 218th General Assembly related to G-6.0106b and G-6.0108"). There is also a Constitutional Musing (<http://www.pcusa.org/constitutionalservices/musings.htm>) on "Responding Pastorally to Troubled Churches."

Please know that I pray for you daily - that your ministry will flourish, your faith increase, and that the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7).

Yours in Christ,
Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Moderator schedules second 'Webcast'

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, the technologically savvy moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will host his and the denomination's second churchwide Webcast Tuesday, Dec. 9 at Noon (Pacific Time).



The Webcast, which Reyes-Chow calls "Moderator Musings," will feature a conversation with Beau Weston, a Presbyterian elder and professor at PC(USA)-related Centre College in Kentucky. Weston is the author of a much-discussed treatise, "Rebuilding the Presbyterian Establishment" (which can be downloaded at <http://www.pcusa.org/re-formingministry/papers/rebuilding.pdf>).

Weston wrote his paper in response to a challenge to Presbyterians by the Theology and Worship Office of the General Assembly Council to think about "whether the institutional arrangements of the PC(USA) help us flourish ... or is it time for some of them to be reworked, reshaped or even replaced?"

To access the Webcast, go to the Ustream Web site at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/moderator-musings>.

-Jerry Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service

Presbyterian

Clearwater Forest

16595 Crooked Lake Road
Deerwood, MN 56444-8328
218-678-2325
www.clearwaterforest.org

2009

Program Calendar



Jan 23-25	Snow Camp	July 19-25	Creative Arts Festival
Feb 20-23	Winter Chrysalis		Wilderness (Jr. & Sr. High)
Mar 27-29	Confirmation Retreat	July 26-Aug. 1	Discovery 4
Apr 24-26	Sr. High Spring Retreat		Adventure 4
June 14-20	Discovery Camp Blast Off!	1 st week	Sr. High Two Week Camp
	Adventure Blast Off!		Pedal, Paddle, Climb Camp
	Teen Arts Camp	August 2-8	Discovery 5
1 st week	Jr. High Two Week Camp		Adventure 5
1 st week	Sr. High Two Week Camp	2 nd week	Sr. High Two Week Camp
June 19-21	Family Camp Weekend	August 9-15	Discovery 6
June 21-27	Discovery 1		Adventure 6
	Adventure 1		Endless Summer Sr. High
2 nd week	Jr. High Two Week Camp	August 19	Quilting Day Chrysalis option
2 nd week	Sr. High Two Week Camp	August 20-23	Chrysalis
	Sr. High Beach Camp	August 24-27	Seniors Retreat
June 28-July 1	First Timers Camp	August 23-29	Pastors Boundary Waters
	Grands Camp	August 25-30	Adult Kayak, outer islands
July 5-11	Discovery 2	October 16-18	Middle School Retreat
	Adventure 2	October 30-November 1	Senior High Fall Retreat
1 st week	Counselor In Training (CIT)	November 13-15	Confirmation Retreat
	Jr. High Sailing		
	Sr. High Kayak		
July 11	Friends Day		
July 12-18	Discovery 3		
	Adventure 3		
2 nd week	CIT		
	Sr. High Sailing		
	Jr. High Kayak		
July 18-23	Adult Kayak, inner islands		
July 17-19	Adult Sailing Weekend		

Looking Ahead to 2010

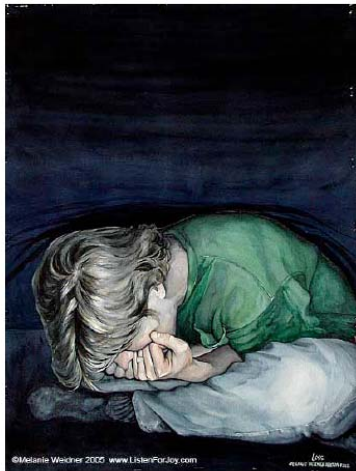
Snow Camp – Jan. 22-24, 2010
Chrysalis – Feb. 12-15, 2010
Confirmation Retreat – Mar 19-21, 2010
Sr. High Spring Retreat – April 23-25, 2010
Middle School Retreat – Oct 15-17, 2010
Sr. High Fall Retreat – Oct 29-31, 2010
Confirmation Fall Retreat – Nov 12-14, 2010

A camp, conference center and program ministry of the presbyteries of Minnesota Valleys, Northern Plains, Northern Waters, Twin Cities Area, and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Christmas is coming...

Breathe.

Advent Meditation Thursdays
December 4th & 11th
Sanctuary open from 6:30-9:00 pm



Blue Christmas Service
December 18, 6:30 pm
A service of grief and hope
Sanctuary open until 9pm

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
1620 East 46th Street • South Minneapolis
www.lakenokomispc.org • 612-721-4463

A Time For Prayer



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

Presbytery and Churchwide Events

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

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

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

Hours of Operation:

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

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

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

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

Service of Lessons and Carols at Arlington Hills in St. Paul- Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Paul is hosting its first Lessons and Carols Service on Friday, December 5 at 7pm. Pastor Howard Dotson notes that local choirs are invited to participate in the singing, and local pastors are invited to read the lessons. If you are interested in attending, please contact Howard at hr_dotson@yahoo.com or 651-774-6028.

Meet-the-Artist Reception at Shepherd of the Hill- Friday, December 5:00 - 7:00 PM with remarks by He Qi at 6:00 PM. Drop by to welcome internationally acclaimed Chinese artist He Qi for the opening of his exhibit at Shepherd of the Hill.

China's best known Christian artist, He Qi is known for his brilliant colors and his unique renderings of biblical scenes.

Professor at Nanking Theological Seminary in China, Dr. He Qi has graciously agreed to bring his art to Chaska after recent exhibits at Oxford University, England (with the Archbishop of Canterbury, pictured above), and San Francisco.

Shepherd of the Hill is located at 145 Engler Blvd in Chaska. For more information, contact the church at (952) 448-3882 or <http://www.shepherdofthehillchurch.com/>.

Advent Events at Lake Nokomis, During Advent Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church will be hosting "Advent Meditation Thursdays". The sanctuary will be open with a labyrinth, prayer stations, and quiet space for personal prayer and reflection from 6:30-9:00 pm, Thursdays Dec. 4 & 11. On Thursday, Dec. 18 there will be a "Blue Christmas" service of grief and hope for the holidays, with the sanctuary again open until 9:00 pm. Lake Nokomis is located at 1620 E 46th Street in Minneapolis. Their phone is 612-721-4463.

Gifts Encircling the World, A Justice-Centered Holiday Marketplace,

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

Holiday Concerts at Central Presbyterian- Central Presbyterian in St. Paul is host for three concerts during the Holiday season:

- **LAKE WOBEGON® BAND - DECEMBER 6:** Welcome Christmas with the sounds of antiphonal brass and organ as the Lake Wobegon® Brass Band brings its holiday concert series to Central Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December 6 at 7:00 PM. Now in its 17th season, this British style brass band is pleased to be joined by organist, Kathrine Handford for a delightful evening of holiday favorites. Admission is free, but a freewill offering will be taken.
- **"HOLIDAY ON CEDAR STREET" - DECEMBER 7:** "Holiday on Cedar Street" the annual concert presented by the choruses from Wells Fargo, 3M and Travelers corporations will be presented on Sunday, December 7 at 3:30 PM at Central. The concert is free and open to the public. A collection of non-perishable food items for local food shelves and a free-will offering for "Project Home" will be taken. Each chorus will be presented individually and then they will combine to sing the final section of the concert. This is the sixth year that this concert has been at Central and has started to become a holiday tradition for many of the singers and their families. A coffee and cookie reception will be held following the concert in the Friendship Room.
- **TUBACHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 14:** The 19th annual TWIN CITIES MERRY TUBAChristmas CONCERT AND SING-A-LONG, directed by Carol Jensen, will take place Sunday, December 14 at 4 PM in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church. TUBAChristmas concerts are held throughout the world and have achieved a sort of cult status. Come early to get a good seat! Additional information about TUBACHRISTMAS can be found at www.tubachristmas.com.

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

How has Jesus been portrayed through various

Continued on Page 16



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

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

Let Heaven and Nature Sing
 Saturday December 6th at 7:00 p.m.

The music will ring with the joy of all creation at the birth of the Savior. Songs of the stars and angels, animals and people like us will tell the Christmas story as heard in Australia, China, France, Hungary, Africa, and Huron Nation, as well as through the offerings of local composers such as J. David Moore and Stephen Paulus. Come and share the quiet glory and dazzling brilliance of the Christmas season.
Admission is free, but a free will offering will benefit Second Harvest Heartland. Refreshments provided after the concert.

Financial Aid Available



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

Presbytery Packets Available for Download

www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyterypacket



Ordination Anniversaries

December 2008

- Fifteen Years:
 - Joy Smith
 - Stanley Martin



Listen to the Children



Starting in January, Presbyterians Today magazine will feature a Presbyterian young person between the ages of 12 and 21 in each issue. If you know a young person who would like to be considered for the feature, sharing their

thoughts and opinions with the rest of the church, find the questionnaire at www.pcusa.org/today/spotlight-form.

Positions Available

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

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

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

Future 2009 Stated Meetings and Locations

- **January 10, 2009, 9:00am-3:00pm, First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater**
- **March 14, 2009, 9:00am-3:00pm, Faith Presbyterian Church, Minnetonka**

Please go to the PTCA website for more updates.

PTCA Churches Accepting PIFs

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

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

Skill Bank Forms Available



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

Presbytery Events, continued

films? How have these

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

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

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

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

New Course at United Seminary- CL891 Conflict and the Congregation: Restoration and Resilience, Jean Greenwood, Instructor

Congregational conflict will be explored from a restorative perspective that seeks to repair harm, restore relationships, renew hope, build resilience. Students will gain understanding about the nature of conflict, identify their conflict styles, develop skills in conflict resolution and transformation, create strategies for use within religious communities, and cultivate beginning skills in restorative processes, including mediation and the circle process. Case studies, personal experience, and role plays will be utilized. Particular attention will be given to the nature of congregational life and to biblical perspectives and theological dimensions.

No prerequisites; course meets Tuesdays 8:15 to 11:30 am, February 2 - May 15, 2009

For information about registration as a non-degree student, for credit or auditing, consult the seminary's website, www.unitedseminary.edu or call 651.633.4311 or 800.937.1316. For further information about the course, please contact Jean at 612.825.4927.

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

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.

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

NEWS Presbyterian News Service

Presbyterian News Service Index

The following news stories can be found at the Presbyterian News Service website:
www.pcusa.org/news

- Church must reflect changing world, moderators told: Wealthy, white, English-speaking church must diversify, Aja says- www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08901.htm
- Immokalee workers reach agreement with Subway: Four largest food chains have now agreed to better pay, working conditions- www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08897.htm
- Strategic motivations for the Mumbai attack- www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08896.htm
- Fostering dialogue is key to leadership, moderators told: 130 middle governing body leaders gather for fellowship, training- www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08893.htm
- Importing peace for Christmas: Presbyterian group sells fair-trade olive oil from Palestine- www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08880.htm
- Every Thursday is Thanksgiving: Farmworkers mobile ministry expands, delivers meals and hope on Thursdays: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08885.htm

Give to the Annual Christmas Joy Offering

Good News of Great Joy



2008 Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

You are encouraged to support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to your congregation's offering. If for some reason that is not convenient, feel free to support the offering directly.

To donate online, or to download materials to help promote the offering in your congregation, please go to the Christmas Joy Offering website at www.pcusa.org/cjoffering/.



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

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

A COMMON FOUNDATION: SHARED PRINCIPLES FOR WORK ON OVERCOMING POVERTY

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

Add your name in support

of "A Common Foundation" today at www.mnwithoutpoverty.org.

Click on "Sign Foundation" and add your name.

Send to others and invite them to sign also.



The Newest PTCA member

Rev. April Davis Campbell, Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian in Stillwater, holds Solomon Davis Campbell, who was welcomed into the world on November 18, 2008 weighing 7 pounds and 7 ounces. April along with her husband Bob (pictured) and their son Emmett are



thrilled that Solomon has joined the family. Photo provided by April Davis Campbell.



Peacemaking Grants Available

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

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

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

Chaz Ruark, Executive Pres-
byter: ep@ptcaweb.org

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

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

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