



# EMerge: Monthly



A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

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December 2009

## Rockin' at the November Presbytery Meeting



The House Band of The Table provides music during worship at the November Presbytery Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. The Table is an alternative worshipping community at Christ Presbyterian in Edina that reaches out to people in their 20s and 30s. Presbyters were given a taste of what worship is like at this Sunday evening gathering.

*Photo by Dennis L. Sanders.*

## In this issue:

Evangelism in the 21st Century



Thinking About Presbyfest



## Note from the Editor

Hark the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King!  
 Peace on earth and mercy mild  
 God and sinners reconciled"  
 Joyful, all ye nations rise  
 Join the triumph of the skies  
 With the angelic host proclaim:  
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
 Hark! The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the newborn King!"



Merry Christmas  
 and  
 Happy New Year from the  
 Staff of the Presbytery of  
 the Twin Cities Area

*Dennis L. Sanders*  
*Chae Row* *Lisa Anderson*  
*Penny Britman*

## In This Issue

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## Highlights of the November 2009 Presbytery Meeting



**John Crosby, Senior Pastor at Christ Presbyterian, gives the sermon during the worship service at The Table.**



**Associate Pastor Paul Tshihamba of Christ Presbyterian (left) and Pastor Kara Root (right) of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian share their excitement during the Table worship service.**

*By Dennis Sanders*

On an unusually warm November day, 169 pastors, elders and visitors took part in the Presbytery meeting at Christ Presbyterian in Edina on Tuesday, November 10.

JoAnn Simser, speaking on behalf of the Presbytery Council, thanked the sessions of First Presbyterian Church, Maple Plain, and Laurel Presbyterian Church, Hager City, Wisconsin, for hosting the Council meetings in September and October. Council will continue its program of meeting in the smaller churches in the Presbytery, using the opportunity to meet with session members informally to exchange how the two groups can work together in a more connectational mode. Simser also reported briefly on the work of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, where she serves as a commissioner from this Presbytery.

In her report to Presbytery, Stated Clerk Nancy Gritman shared the following information she received the week prior:

On November 3, 2009, I received, by UPS Next Day Air, a Decision and Order, in Remedial case 219-08, David Bierschwale, David Lenz, and Carol Shanholtzer, Appellants, v. Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area, Appellee, decided by the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This case originated as a result of the decision of the Presbytery, in January, 2008, to restore Paul Capetz to the ordained office of Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The final appeal to the GAPJC was a result of the decision of Synod Permanent Judicial Commission on May 11, 2009, which upheld the decision of the Presbytery. However, at that trial, the SPJC excluded the public from attendance. That decision became Specification of Error No. 1, at the GAPJC trial, held on Friday, October 30, 2009 in Indianapolis, IN. That specification was sustained by the GAPJC; the SPJC was found to be in error.

There were six additional specifications of error in the appeal from the appellants, and none were sustained.

The decision of the SPJC is affirmed. The GAPJC found in favor of the Presbytery and the decision to restore Paul Capetz is finally upheld. This case is now closed and the papers and records are filed. The Decision and Order will be spread upon the minutes of this meeting of Presbytery, and an excerpt of those minutes containing this report will be transmitted to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, as directed in the Order.

PTCA Treasurer Jim Payne reported that the presbytery is doing okay financially. Detailed reports for October at the Presbytery website.. This year was the third year a balance sheet audit was completed, showing only minor issues which have since been corrected.

Among the other highlights of this meeting included visitors from General Assembly Meeting Service. Deb Davies and Kerry Rice spoke to the Presby-

## Presbytery Meeting, Continued

tery about the upcoming preparations for the 219th General Assembly which will be held in Minneapolis in July 2010.

Afterwards, Committee on Local Arrangements Co-Chairs Manley Olson, an elder at North Como Presbyterian in Roseville and Sandra Hawley and elder at Plymouth Presbyterian in Plymouth came forward with several volunteers urging the Presbytery to get involved in welcoming Presbyterians from around the nation to Minneapolis for General Assembly and to consider coming to worship at the Convention Center along with other Presbyterians on July 4, the second day of the General Assembly.

A discussion took place on the Third Great End of the Church: The Maintenance of Divine Worship. Seated at tables, presbyters discussed what was going on in the congregations concerning worship.

Worship at this Presbytery meet was a little different than it has been in past meetings. Presbyters were able to get a taste of The Table, Christ Presbyterian's alternative worship community that meets on Sunday evenings. Christ's sanctuary was transformed into a dimly lit worship space. Tables were found in the chancel area. The Table's house band played old and new songs for their Presbytery guests to give people a taste of what to expect at a worship gathering of The Table.

Senior Pastor John Crosby preached a sermon explaining the ministry of The Table and the wider ministry of Christ Presbyterian focusing on how we can bring people to God's table and not simply to church. He shared examples of how members in the community have welcomed people by playing with an autistic child, helping a family whose wife is stricken with cancer, and helping an undocumented family. The worship service ended with a celebration of the Lord's supper.

After dinner, the meeting resumed with Presbyfest Chair Cindy Ray coming forward to explain why Presbyfest 2009 was cancelled due to low registration. She explained that the committee would meet in the next few days to do a post mortem and also to create an alternative event in order to bring the planned keynote speaker Cynthia Rigby to Minnesota.

In other business, the Board of Trustees had one action to bring to Presbytery and that was approval of a loan for Kwanzaa Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis to formally purchase the former Calvary Presbyterian Church property at 3700 Bryant in North Minneapolis. The Presbytery approved the loan.

Minister and Nominations Chair Betty Raitt brought several persons before the Presbytery who were called to serve on various committees. The Presbytery approved the following persons to serve:

### **CLEARWATER FOREST BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Chase Davies**, elder, Shoreview, Church of the Way

### **SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

- Chair **Karen Kennerly**, minister, Honorably Retired
- **Grace Muengai**, elder, St. Paul, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian



## 219th General Assembly

**When: July 3-10, 2010**

**Where: Minneapolis, MN**

**Theme: "Rivers of Living Water" (John 7:38)**

**GA Website: [www.pcusa.org/ga219/](http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/)**

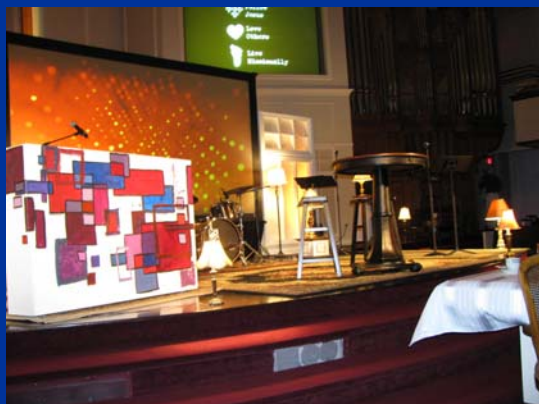
**Volunteer Website: will be available in late 2009.**

**Registration: Begins in March, 2010.**

## Presbytery Meeting, Continued



Several GA Volunteers came forward to show those who are working to welcome fellow Presbyterians when GA-219 comes to Minneapolis in July 2010.



The sanctuary of Christ Presbyterian is transformed for the Table worship service.

- **Mauro Souza**, minister, Columbia Heights, Church of All Nations
- **Avis Tilden**, member, Burnsville, Church of the Apostles

### **COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR COMMITTEE**

- **Leo Gelhoff**, elder, Stillwater, First Presbyterian

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

- **Thomas Phillips**, elder, St. Louis Park, Peace Presbyterian

Raitt also stressed the importance of having commissioners going to the 219th General Assembly. She urged those who are interested to fill out a nomination form and turn it in by December 3.

Mission and Witness had a presentation on the Eastside Children's Summer Program, a program sponsored by Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. Christian Educator, Sally Narr explained how the program got off the ground and the invaluable work it has done on the Eastside of St. Paul.

The Presbytery also approved a new manual for those interested in becoming Commissioned Lay Pastors. The manual is currently on the [PTCA website](#).

The Committee on Ministry placed Robert Hamilton before the Presbytery for consideration as the new pastor at First Presbyterian in Claremont, MN. He was approved by the Presbytery. COM also placed before the people a proposal to leave the Presbytery minimums for pastors at 2009 levels. This measure also passed. The minimums for 2010 are as follows:

- **\$46,900 (metro)**
- **\$41,985 (non-metro).**

The next Presbytery meeting will be on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview.

*Stated Clerk Nancy Gritman contributed to this report.*

## On the Presbyfest Cancellation



**By Paul Moore**

*Editor's Note: The following was written by Paul Moore, organizing pastor of Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church in Lino Lakes, MN in response to the cancellation of Presbyfest. Presbyfest was to have taken place on November 14 at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. It was written on his blog on November 13.*

Last week I received an E-mail saying that Presbyfest was cancelled due to low registrations. Presbyfest is a bi-annual lay leadership event put on by the Presbytery I serve—the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

Presbyfest is one of my favorite events that our Presbytery does. I enjoy it because it is one of the few local, lay leadership training events that brings Presbyterians together. I've participated in Presbyfest almost every time it's been offered; I always try to bring a group of people from the church I serve to Presbyfest; I've been a workshop leader for Presbyfest in the past and was scheduled to be a workshop leader this year.

Last December I was asked to serve on the Presbyfest leadership team. I was grateful to be asked, but I declined the offer. I've decided to curtail significantly my Presbytery involvement for three years. I figure that being the Organizing Pastor of a Presbyterian Church qualifies as significant Presbytery service.

As a leader, I am an incurable optimist. When events happen I always look at the bright side and usually spin them from a positive perspective. However, I try to balance my own positive outlook with the facts. Sometimes the facts don't lead to a positive and upbeat outlook. I remember earlier this fall at Chain of Lakes when we had 12 people attend our second Alpha session after 38 attended the Alpha Celebration Dinner. I was disappointed—and diplomatically shared my disappointment with our Emerging Community.

I'm very disappointed that Presbyfest was cancelled.

My intent is not to point fingers or enter into the blame game. I know many of the people who serve on the Presbyfest leadership team, and I know that they are effective leaders.

One element of an effective organization is to be a learning organization. In his book, "The Fifth Discipline," Peter Senge wrote the book about learning organizations. I didn't read the entire book, but I strive to implement the practices of a learning organization at Chain of Lakes. After every significant event we do I try to ask the question, "what have we learned from this event?" After our second Alpha event our worship team at Chain of Lakes came to the conclusion that we at Chain of Lakes weren't as far along in developing the faith habits of our people as we thought we were. We changed the original plan that we had for the start of worship. Instead of starting with a big Grand Opening worship service, we decided to start worshipping ourselves on Sunday mornings. We put off our Grand Opening service until January. I think this plan is better than the original one. I can't say I'm thankful that we had such a low turnout for our second Alpha event, but I am thankful that we were

**"My hope for our Presbytery is we can enter into a learning phase about Presbyfest. What has the cancellation of Presbyfest caused us to learn? How will these conclusions change the Presbytery's programming and the way we program in the future?"**

**-Paul Moore.**

## Presbyfest, Continued

### School - Church Bus Free to Good Home



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able to learn from it and develop a stronger plan for our new church.

My hope for our Presbytery is we can enter into a learning phase about Presbyfest. What has the cancellation of Presbyfest caused us to learn? How will these conclusions change the Presbytery's programming and the way we program in the future?

It's bad enough to have to endure the cancellation of Presbyfest; it would be even worse if we don't learn and grow and become more effective as a Presbytery.

## ABC to televise special on people with disabilities

By **Melissa Dixon**

**NEW YORK** — Making faith communities more accessible to persons with disabilities is the topic of an interfaith documentary that will air on ABC-TV affiliates nationwide beginning December 6.

*A Place for All: Faith and Community for Persons with Disabilities* is presented by the [Interfaith Broadcasting Commission](#) (IBC), a coalition of Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic faith groups — including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — as part of ABC's 2009 Vision and Values series. The issue addressed by the program is critical, says the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, as it is estimated that 1 out of 5 Americans has a disability. In the documentary, Kinnamon notes that both the faith community and the persons with disabilities lose when special needs aren't properly addressed.

"There's no substitute for face-to-face faith interaction," Kinnamon reminds viewers, noting that of all the organizations in society faith groups should be at the forefront of facilitating the full participation of those with disabilities in every aspect of community life. Other faith leaders featured in the program are Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, executive vice

president of the New York Board of Rabbis; Bishop Peggy Johnson of the United Methodist Church; Ingrid Mattson, President of the Islamic Society of North America; the Rev. Bill Gaventa, director of community and congregational support at The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Others interviewed include the Rev. Bill Bixby, director of youth ministry for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Imam Mohamed Magid, executive director for the All Dulles Area Muslim Society; and Rabbi Robert Levine, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, New York.

The documentary also features Rabbi Darby Leigh, spiritual leader of Congregation Bnai Keshet in New Jersey and one of the handful of deaf rabbis in the world; members of the ELCA's DAYLE program where Definitely Abled Youth gather at the 40,000 strong triennial Evangelical Lutheran youth gathering; Pastor Beth Lockard of Christ the King Deaf Church; and Brandon Kaplan, a severely disabled boy with limited sight and speech who recently had the privilege of becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

The documentary is produced by *Debra Gonsler Vinik*. Check local listings for telecast date and time in your area. A trailer can be

## Your Skills Are Needed!

### By Paul Sanders

Planning for the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is gaining momentum. GA is meeting July 3-10, 2010 at the Minneapolis Convention Center and we expect 8,000 people to attend some part of it. The presbyteries of Northern Waters and Minnesota Valleys are joining with us as hosts. To plan and carry out such an event will require many willing workers. The Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA) has organized into five major committees and 22 work groups.

We are now at the place where we need folks to fill out these committees and work groups. We hope you will be one of them. To volunteer, please contact COLA Executive Coordinator Paula Sanders, 612-839-7465, [paula.sanders@pcusa.org](mailto:paula.sanders@pcusa.org). Here is a listing of committees, workgroups and their leaders:

#### Worship Committee – Ann Foote, Plymouth

- Opening Worship – Alike Galloway, Kwanzaa; Tim Hart-Andersen, Westminster
- Daily Worship – Barbara Anne Keely, United Theological Seminary
- Liturgical Space – Ward Sessing, Presbyterian Church of the Way
- Prayer Chapel – Rebecca Fletcher, White Bear Lake

#### Special Events Committee

- Moderator's Reception – Holly Holmes & Sue Payne, Plymouth
- YAAD Event – Meghan Gage-Finn, Westminster
- Mission & Cultural Tours – Caroline Wanga, Kwanzaa
- Gift Project – Ann Rock & Jane Hallman, Presbyterian Women

#### Hospitality Committee – Margaret Thomas, Westminster

- Airport Welcome – Ed Martin, Westminster
- Hotel Welcome – Barb Day & Sue Goodspeed, Lake Nokomis
- Convention Center – Meg Newswanger, Maple Plain
- Special Guests – Bill Young, Frontier Fellowship
- Special Needs – Linda Wold & Joanne Shingledecker, Presbyterian Church of the Way

- Departure Arrangements – John Silliman, North Como

#### Media & Communications Committee – Margo Abramson, Christ Presbyterian

- GA Welcome Presentation
- Press Relations – Sandy Sweep, Church of the Apostles
- Church & Governing Body Communications
- Website – Susan Dray, Westminster & Vince Gin, Hudson
- Information Center – Stephanie Anthony, Hudson

#### Volunteer Committee – Jack Hougen, Hope

- Volunteer Recruitment & Training – Lisa Meyer, White Bear Lake; Deborah Isabelle, Kwanzaa
- Volunteer Hospitality – Mary Anne Bennett, Church of the Apostles
- Congregational Contacts – Cindy Ray, Presbyterian Homes

*Paula Sanders is the Executive Coordinator for the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.*



## Christmas Open House

You are all invited to attend the 2nd Annual

Christmas Open House at the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area offices on December 15 from 2-4pm. Please feel free to stop by and say hello!

We are located at 122 W. Franklin Ave. Suite 508 in Minneapolis.

## What Does Evangelism Look Like Now?



**By Matt Johnson**

*The following is the pastor's column written by Matt Johnson, pastor of Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. It has been adapted for Presbytery use.*

It's no longer shocking for us to hear that our world is changing. Finances, technology, food production techniques, news/information, politics—all these things are in a constant state of flux. Big deal, right? God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Yet in the midst of rapid cultural change, we're entering a point in history where the Church's approach to evangelism is also in need of change. We are compelled to embody the eternal truth of God's Good News *today*, which means asking the question, "What does faithful evangelism look like now?"

Consider the fact that there are literally millions and millions of people in North America who are growing up without the experience of Christian worship and the story of Scripture that once could be taken for granted. How can congregations in the Twin Cities area build meaningful relationships with these people whom God loves? For those who have become adults without such experience, most evangelistic "techniques" simply fall flat.

One point that I think is particularly important is that these techniques can actually do damage. Here's how: In my high-school and college years, I was taught evangelistic techniques that explained the process of justification (the mechanics of salvation by faith). I was taught how to explain the various parts of a statement like, "If you believe in Jesus and accept him in your heart, then God will forgive you of every wrong thing you have done because Jesus died on the cross and absorbed all the wrongdoing into himself." Sounds good enough, right? But from a big-picture perspective this statement misses a huge piece of the gospel. In the interest of keeping faith and works in their proper order, it emphasizes "being saved," and de-emphasizes the life of faith in Christ. I consider this a partial

gospel, a "ticket-to-heaven" gospel. Those who receive that partial gospel often reject it (and rightly so), or accept it but are then malformed in their faith.

"Malformed" might seem like a strong word. But the true picture of salvation in Christ leads us to reject all other relationships and sources of security, accept our place in the body of Christ (Christian community), and reorient our whole lives so we can join in the mission of God to bring blessing to the whole world. Without those pieces, a person doesn't really know what they're signing up for.

As a result, people who haven't grown up with the church need to see us *being the church in our everyday lives*. They must witness the story of Jesus in our actions before they will care about the story of Jesus in our words. When they will not come to our worship services and programs (no matter how high-tech or thoughtful) we must create space in our lives to meet them and be with them in the normal rhythms of life. May God so empower us to be his missionary people in our own back-yards, schools, sidewalks, and work-places.

**"We are compelled to embody the eternal truth of God's Good News today, which means asking the question, 'What does faithful evangelism look like now?'"**

**-Rev. Matt Johnson.**

## Why College ministry should address 'hookup culture'



**"You go to the club and get very, very drunk. That way you don't have to claim responsibility...a relationship with this person."**

**-Rev. Heather Godsey speaking at the Collegiate Ministries Conference for Synod of Lakes and Prairies.**

**By Duane Sweep**

The topic of sex may be popular among students on college campuses, but it isn't necessarily a topic found in collegiate ministry settings.

But the Rev. Heather Godsey believes the topics of sex, sexuality and spirituality need to be a part of collegiate ministry.

Godsey spoke in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Nov. 10 at the Synod of Lakes and Prairies' second Collegiate Ministries Conference, "Making Connections in Times of Change."

An ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a program director for the Wesley Foundation at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Godsey said the results of college life and its "hookup culture" make the need for discussions of sex and sexuality all the more great.

The "hookup culture" involves more than having connections to get tickets to the best show in town. The "hookup culture" is one of casual sex or sex used to gain advantage, Godsey said.

"You go to the club and get very, very drunk. That way you don't have to claim responsibility," she said, and the subsequent sexual encounter doesn't amount to "a relationship with this person."

Speaking of her own college experience, Godsey said, "Oh, my God, I lived that."

By her senior year Godsey suffered from depression and agoraphobia. She wanted to remove herself from all social situations. "I decided I was just going to write my papers and apply to graduate school," she said.

She had been using the "hookup culture" to provide a sense of "power" to her on campus. What she later learned in seminary was that her "use of power was a cry for intimacy" that the "hookup culture" didn't provide.

Failure to make sexuality a part of the spirituality discussion in campus ministry can inhibit the development of relationship skills among college students, she said.

"We don't necessarily address these issues as a Christian community," Godsey said. However, she's doing her best to be a springboard for the

discussion.

In February 2010 Chalice Press will publish a book, co-edited by Godsey and the Rev. Lara Blackwood Pickrel, titled "[Oh God! Oh God! Oh God!: Young Adults Speak out about Sexuality and Christian Spirituality.](#)"

The publisher's promotional material notes that the book "addresses issues of love, sexuality and embodiment from the perspectives of young adults who work for or are involved with the church." The book, according to the publisher, also examines the "history of the church's struggle with human sexuality from a fresh perspective."

Godsey provided several keys to opening the discussion of human sexuality and Christian spirituality.

She said, "Jesus was a body – not only divinity but humanity too." And she pointed out that "bodies are created good; the shame came with the fall." Godsey, too, said there is "sexuality in all God created. It is a part of what God has given us."

Using the Latin phrase *Imago Dei*, the concept that human beings are created God's image, Godsey said, "If I have to look at you as a child of God, I'm less likely to use you."

In the forthcoming book, Godsey's essay, "Hook up Jesus: Spirituality and Collegiate Sexuality," the relevance of being created in the image of God, sexuality in God's creation, and Jesus' humanity are "anchor points from which to begin building a Christian collegiate sexual ethic that can successfully repudiate hookup culture without forcing students into an untenable purity paradigm."

*Duane Sweep is the Associate for Communications of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and is a member of Presbyterian Church of the Apostles in Burnsville.*

## Transitions: Notes About PTCA Pastors



Ordination Anniversaries

December 2009

- William Day (12/02/04)
- Jean Daugherty (12/03/82)
- Joy Smith (12/05/93)
- Julie Mall (12/08/93)
- Thomas Watson (12/08/96)
- James Sanders (12/09/79)
- Aron W. Wilterding (12/11/77)
- Kook Jin Nam (12/13/06)
- Stephen Muhia (12/16/98)
- Stanley Martin (12/26/93)
- Glenn Pozine (12/28/58)
  
- Calvin Cooper (12/29/74)
- David Hopper (12/29/61)

### Comings and Goings

- Please remember **T. Ewen Holmes**, pastor of **Plymouth Presbyterian Church in Plymouth**, whose father passed away in December after a long illness.
- **John Crosby**, Senior Pastor of **Christ Presbyterian in Edina** recently celebrated his 20th year as the pastor of the suburban congregation.
- **Tom Forester-Smith** is concluding a sabbatical that took him to Europe and Africa. An Associate Pastor at **House of Hope in St. Paul**, Tom's journeys included Croatia and South Africa.
- We remember **Tim Held**, Stated Supply at **Warrendale Presbyterian in St. Paul** and his wife, **Lucy**, as she deals with a recurrence of cancer.
- We remember **Joe Kammel**, a Commissioned Lay Pastor at **Knox Presbyterian** in Minneapolis who recently lost his father.
- **Heidi Vardeman**, the Senior Pastor at **Macalester Plymouth United Church in St. Paul** is currently on sabbatical in China.
- **Kim Goodman**, a chaplain at **United Hospital in St. Paul** is part of a vocal group called InVocation that will have its Advent Concerts at two PTCA churches this month: **First Presbyterian Church** in Hastings on December 5 and **Macalester Plymouth Church** on December 11. You can find out more about InVocation by going to [www.invocationsingers.org](http://www.invocationsingers.org).
- **Robert Hamilton** was approved by the Presbytery to become the next pastor of **First Presbyterian Church of Claremont, MN** at the November 2009 Presbytery Meeting.
- **Bev Modlin**, currently the pastor of **First Presbyterian Church in Shakopee** will also be the moderator of session for **Presbyterian Church of LeSeur**.
- We give thanks for the life of **Donald McNair**, who died on December 2 from complications of Parkinson's Disease. He was 60. He was most recently the pastor at **Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian in Minneapolis**. A memorial service will be held on December 7.

## GAPJC issues technical rulings in closely-watched cases



Paul Capetz.

**“If there is any question about Capetz’ conduct, including whether he has led a life in obedience to Scripture and in compliance with the historic confessional standards of the church...he, like any other officer of the church, may be held accountable for his conduct under the Rules of Discipline.”**

**The General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission.**

by **Jerry L. Van Marter**

Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — the highest court in the church — has issued two technical rulings that leave unresolved the extent to which conscientious objection to the church’s sexual conduct standards may disqualify candidates for ordination.

The Nov. 2 rulings involve Lisa Larges, a lesbian candidate for the ministry in San Francisco Presbytery, and the Rev. Paul Capetz, a gay theology professor in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area who set aside his ordination in 2000 and then sought reinstatement in 2007.

The rulings effectively allow San Francisco Presbytery to proceed to examine Larges for possible ordination and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area to restore Capetz to ordained ministry in the PC(USA).

Larges and Capetz both relied on an authoritative interpretation of G-6.0108a of the Book of Order issued by the 2006 General Assembly. As part of its approval of the report from the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the church, the interpretation allows candidates for ordination and installation as church officers to declare a “scruple” or conscientious objection to any provision of the church’s Constitution.

It is then up to the ordaining body to determine whether the scruple is a sufficient enough departure from the essentials of the Reformed faith to be disqualifying.

Though it applies to any constitutional provision, the declaring of scruples has so far only been utilized in objection to G-6.0106b, which requires of church officers “fidelity within the covenant of marriage or chastity in singleness.”

Larges, who has been a candidate for the ministry for more than 20 years, was certified by San Francisco Presbytery as “ready for examination with a departure [scruple]” on Jan. 15, 2008 by a vote of 167-151.

Three minister members of the presbytery filed a remedial complaint with the Synod of the Pacific PJC, alleging that the presbytery’s actions and those of its Committee on Preparation for Ministry were improper. They sought to have the presbytery’s vote voided and Larges removed from the presbytery’s roll of candidates.

The synod PJC agreed that the presbytery had erred by addressing the scruple prematurely — during the certification for readiness rather than during a subsequent examination for ordination — and voided the January 2008 vote. It refused to instruct the presbytery to remove Larges from the roll of candidates.

The three San Francisco Presbytery complainants appealed that ruling, telling the court that “the burning question to which the church needs a clear answer” is whether scrupling allows a presbytery to “waive” constitutional ordination standards.

The court didn’t address that question, instead affirming the synod PJC’s ruling that the proper time for a presbytery to consider a scruple and whether it is disqualifying is during the examination for ordination, not during the CPM’s certification for readiness stage of the process.

Larges is scheduled to be examined for ordination by San Francisco Presbytery on Nov. 10.

*At that time, the court ruled, the presbytery is required “to determine whether the Candidate has expressed an interpretation of Scripture that represents a serious departure from essentials of Reformed faith and polity, and if it determines that she has, it must then decide whether the departure infringes on the* **Continued on Page 19**



## Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

**Achtemeier charts spiritual journey on homosexuality at Covenant Network gathering:** Mark Achtemeier, a Presbyterian evangelical theological professor, shared his journey from seeing homosexuality as a "a kind of destructive addiction" to a person that sees the Holy Spirit seeing the church move to "a new and better place," at a recent gathering of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. You can read the entire story by going to: <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09970.htm> .

-Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

**Faith in the future:** The downturn in the national economy coupled with the collapse of the American auto industry has made the state of Michigan and economic disaster area. Flint, Michigan has been hard hit especially, with more and more jobs going away. First Presbyterian Church in Flint, has found a way to be a faithful witness in Flint and bring hope in a town where hope seems distant. You read it by going to: <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09992.htm> .

Presbyterian News Service

**Jin S. Kim Participates in Multicultural Ministry Institute:** The Erdman Center, Princeton Theological Seminary's Center of Continuing Education, in collaboration with The Hispanic Leadership Program, has slated the Institute for Multicultural Ministry Monday through Friday, Jan. 11-15. The Rev. Jin Kim, pastor of [Church of All Nations](#) in Columbia Heights, Minn., will be one of the institute's leaders. Promotional material for the institute states, " In a post-modern, post-ideological, post-denominational, multicultural age often marked by uprootedness and loss of meaning, how do we "do church" in a way that testifies to the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ? In an individualistic culture that tends toward alienation and isolation, how do we lead our congregations to become high-risk, low-anxiety churches, to lead God's people to confess who they are, to experience healing in intimate community, and to be a witness to the liberating power of the Spirit?" Details are available at the Institute for Multicultural Ministry (<http://www3.ptsem.edu/Offices/ConEd/index.aspx?id=2826>) .

Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

**Project Overture:** The 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) doesn't convene in Minneapolis until July 3, 2010. While this may seem a long way off, ask anyone who has ever put together a large gathering and opening day sometimes seems a mere 10 minutes away. Along with national level planning, there is also General Assembly planning at the local level. This planning includes the development and submission of overtures to the General Assembly. Through a series of upcoming articles, Presbyterian News Service will track a selected overture from inception in a local governing body (session or presbytery) to action on the floor of next summer's 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09958.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09958.htm).

Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

**National Council of Churches Meets in Minneapolis:** The annual General Assembly of the National Council of Churches USA (NCC) and Church World Service (CWS) commenced Nov. 10 amid sober assessments of national and world conditions and calls for renewal of the churches' historic commitment to unity.

Twenty-eight of the General Assembly's 35 member communions had registered delegations, said NCC President-elect Peg Chamberlin, who will be installed Nov. 12 as NCC president for a two-year term. Chamberlain is executive director of the Minnesota Council of Churches. You can read the full story at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09976.htm> .

-Phil Jenks, NCC

**"For Such a Time as This:"** In a proactive response to both the changing landscape of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in which half of the denomination's nearly 11,000 congregations have 100 or fewer members, and the challenge of calling leaders who will be effective in growing the church, the General Assembly Mission Council has launched "For Such a Time as This," an innovative pastoral residency program designed to serve underserved congregations and develop missional pastors. Named for a reference from the book of Esther, *the program* seeks to pair small, underserved rural or urban congregations with recent seminary graduates in a two-year pastoral residency relationship. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/gamc09046.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/gamc09046.htm).

by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

**Oak Grove Presbyterian Honored:** The Bloomington, MN congregation will be honored on December 7 with the 2009 Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award by the Bloomington City Council. In a letter of recommendation by the city's Human Rights Commission Oak Grove was described as "an outstanding community organization with a long history of working with community partners to improve the lives of the diverse residents of Bloomington." Associate Pastor Dries Coetzee thanked the congregation for all their hard work. "I want to thank you for your support as you made this milestone happen for Oak Grove," he wrote in the December church newsletter. "As a church we are humbled by this award, as the work we do is mostly collaborative in



## Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

nature and we are very thankful to all our partners in our pursuit of justice and freedom for all. Congratulations to all members of Oak Grove and thank you!

*By Dennis Sanders, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area*

**New Fire @ CAN:** Young Adults from around the nation came to Minneapolis to take part in New Fire, an ecumenical initiative started by the National Council of Churches. Nearly 40 people took part in the event and many of the interns from Church of All Nations Presbyterian Columbia Heights took part. The New Fire Participants worshipped at the multicultural congregation. The meeting took place November 7-9 before the national meeting of the National Council of Churches in Minneapolis.

*By Dennis Sanders, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area*

**Stewardship Conferences in 2010:** Two stewardship events are scheduled for spring 2010 in Indianapolis, Ind. The Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference (<http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org/>), is slated March 15-17 and will include numerous workshops on congregational stewardship. The other conference, the North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy (<http://www.stewardshipresources.org/>), runs April 14-16. Speakers will include John Wimmer of the Lilly Endowment and Una Olisi, director of research from the Indiana University Center of Philanthropy.

*by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies*

**Scholarships Available for First Year Students:** The [National Presbyterian College Scholarship Program](http://www.pcusa.org/financialaid/programs/natpresbycollege.htm) (<http://www.pcusa.org/financialaid/programs/natpresbycollege.htm>), administered through [Financial Aid for Studies](#), a ministry of the [Office of Vocation](#), offers need-based scholarship assistance to full-time students entering their first year of college at one of the [participating colleges](#) related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Applicants must be confirmed members of the PC(USA) and carry a 3.0 cumulative high school grade point average. Applications for the 2010-11 academic year are due Jan. 31.

*by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies*

**FTE Fellowships Available:** The Fund for Theological Education has announced that it will provide \$1.5 million for the 2010-11 academic year to theological students across the United States and Canada who aspire to be pastoral leaders and professors. The fellowships support students who are preparing for pastoral ministry and doctoral students from underrepresented racial ethnic groups who plan to teach religion, theology or biblical studies. The

complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09975.htm>.

*by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies*

### Senior Presbyterian Chaplain Addresses Fort Hood Tragedy:

A top-ranking retired Presbyterian military chaplain wrote earlier this month to the head of the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel in the wake of the horrific mass killings at Fort Hood, Texas, rejecting "the natural and immediate response of retribution." Instead, said Brigadier General (Ret.) Wayne H. Hoffman in his letter to PCCMP director, the Rev. Ed Brogan, "the challenge is to respond as shepherds of a flock that has been raided, wounded, and some of them killed." The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09962.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09962.htm).

*by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies*

## MISSION EXPERIENCE: Meeting Our Sisters In South Dakota



A group of Presbyterian women will travel to South Dakota in 2010 for a second USA Mission Experience. Participants will encounter challenges to God's promise of a beloved community and witness to the faithful work being done by our Native American sisters.

PW's 2010 USA Mission Experience will provide the opportunity to meet with Presbyterian sisters living on reservations in Sisseton, Flandreau, Chamberlain and Pine Ridge, South Dakota. We will hear their stories, learn more about significant events in their history and build relationships.

Our journey will begin in Sioux Falls on September 9 and will end in Rapid City on September 16.

Cost for the trip is \$1600. not including travel to and from South Dakota. Each participant is responsible for her costs, but it is hoped, synods, Presbyteries, congregations will offer financial assistance to their participants.

January 15, 2010, is the deadline for applicants to send applications to PW Synod moderators. More information and applications will be available on the PW web site ([www.pcusa.org/pw](http://www.pcusa.org/pw)).

-Heide Buettner, Roselyn Peterson Co-Moderators

## News from the Board of Pensions

By Doug Kelly

### Communications Regarding Medical Plan Changes Continue

The modifications being made to the Medical Plan were first reported in the summer 2009 issue of [The Board Bulletin](#). In addition to an email announcement, the Board has developed several communication tools to help Plan members understand the changes:

- [Medical Plan Changes mailing](#)
- [2010 Medical Plan at a Glance flyer](#)
- [Medical Plan Changes for Active Benefits Plan Members e-learning module](#)
- [Medicare Supplement Program Changes for Retired Benefits Plan Members e-learning module](#)
- [Medical Plan Changes E-learning Modules Spotlight On article](#)

The modifications to the Plan include:

- Changes to deductibles and out-of-pocket costs (effective January 1, 2010)
- A new health management service provider (effective January 1, 2010)
- Expanded coverage for children with congenital developmental disabilities (effective January 1, 2010)
- An increase in the maximum lifetime benefit (effective January 1, 2010)
- Dependent coverage waiver option available (effective October 1, 2009)

Details about these changes will continue to be emailed, mailed, and posted to [Pensions.org](#) over the coming months. If you have questions about the changes, please contact the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

### Attention Church Treasurers and Business Administrators: Salary Change Form to Come Online!

We are pleased to announce that church treasurers and business administrators will be able to submit their 2010 salary changes online. This new feature will be accessible through Benefit Connect, the Board's secure benefits Web site. Once a church treasurer or business administrator registers on Benefits Connect, he or she will be granted access to this new feature. Changing or confirming salaries will be completed through an easy-to-follow online process. Church treasurers and business administrators will receive more information in the coming months.

### Christmas Joy Offering Begins

The time of year has arrived when we begin to think about the Advent and Christmas seasons and consider our donations to the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering provides a wonderful opportunity for you to support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education.

You may provide your contribution through gifts to your congregation's offering or, if this is not convenient, you may [give online](#). For additional information about the Christmas Joy Offering, including an educational video, please visit the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)'s Web site](#).

### Open Enrollment for Optional Dental and Supplemental Death Benefits

This year's open enrollment period for Optional Dental and Supplemental Death Benefits began on October 5 and will run through November 20, 2009.

There are no rate changes for either program for 2010. For program details, please visit the [Optional Dental Program](#) page and the [Supplemental Death Benefits Program](#) page.

This year, Pensions.org will also serve as a central repository for all of the required enrollment forms and information, so look for the materials online.

### Access to Your Benefits Information Online through Benefits Connect

Active and retired members and surviving spouses have access to [Benefits Connect](#), the Board's secure Web site that provides online access to their personal and Plan benefits information, as well as useful tools. To register, visit the Board's Web site at [Pensions.org](#) and select "Register" under the Benefits Connect logo. If you have questions, you may complete the [Contact Us](#) form or call us at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

*Doug Kelly is the Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions. He can be reached by phone at (800) 511-0132 or by email at [dkelly@pensions.org](mailto:dkelly@pensions.org).*



### Give to the Christmas Joy Offering

For decades, Presbyterians have long given an offering at Christmas in celebration of God's love shown in the gift of Jesus. The offering supports students at the church's historic racial ethnic schools who are listening for God's call, and the Board of Pensions' assistance programs that meet unexpected financial needs of those who have spent their lives following that call. A new video, "What Child Is This," highlights this year's theme. The video and other free resources can be found at the PC(USA) website by going to [www.pcusa.org/cjoffering/](http://www.pcusa.org/cjoffering/).

### Youth Triennium 2010



"For Such a Time as This" is the theme for the 2010 Youth Triennium at Purdue University, July 20-24, 2010. You can go to the Youth Triennium website

([www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)) to find out about this gathering of Presbyterian Youth and as well as how to promote it in your congregation. Please share this with parents of teens and your youth leader!

## Chain of Lakes Needs Chairs!



Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church, a new church development of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, is asking Presbyterian churches in our Presbytery to consider purchasing one (or more) chairs for the start of the regular worship services on January 31. Chain of Lakes is looking to buy 75 chairs for worship and with your help, they can make their goal.

Would you consider purchasing chairs for Chain of Lake's new worship space? The chairs cost \$36.99. Please call 651-528-7321 for details or send a check to Chain of Lakes' office address:

**Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church**  
**6776 Lake Drive, Suite 225**  
**Lino Lakes, MN 55014**

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. As always, please also keep the ministry and mission of Chain of Lakes Church in your prayers.

## Positions Available

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

- Accompanist, Chain of Lakes Presbyterian, Lino Lakes
- Custodian, North Como Presbyterian, Roseville
- Christian Education/Youth Coordinator, First Presbyterian Church, Red Wing
- Choir Director, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Director of Children's Ministries, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Interim Pastor, Church of the Master Presbyterian Church, Coon Rapids
- Pastor, Zion United Church of Christ, LeSeur

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

The following PTCA Congregations are have vacant pulpits according to the Committee on Ministry:

- Korean Presbyterian Church of Minnesota, Brooklyn Center– Associate Pastor
- Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Buffalo– Pastor
- Presbyterian Church of LeSeur, LeSeur– Pastor
- First Presbyterian Church, Rochester– Pastor

*To find out about the status of these congregations, please contact the Committee on Ministry at [com@ptcaweb.org](mailto:com@ptcaweb.org).*

## Events Calendar

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

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

### Advent Worship at Lake Nokomis

#### Advent Quiet Thursdays, December 3rd &

**10th:** A pocket of peace in the crazy Christmas season. Sanctuary open from 6:30-9:00 pm for private reflection, with labyrinth, prayer stations, candles & calm. Brief prayer service at 7:15.

#### Blue Christmas Service, December 17, 6:30

**pm:** A worship service of solidarity, honesty and hope... for those walking through the holidays with grief and loss. Sanctuary open following the service for private reflection until 9pm.

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church  
1620 East 46th Street • South Minneapolis  
[www.lakenokomispc.org](http://www.lakenokomispc.org) • 612-721-4463

### Christmas Trees for sale at Valley Presbyterian

The Minnesota council of Churches is inviting the public to the closing event of the National Council of Churches/Church World Service General Assembly at which the Rev. Peg Chamberlin, MCC executive director, will be installed as the NCC's 25th president. The event takes place Thursday, Nov. 12, with a banquet at 5 p.m. in St. Louis Park, Minn., and worship at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove St., Minneapolis. Additional information is available at the MCC Web site, [www.mnchurches.org](http://www.mnchurches.org).

### "Bring Us Fire, Bring Us Light"

[First Presbyterian Church](#), 602 Vermillion Street, Hastings, MN proudly presents [InVocation Singers](#) for the first of its Fourth Annual Christmas concert series, "Bring Us Fire, Bring Us Light," Saturday December 6th at 7:00 p.m.

The music of this program sparkles; it glimmers; it shines; it glows. We're exploring aspects of light this Christmas season, from the brilliant rays in the first Christmas sky to the beckoning twinkle of the Epiphany star, from the sparkle of the moon on snow to the candlelit warmth of celebration.

Old favorites will be sung — hymns, carols, Tchesnekoff, Rutter, Praetorius and Bach.

The concert will also find brilliance in perhaps less familiar places — the music of Hungary, Mexico, the Philippines, and (in the title piece) Latvia:

*Bring us fire, bring us light! Let God into your heart!*

*Riding onward, clothed in silver, over the hillside God is come.*

Admission is free, but a free will offering will benefit [House of Charity](#). Refreshments provided after the concert.

### Alternative Gift Giving Market at Cherokee Park

Gifts Encircling the World: A Justice Oriented Holiday Market, Saturday, December 5, 2009 from 11am-3pm at Cherokee Park United Church in St. Paul.

Come shop for gifts that enrich the lives of people around the earth. Purchase fair-trade goods and items that promote peace and justice.

Make donations to global-aid and eco-friendly organizations as holiday gifts for your friends and family. Add to the meaning and impact of your giving this year!

Returning organizations:

- 50 Lanterns Project • Common Hope
- Turkish Scarves Project • West Side Youth Farm

New organizations:

- Pan Dau Hmong Handwork • Fry Bread Love
- Friends of the Mississippi, BE YA GI (Fair Trade Products) • I Love a Parade • Habitat for Humanity

Please bring checks and cash. No credit card-accepted. Refreshments available at nominal cost.

Cherokee Park is located at 371 W. Baker Street in St. Paul.



## Events Calendar

**Office Hours @  
the Presbytery  
Office**

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

**Per Capita  
for 2010:**

**General Assembly:  
\$6.15**

**Synod: \$4.80**

**Presbytery: \$19.06**

**Total=**

**\$30.01**

### Help the Homeless Help Themselves

*Ending homelessness, one person at a time*  
Project Homeless Connect  
Monday, December 7, 2009, 10:30 am – 4:00 pm  
(volunteers arrive 9:00 am)  
Minneapolis Convention Center

Project Homeless Connect is a one-stop shop model for delivering services to people experiencing homelessness. Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis are partnering with service providers, businesses, citizens, and faith communities to bring multiple resources to one location where people can come to find the services they need. These services include: housing providers, employment specialists, medical care, mental health care, benefits specialists, eye care, haircuts, transportation assistance, food and clothing.

About 2500 participants expected for this event, which means at least 1400 volunteers are needed to make the day successful. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Volunteers accompany guests as they make their way through the convention center seeking the services they need. The hospitality provided to each participant makes it a special day for volunteers and the homeless alike.

Before the event, all volunteers attend a 90 minute fun and interesting training program. You will understand the event and what you will be doing very clearly. One of the trainings is at the Ridgedale Library on Dec 2 at 7:00 pm and there are a number of others.

To get more information and to register to volunteer, go to [www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org](http://www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org). This website also has all the training times.

### Pastors' Social Media Boot Camp

December 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Solomon's Porch, 100 W 46th St., Minneapolis. The advent of social media has the ability to transform ministry. Social media veterans and pastors, Doug Pagitt and Tony Jones, will teach you the basics of blogging, Facebook and Twitter, and introduce you to a powerful social media browser called Flock. Cost: \$95 (lunch included). For more information and to register go to [www.jobaproductions.com/events/bootcamp](http://www.jobaproductions.com/events/bootcamp).

### Blue Christmas Service At South Saint Paul

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities.

[First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul](#) is trying to provide a sensitivity and attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas by creating a sacred space for members of the congregation and community who are living through dark times.

At 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 20, the First South St. Paul will have a special worship service designed around these themes. Often such services are held on the longest night of the year, which falls on or about December 21, the Winter Solstice, to signify the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss. This service will be more reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

First Presbyterian is located at 535 20th Avenue North in South St. Paul. For more information, please contact the church at 651-451-6223 or [admin@fpcssp.org](mailto:admin@fpcssp.org).

### Roseville-Area Church Needs Volunteers for Project Home

Galilee Lutheran Church in Roseville, the second overflow shelter site for Project Home in December, is a small congregation in dire need of volunteer help. To be precise, we still need 27 Evening Shift Volunteers and 36 Overnight Volunteers! The Evening Shift at Galilee is from 5:30pm to 8:30pm and the Overnight Shift is from 8pm to 7:30am (weekdays) and 9:30am (weekends).

This beautiful little church located at 145 McCarrons Blvd. North in Roseville (on the NW corner of Rice and McCarrons). Galilee Lutheran offers guests the privacy of their Sunday School classrooms downstairs for sleeping and a wonderful play room/family room space upstairs.

## Capetz, Continued

### Holiday Office Hours

The  
Presbytery  
Office will be  
closed from  
December  
24, 2009 to  
January 1,  
2010. We will  
reopen on  
Monday,  
January 4,  
2010.

rights and views of others or obstructs the constitutional governance of the church.”

For the second time, the GAPJC ruled that the Presbytery of Twin Cities Area did not err when it voted to restore Capetz’ ordination in January 2008. A professor at United Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Capetz had set aside his ordination in 2000, four years after the PC(USA) added the commonly-called “fidelity and chastity” provision to the Book of Order. But when scrupling was reinstated in 2006, he sought restoration to ordained ministry, also declaring conscientious objection to G-6.0106b. In a related March 2009 decision that affirmed the presbytery’s decision, the GAPJC also ruled that the Synod of Lakes and Prairies PJC must conduct a trial to determine if the presbytery had in effect waived an ordination requirement.

That trial was held on May 12, 2009, and the synod PJC ruled that the presbytery acted properly, adding that it “took extraordinary care to make it clear that their decision applied only to the current expression of [Capetz’] departure and was not making policy or setting precedent...”

Capetz has repeatedly said he will not “take a vow of celibacy.” The GAPJC said that a remedial case (alleging faulty process by governing bodies) is not the appropriate way to address an ordained person’s alleged misconduct.

“If there is any question about Capetz’ conduct, including whether he has led a life in obedience to Scripture and in compliance with the historic confessional standards of the church,” the court said, “he, like any other officer of the church, may be held accountable for his conduct under the Rules of Discipline.”

## Events, Continued

All volunteer shift openings at Galilee are at the Presbytery website ([www.ptcaweb.org](http://www.ptcaweb.org)) . **If you can help on any of these days**, please call June at (651) 253-0375 OR Christena at (651) 785-8730 OR you can send an email to them at [archergirl2003@yahoo.com](mailto:archergirl2003@yahoo.com).

### Workshop on Suicide and Suicide Prevention

The Disability Concerns Taskforce of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is sponsoring a half-day event on suicide and the church’s response. Under the theme “Suicide and the Church’s Ministry” the workshop is designed to help church people answer their questions about suicide, recognize warning signs, and minister to those who are coping with loss. All concerned persons are invited. It will be especially helpful for clergy and parish visitors.

The workshop takes place Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 8:30am to Noon at Valley Presbyterian Church, 3100 Lilac Drive in Golden Valley, MN. For more information or to register, please contact Bebe Baldwin at [randbonmarquette@hotmail.com](mailto:randbonmarquette@hotmail.com).

### In the Footsteps of Paul: Greece and Turkey May 10-21, 2010

Rev. Deb Kielsmeier of Christ Presbyterian Church invites you to join her on a pilgrimage to the biblical lands of Greece and Turkey. Hosted by New Testament scholar, Dr. Steven Notley, this program centers upon the outreach of the Gospel as it penetrated into the Greco-Roman world. The group will retrace the ministry of the Apostles Paul and John looking at the historical, cultural and archaeological settings that assist us to better appreciate their writings and the Early Church’s cross-cultural ministry into these lands. With the Bible as our guide and the land as our classroom, our aim is to search the Scriptures, break bread together and fellowship in travel. Join us for a remarkable pilgrimage of fellowship and learning. For more information, please contact **Rev. Deb Kielsmeier** (952) 920-8515 or [debk@cpconline.org](mailto:debk@cpconline.org).



"EMerge:Monthly," is a 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: Thursdays. Next Deadline: Close of Business (4:30pm) Thursday, December 17.

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## Presbytery Calendar, December 2009

### Thursday December 3, 2009

Nominating Committee : 6:30-8:30PM (Minnesota Church Center, Minneapolis)

### Saturday December 5, 2009

Disabilities Concerns Taskforce: 9:30am - 11:30am, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

### Tuesday December 8, 2009

Presbytery Council: 5pm - 7pm , Eagle Crest

### Tuesday December 15, 2009

Presbytery Christmas Open House : 2-4 PM, PTCA Presbytery Office, Minneapolis

### Wednesday December 16, 2009

Kwanzaa Comm. Task Force: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Kwanzaa Presbyterian, Minneapolis

### Thursday December 17, 2009

Commissioned Lay Pastors Committee: 9:30 AM-11:30 AM Minnesota Church Center, Minneapolis  
Church Development Team: 12:30 PM-2:00 PM  
(Contact Office for location)

### Monday December 21, 2009

Committee on Ministry , 5pm - 7:30pm , Hope Presbyterian Church, Richfield

### Tuesday December 22, 2009

Advocates for Integrity in Ministry:6:30 PM-8:00 PM, Mac-Plymouth, St. Paul

### Thursday-Friday December 24-25, 2009

PTCA Office Closed for Christmas

*The Presbytery office will also be closed from Monday, December 28, 2009 to January 1, 2010.*

### Presbytery Staff

Chaz Ruark, Executive Presbyter: [ep@ptcaweb.org](mailto:ep@ptcaweb.org)

Nancy Gritman, Stated Clerk: [statedclerk@ptcaweb.org](mailto:statedclerk@ptcaweb.org)

Risa Anderson, Office Manager: [office@ptcaweb.org](mailto:office@ptcaweb.org)

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