



EMerge: Monthly



A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Volume Four, Issue Two

February 2010

....A Church is Born



A Banner for Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church, a new church development in the Lino Lakes area. The young congregation had its grand opening worship service on January 31 and Organizing Pastor Paul Moore shares his thoughts on the public launch of the Presbytery's newest congregation.

Photo courtesy of Chain of Lakes Church.

In this issue:

Lake Nokomis Transforms



North Como's Ministry of Song



Inside Note



**"If we don't give birth to new things, where are we headed? To extinction."
-Chaz Ruark**

On Sunday, January 31st I was privileged to be a part of the grand opening worship service for Chain of Lakes Church, PTCA's New Church Development north of St. Paul. It was a wonderful service, their facility, a community center in Lino Lakes, was filled to overflowing. Musicians from Valley Presbyterian Church provided a beautiful instrumental prelude and offertory, and representatives from many Presbyterian Church throughout PTCA were recognized and thanked for their attendance. Chain of Lakes Pastor Paul Moore delivered an excellent sermon and a true feeling of celebration was felt by all in attendance. Of course Chain of Lakes Church could not have made it this far without the support and prayers of all our member churches and clergy of PTCA. You should all take pride in the birth of a new congregation within our midst. One of the phrases that Paul used in his sermon went something like this; "If we don't give birth to new things, where are we headed? To extinction." There are all kinds of reasons why starting new churches is a difficult task that causes worry in the hearts of some, all kinds of reasons to "postpone" new churches until a "better time." But the fact is no perfect time exists, and to wait too long heads us down that road to extinction. Thanks to everyone in PTCA who has been involved with this new beginning, from those who gave substantial time and money to those who offered prayers. Our new child has arrived and we can be very proud. Paul has great excitement for his ministry and it is off to a terrific start. May God continue to bless us all, but especially our newest member; Chain of Lakes Church.

Chaz Ruark is the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

Readers are invited to submit photos inspired by the theme of this year's upcoming General Assembly: "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38). Photos will be judged on quality, originality and how well they capture the theme. Winning photographs will be published in the June/July issue.

How to Enter

Deadline: March 1, 2010

Format:

Email DIGITAL photo in your camera's highest resolution (Camera Raw, TIF or JPG format) to today@pcusa.org.

OR

Mail a sharp, professionally developed PRINT (4" x 6" or larger) to:

Presbyterians Today Photo Contest

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Only one photo per entrant, please. Photos must not have been previously published (in print or online). Entries must be accompanied by the photographer's name, address, email address, phone number and church membership.



Calling all photographers!

Presbyterians Today invites you to get out your camera and showcase your creativity!

Entry Deadline: March 1

Contents: February 2010



The 1990s saw a number of PTCA congregations close. At the same time, we are also seeing the birth of new congregations such as Kwanzaa in Minneapolis and Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights. In this issue we hear from Rev. Paul Moore, the Organizing Pastor of Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church about their Grand Opening Service on January 31.

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New Churches are fine and dandy, but what about existing congregations? How do they change? Pastor Kara Root shares the experience of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and how they are seeking to transform themselves and live into God's future.



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How does a church work for social justice? At North Como Presbyterian in Roseville, they decided to sing. We will learn about how the church helped give birth to a local community chorus that is making a difference here in Minnesota and around the world.

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Meet Your Minister Commissioners

By Dennis Sanders

Editor's Note: This month and next we will highlight the commissioners to the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) held this July in Minneapolis. This month we will showcase the Minister Commissioners and in March we will introduce the Elder Commissioners and the Young Adult Advisory Delegate.

Matthew Johnson

Pastor, Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis



Matthew Johnson came to us from Canada, an MDiv graduate of Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, and service as Children's Ministry Director at Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church. Thus he comes with fresh insights and questions that an outsider can offer to a conversation. He is concerned with the global church, and under his leadership Aldrich has participated with Familia de Fe in a bi-lingual Vacation Bible School.

Aldrich is also working with Church of All Nations to encourage a more multi-cultural congregation. In the PTCA he serves on the Mission & Witness Committee. He sees being a commissioner as a path to encouraging greater involvement of a local congregation in the larger church.

Jin S. Kim

Pastor, Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church, Columbia Heights



Jin S. Kim is currently Moderator of the PTCA, having served on Council since 2004. He serves on the boards of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, Greater MN Association of Evangelicals, Synod Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry, National Korean Presbyterian Caucus. He was a PCUSA delegate to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

He has lectured at seminaries in the USA and in a number of other countries, giving him a global perspective. He has a particular passion for new church development, leadership development, multicultural ministry, and a commitment to ecumenism and the visible unity of the church informed by our Reformed tradition. He counsels a pastoral approach to conflicts within or between congregations.

Gale Robb

Interim Associate Pastor, House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul



Gale W. Robb has been an Interim Pastor/Associate Pastor in the PTCA for 16 years, serving 6 churches and the presbytery as Interim Associate EP. She has served on the Committee on Ministry, 2 years as chair, the Committee and Preparation

for Ministry, the Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission and as a Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training workshop facilitator. She has a good understanding of church polity and would like to witness it in action on the national level as well as gain a greater appreciation of the church and its wider ministry and mission in order to be an 'interpreter' especially for newer members who are not 'cradle Presbyterians' since much of what happens at GA will eventually affect individual churches and members, whether they're aware of it or not.

Joy Smith

Pastor, Presbyterian Church of the Apostles, Burnsville



Joy Smith has worked with a variety of churches and communities—from Tucson, AZ to Jacksonville, FL and Baker, MN, Chicago, IL, Atlanta GA and now Burnsville, MN—that have differed theologically, politically, ethnically and culturally as well as economically. She has sensitivity and pastoral care for different voices and is able to articulate and 'get to the roots' of an issue. She

currently serves on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry as she has in a former presbytery. She has also been a residency/chaplain/pastoral psychotherapist and served on a Committee on Representation committee, and the Human Sexuality Task Force. She was also a commissioner to the Minnesota Council of Churches 1999-2001. Joy hopes to bring back a better sense of the challenges and hopes for the PCUSA to communicate to the church and presbytery.

Pastors, Clerks of Session Urged to Take Inclusion Survey

Churches and pastors are always looking for ways to include all persons in the life of your their places of worship. The [PTCA Task Force on Disability Concerns](#) is doing a survey on inclusion and accessibility at congregations in the Presbytery. **All pastors of congregations and clerks of session are encouraged to respond.** The information gathered from the survey will help the Task Force determine where to concentrate our time and effort and will help the Taskforce understand what issues the congregations face in order to

include people with disabilities.

If you are a church pastor or clerk of session and have not yet had a chance to fill out the survey, you can access at the Presbytery website: www.ptcaweb.org.

The Disabilities Concerns Taskforce thanks you for your time and look forward to your response.

-Disability Concerns Taskforce, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Jim Wallis to Speak @ Westminster



Jim Wallis, editor-in-chief of Sojourner's Magazine will speak at Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis on February 11 at 7PM as part of Westminster's Town Hall Forum Series. Wallis will speak on his latest book, *Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street*. A book signing follows the Forum. Westminster is located at 1200 Marquette Ave on the Nicolett Mall in Minneapolis.

Presbytery Seeks New Treasurer

PURPOSE: To fulfill the functions of a treasurer of Presbytery as set forth in this position description, a financial officer under the Minnesota Nonprofit Act (Minn. Stat. Chap. 317A), the bylaws of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities area, and such other specific responsibilities as assigned by the Presbytery Council. The Treasurer is an officer of the Presbytery and is elected by the Presbytery. This position requires a commitment of about five hours per week.

ACCOUNTABILITY: The Treasurer is accountable to the Presbytery through the Presbytery Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Serves as one of the primary authorized signers on Presbytery bank accounts.
- Comprehends the bookkeeping methods and procedures of the bookkeeping services and maintains good communications with the director of those services.
- Reviews monthly financial reports and interprets them to the Board of Trustees, the Council and the Presbytery.
- Assists in preparation of the annual financial review.
- Recommends investment vehicles to the Board of Trustees that are compatible with THE INVESTMENT OF CASH ASSETS AND SPENDING POLICY.
- Serves as a member of the Budget Task Force in developing draft budgets for Presbytery's consideration.
- Attends the following meetings: Board of Trustees, Presbytery Council, Presbytery, and officers meetings.

Additionally, the Treasurer may choose to attend the annual Fiscal Officers training offered by General Assembly. (Traditionally scholarships have been available through the Synod for this event.)

RELATIONSHIPS: The Treasurer operates as a member of a team with members of the staff and the Budget Task Force and is a voting member of the Council and the Presbytery. The Treasurer serves as a resource to the Council, the Presbytery, and the Board of Trustees.

OTHER: The Treasurer must be computer literate and familiar with accounting software. The Treasurer is able to provide financial analysis based on historic trends. The Treasurer must be an Elder or Minister of Word and Sacrament. This position is for a three-year term and it is renewable. An annual stipend of \$1500 is paid plus an allowance for documented mileage expenses.

Interested persons are requested to send a Resume, including the name of the church where you are a member, to the Nominating Committee at nominations@ptcaweb.org.

A Symphony of Wows!

By Paul Moore

Editor's Note: The following article is from Paul Moore, organizing pastor of Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church in Lino Lakes. He shares the experiences of the new congregation's "grand opening" worship service on January 31.

What a fabulous day of worship we had at our Grand Opening worship service on Sunday, January 31. A Grand Opening service should be remembered throughout the history of the congregation. In my research of churches I frequently see churches who talk about their Grand Opening service on their web site. I believe that years from now people will still talk about what we experienced in worship.



"When Presbyterians are inspired we sure can sing. One person from Chain of Lakes decided to accept the invitation I had previously extended her to serve on our Steering Committee as she sang the final hymn, "Here I Am, Lord." Never underestimate the power of singing!"

-Paul Moore.

Numbers matter to me—mainly because numbers signify something deeper. Here are the numbers from the Grand Opening service:

- Over 100 people attended. The usher told me 101. Our Administrator, Jennifer Huehns, and I think that approximately 110 people came. The attendance was so large that we had to open the back walls to our sanctuary. Some people sat in the hallway because the sanctuary was full.
- Forty-three adults and children attended from Chain of Lakes Church. This was the most we've ever had attend worship from our own faith community on a Sunday morning.
- Eight new families came to check us out. As I do with every new family, I will personally deliver a coffee mug to each of these families during the week following the first visit.
- Approximately twenty-five children came up for the time for children.
- Nineteen Presbyterian churches sent representatives to support us.
- We collected 58 Haiti Hygiene bags which will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- A large number of people shared their hopes and prayers for Chain of Lakes by filling out a card and pinning them to the cross we made for the service. I counted approximately 50 cards in the above picture.
- Fifty-seven people voted for the topic of the next sermon series. On Sunday, February 7 I am starting a three-week sermon series called, "Mythbusters." For three weeks I am going to explore the myths that prevent people from having a deeper relationship with God and with the church. On the Communication card I shared eight myths about God and the church and asked people at the Grand Opening to vote on three.

Just as important as the numbers was how the Spirit was present in worship at our Grand Opening service. The music shared by Richard and Melinda Marshall and Sue Ruby was fantastic. My daughter, Hannah, caused many of us to choke up with her song. Chaz Ruark shared a powerful message about being connected as Presbyterians. John Ivers shared his passion for Chain of Lakes when he shared the history of our new congregation. As an aside, John gently teases his wife, Gloria, about how she cries in public. When he spoke, John appropriately choked up twice. As he did the second time Gloria shouted out, "he's put a lot of work into this project." That was beautiful on many different levels. Many people complimented the sermon. And the singing—wow! When Presbyterians are inspired we sure can sing. One person from Chain of Lakes decided to accept the invitation I had previously extended

Wows, Continued

her to serve on our Steering Committee as she sang the final hymn, "Here I Am, Lord." Never underestimate the power of singing!

The Scripture we heard in worship was the story in Acts 2 of the birth of the church. That story shares that "awe" came upon the group as many wonders and signs were performed. In my sermon I shared that a three-letter synonym for awe is "wow." I believe that when we say the word, "wow" we are expressing the movement of the Spirit. At our Grand Opening service we experienced a symphony of "wows."

The following Presbyterian Churches sent representatives to the Grand Opening of Chain of Lakes Presbyterian on January 31.

- Bloomington, Oak Grove
- Buffalo, Buffalo
- Chaska, Shepherd of the Hill
- Columbia Heights, Church of All Nations
- Coon Rapids, Church of the Master
- Eden Prairie, Eden Prairie
- Golden Valley, Valley
- Hudson, First
- Jackson, First
- Minneapolis, Aldrich
- Minneapolis, Lake Nokomis
- Minneapolis, Westminster
- Redwood Falls, First
- Rochester, Community
- St. Louis Park, Peace
- St. Paul, Central
- St. Paul, Macalester-Plymouth
- Shoreview, Presbyterian Church of the Way
- Waukon, Waukon



Chain of Lakes Fast Facts:

Website: www.colpres.org

Worship Location: 1189 Main Street, Lino Lakes, Minnesota

Mission Statement: We are called to be an authentic, Christian Community where:

- Strangers become friends
- Friends become Disciples
- Disciples impact the world



The Journey of A Congregation

By Kara Root

Editor's Note: On January 31, Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church in Lino Lakes hosted a grand opening worship service, introducing themselves to the North Metro area and to the wider community. While the Presbytery celebrates the planting of new churches like Chain of Lakes, we also want to lift up the transformation taking place at our more established churches. Below is the story of one such congregation, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian in Minneapolis. Pastor Kara Root shares the unique journey this small congregation is taking to renew itself and the wider world.

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church has been in a period of radical reflection and change over the past year. We determined to allow ourselves to break free from the ruts of habit while honoring our traditions, becoming open to new experiences and possibilities. We began by striving to put language and actions to the concepts and values that had been bubbling up within the congregation for years. The three guiding practices that we have named and are using to guide us as we seek to meet God in our humanity are:

Worship – encountering the Triune God as we gather in community to explore who God is and what God is up to in scripture, our lives and the world around us. **Hospitality** – living in God's abundant welcome and welcoming others in authenticity and mutuality; and **Sabbath** – practicing God's rhythm of work and renewing rest.

Desiring to live authentic lives before and with God, we are weaving worship, hospitality and Sabbath into our practice as a congregation and finding that we are being transformed in the process.

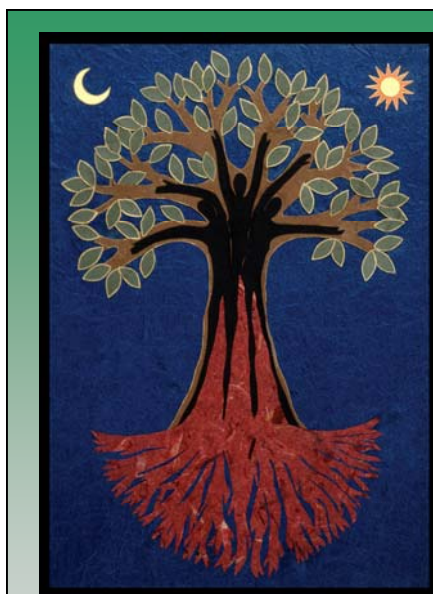
Worship has been central to our identity, and a source of delight for us for a long time. Our exploration last year involved visiting very different congregations to experience different styles of worship, and spending an evening with local artists and musicians (from outside our congregation) to brainstorm with us how music and art function in worship, and how we could create authentic and creative experiences in worship and community. We held long conversations about what we believe worship to be and how we live that out in our context. Because we see isolation, brokenness, and lack of belonging as prominent experiences in the lives of people today, we desire that our worship extend a different kind of invitation, to participate in a place where *all* come to be real, to share pain and suffering, to rejoice together and hold one another in prayer. We want to seek

faith through doubt, hope through despair, and make worship a space for God to encounter us in our humanity.

Hospitality

is also central to who we are and who we wish to be. While we are limited in finances and "manpower," we have our physical space and our very selves to share. We opened up a room in our basement to an artist in residence for studio space, begun offering our building more widely for community use (including helping to start a neighborhood job networking group), and we reland-

scaped our front yard to be a place of peace and welcome for the community. We also began exploring how hospitality challenges us to be radically open to one another and to God, including hosting Rev. Nanette Sawyer, author of *Hospitality, the Sacred Art* and artist Shawna Bowman who explored the concept with us in a worship service and a mural. Just recently, the Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini from Luther Seminary joined us as our Parish Associate, to help us ex-



“Desiring to live authentic lives before and with God, we are weaving worship, hospitality and Sabbath into our practice as a congregation and finding that we are being transformed in the process.”

-Kara Root.

Congregation, Continued

plore more fully in all aspects of our congregational life, how to deepen our hospitality and openness to God, each other and the world.

Sabbath rest was an intriguing concept to us. We began exploring this as a congregation, including reading Wayne Muller's book, *Sabbath* together, and spending a day with the Sisters of St. Francis at "Sabbath House" for a retreat focused around the concept of Sabbath. Sabbath means setting aside time intentionally for rest, community, celebration, reflection, gratitude... By deliberately honoring time spent in *being* rather than *doing*, we move into a way of facing the world and our lives with eyes open and spirits ready. We wondered what it would look like if we incorporated intentional Sabbath rest into our rhythm as a community.

Through session meetings reformatted around worship, and a session retreat of prayer and exploration, then a series of small group and whole congregation meetings, we decided to radically alter our worship schedule. We decided to gather for worship

first and third Sundays in the manner we were accustomed to, second and fourth weekends on Saturday evening, which would shape a worship service to be a doorway into Sunday as a Day of Rest – with no Sunday service but instead exploring worship and faith in a variety of ways in our own lives. Finally, we determined that fifth Sundays were to be somehow beyond ourselves, for others, connected to the larger community. There was an opening to lead worship for fifth Sunday chapel services at St. Joseph's Home for children – an emergency shelter and long term rehabilitation center – (it is usually done by pastors volunteering from churches

around the cities), and we arranged for our whole congregation to come and worship there with the children as our 5th Sunday worship service.

This pattern has opened the door to more thoughtfully and intentionally create worship experiences using music, art, and practices drawn from a variety of Christian traditions (such as *lectio divina*, centering prayer, silence, a labyrinth, etc). We are excited about how this is shaping us, and are continuing to explore how to form our services of worship as experiences of deep hospitality – creating a worship environment and liturgy that embrace the whole person and creatively meet the God who enters in and brings life out of death.

We have been on this schedule since September 2009, and have found it to be incredibly enriching and challenging, forcing us to be intentional about worship and community, and to live into the concepts we've embraced both communally and individually. We are on an incredible journey, and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2010!



"We are excited about how this is shaping us, and are continuing to explore how to form our services of worship as experiences of deep hospitality – creating a worship environment and liturgy that embrace the whole person and creatively meet the God who enters in and brings life out of death."

The image on page 8 is called Mother Root, by Jan Richardson, and is used with permission. See her work at www.janrichardsonimages.com

Sing, sing a song!

By Toni Montgomery, Presbyterian News Service

STATESVILLE, N.C. — What better way is there to learn about the world and help those in need than by doing what we love?

Global Harmony, a community chorus started by North Como Presbyterian Church in Roseville, Minn., does that plus helps grow its church home.

Global Harmony Community Chorus was originally put together for a series of concerts in February 2005 to raise money in the wake of the tsunami that struck Southeast Asia in 2004, said Jennifer Anderson, the church's director of music ministry and the director of the chorus.

"One thing we like to do at North Como is music, and we wanted to do something to help, so we invited other local musicians and groups to join us," Anderson said.

The church managed to organize 60 singers and a few local groups in just six weeks.

"It is not often that people find a way to employ a personal passion and extend help to others at the same time. But that is precisely what has happened with the establishment of the Global Harmony Community Chorus," said Chaz Ruark, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

Anderson said the church was pleasantly surprised by the concerts' outcome. About 450 people attended those first concerts, which raised nearly \$15,000. The organizers weren't sure if the success was a one-time response to the enormous media attention to the tsunami, but they decided to prepare more concerts for the next year.

But they needn't have worried.

"We did it again and this time we got 75 singers," Anderson said.

"It's just continued to grow every year. Now we have 125 singers in the choir and I've had to actually cut it off. I have a waiting list. We've also raised about \$86,000 combined over the years that we've done them."

The concerts have also grown in attendance. In 2009, about 700 people came to the three shows.

The chorus has grown far beyond the North Como church, both in audience attendance and the musicians. The group is now interfaith with, many coming from outside the church.

"This is truly a community chorus," Anderson said.

The focus of the program has also changed. While the first concerts concentrated on the tsunami, organizers select different global justice causes every year. Past concerts have raised money for Israel, Africa and Central America.

This year, Global Harmony is trying something a bit more local, with proceeds going to Neighborhood House,

which helps refugees, immigrants and low-income people in St. Paul. "It's about more than just raising money — it's also about educating ourselves to the world around us," Anderson said.

As the chorus prepares, members learn about the places and organizations they're singing to help. That knowledge is then passed on to the audience through the shows, which use music and instruments that reflect the culture of the chosen cause.

For example, the concerts for Central America used a sing with Mayan text and instruments.

"It's fun, and I think that contributes to our success," Anderson said.

"We do music from mostly living composers and we do things in different styles and different languages."

Some of those living composers

have even been guests at the concerts. Each year, a composer is invited to the concerts, and the chorus sings some of his or her pieces. It's great for the singers to make a connection to a real person instead of just a name on paper, and in many cases, the composers added a unique element noticed even by those who don't sing, Anderson said.

Global Harmony
Community Chorus



North Como
Presbyterian Church

"One thing we like to do at North Como is music, and we wanted to do something to help, so we invited other local musicians and groups to join us."

-Jennifer Anderson.

Sing, continued

The non-singers at North Como also do their share to make the shows a success. Member Manly Olson, who doesn't sing in the chorus, said plenty of members volunteer with registration, food, cleanup, ticket sales and receptions.

The concerts the Global Harmony Community Chorus have helped North Como grow, Olson said.

"One of our new elders first came here as part of the choir," he said. "We've gotten at least three new members, and some people come back after the concerts as visitors. The more times you get people in the church, the more likely they are to come and stay."

This year's focus on a local cause means more people from the area will be involved in the program, and Olson said he expects a good turnout.

"The staff and membership are commended for their passion to sing and their desire to serve humanity. May this ministry continue to offer hope and help to people around the world for years to come," Ruark said.

This year's concerts are scheduled for Feb. 6 and 7.

Editor's note: As of February 8, the Global Harmony concerts have raised \$15,755 for Neighborhood House.

Toni Montgomery is a free-lance writer in Statesville, N.C., where she also serves as church secretary for First Presbyterian Church.

About Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House is a St. Paul-based charity started in 1897 and has a long tradition of helping new immigrants and low-income individuals and families integrate into society and gain the skills needed to achieve a better quality of life. Started by the women of Mount Zion Hebrew Temple, Neighborhood House has helped many communities on St. Paul's West Side from Eastern European immigrants at the beginning to Mexican immigrants in the 1920s, the Hmong in the 1980s and African immigrants in the 1990s. Since 2006, they have been housed at the Paul and Shelia Wellstone Center on St. Paul's West Side. The building, built as a partnership between Neighborhood House and St. Paul's Park and Recreation Division is filled with artwork and contains a quote by the late Minnesota Senator in several languages: "We all do better when we all do better."



Programs offered:

- **Basic Needs** – includes a multi-cultural Food Shelf, Asian Meals on Wheels, and family support and refugee resettlement services.
- **Education** – includes classes for English Language Learner, GED, School & College Readiness, Arts, Health; College
- **Scholarship program; and Cultural Education** for the greater community.
- **Youth Leadership** – includes Homework Help, Hmong Youth Group, Summer in the City, classes in spoken word, digital music, arts, cooking and crafts.

Website:

www.neighb.org

Photo from Neighborhood House website.

PC(USA) stated clerk issues statement on Supreme Court's election finance decision

By Jerry Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Gradye Parsons, General Assembly stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), issued a statement today decrying the Jan. 21 U.S. Supreme Court decision to lift virtually all restrictions on corporate contributions to election campaigns.

The full text of Parsons' statement, dated Feb. 3:

Statement by Stated Clerk on Unlimited Corporate Financing of Elections

The January 21, 2010, decision of the Supreme Court to reject 35 years of legislation to limit campaign spending by corporations challenges the democratic ethos of the United States and threatens to magnify the already-powerful role of special interests in US politics. In light of historic Presbyterian wisdom about the dangers of corruption by special interests, I am concerned about the pressures this decision puts on individual candidates and office holders and on the integrity of the election system as a whole.

Without addressing the legal status of corporations, now determined to be legal persons with "free speech," able to use unlimited corporate (or union) funds for political purposes, this decision shows an innocence about human power and sin that Reformed Christians must question. Because this decision is likely to reshape the political process in profound ways, and to reduce the voice of citizens, churches and other groups without unlimited money, it is important to re-state the position of many General Assemblies.

In 2000, recognizing the already sky-rocketing costs of campaigns in the United States, the General Assembly Resolution on Campaign Finance Reform "Directed) the Office of the General Assembly and the Washington Office to communicate the General Assembly's strong support for ... campaign finance reforms, in order to increase public participation in elections and fairness in allocating the benefits and burdens of society" (Minutes, 2000, Part 1, pp. 424).

In 2008, in the resolution Lift Every Voice: Democracy, Voting Rights, and Electoral Reform, the Assembly recommended a set of measures for greater accountability and responsibility, including: "legislation and appropriate support for judicial cases that distinguish between campaign contributions and "free speech," allowing meaningful regulation of special interest groups and individuals who are ... expected to spend approximately \$400 million of the \$1.5 billion 2008 election cycle."

Well before Presbyterian minister John Witherspoon signed the Declaration of Independence, Presbyterians stood for the reform of both church and society in the direction of greater equal rights and democratic-representative processes. We have insisted on laws that protect individual rights and insure equitable communal decision-making. Elections for us are, in a sense, civic sacraments, as they

carry a great moral responsibility to point to the common good. Unelected powers are unaccountable powers, unless governed by fair laws.

The Reformed theologian Reinhold Niebuhr expressed our mixture of realism and hope for making our political processes as participatory, just, and accountable as possible in his famous aphorism: "man's (human) capacity for justice makes democracy possible but man's (human) capacity for injustice makes democracy necessary." The Supreme Court's decision promises to expand the capacity for the injustice of unlimited political influence, and to compromise the capacity of citizens and legislatures to fulfill the promise of self-government.

Along with the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, I call upon Presbyterians to express to their own legislators concern over this egregious decision and ask our Washington Office to share this statement with legislators, the members of the Supreme Court, and the President of the United States.

*The Rev. Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

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 now register online at the PTCA website, www.ptcaweb.org. You can also go to the Youth Triennium website (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!



Collegial leadership

By Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

BUFFALO, Minn. — “Clergy and laity are two words that should never escape the lips of Presbyterians,” the Rev. Joe Small told members of Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry here, insisting that Presbyterian polity and theology emphasizes “collegial ministry.”

Small, director of the office of [Theology Worship and Education](#) for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s General Assembly Mission Council, called the “separation” of ministry “one of the big problems we have in the church today.”

Ministry within the church needs to be the responsibility of all the leaders — deacons, elders and pastors, Small said, speaking at Christ the King Retreat Center here during the Synod of Lakes and Prairies’ annual training event Jan. 26-28.

Deacons, Small noted, have too often been relegated to serving coffee on Sunday and sending flowers to shut-ins. “People don’t want to do it anymore,” he said.

Elders, he continued, “have become the board of directors of a small community service organization.”

And, he asked, “What happened to ministers? They became clergy,” and clergy have “emerged as the power in the church.”

The divided role of ordained leadership in the church needs to change, Small insisted, and the walls between ordained offices torn down.

For instance, he said, deacons are called to “leading the whole church in the ministry of compassion and justice.”

Elders should “share equally in the administration of the ministry of word and sacrament,” he said.

And, he continued, the “primary role” of ministers should be that of “teacher of the faith.”

Small said he favors use of the terms “teaching elders” and “ruling elders.”

But, he cautioned, “ruling does not mean governing.” The correct meaning, he added, “is rule like a measuring stick.” Ruling elders measure the congregation’s “fidelity to the gospel” and the “spiritual health of the congregation.”

Small called ordained leaders in the church to be “genuine colleagues in ministry.”

Without collegial ministry, he said, the position of pastor becomes one of a lonely leader. He described the history of ministers in the United States as one of accumulated roles, where responsibilities always have been added but never withdrawn.

Beginning on the frontier, Small said, pastors were called to be revivalists to “inspire and uplift.”

When small towns grew on the prairie, the ministers were still expected to “know more about the faith,” but in addition to being inspirational preachers, ministers were expected to be community builders.

As small towns grew into cities, ministers, he said, were expected to also be therapists, who helped those in the congregation “cope” with new stress.

As cities grew, ministers became “managers of an increasingly complex social organization

called the church,” and today a pastor is expected to be an entrepreneur and innovator.

“It’s just one more layer added on,” he added.

Small said a collegial ministry relationship could help alleviate some of the stress associated with pastoral leadership, and he said Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry need to recognize the growing demands on ministers.

“Think it through,” he told the group of about 40 committee members, “and understand the possibilities for a unified ministry.”



“Clergy and laity are two words that should never escape the lips of Presbyterians.”

-Rev. Joe Small.

Transitions: Notes About PTCA Pastors



Ordination Anniversaries

February 2010

- Amy E. Kosari (2/1/1998)
- JoAnn E. Phenow (2/4/1990)
- Richard P. Phenow (2/4/1990)
- David M. Maghakian (2/5/1989)
- Sung Chul Park (2/6/2000)
- Leah Elrod (2/12/1995)
- Jamie L. Schultz (2/12/1989)
- Richard P. Massaro (2/15/1959)
- Paul H. Moore (2/21/1993)
- Karen Kennerly (2/23/1986)
- Susan E. Whiteman (2/25/1996)

Comings and Goings

- We give thanks for **Donald Hanna**, who was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament on January 24. He was also installed as Associate Pastor at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka on the same day.
- We wish Godspeed to **Dries Coetzee**, the Associate Pastor at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. He has been called to be the Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wooster, Ohio. Dries has been at Oak Grove since 2002 and recently became a US citizen, while maintaining his native South African citizenship. His last Sunday at Oak Grove will be February 28.
- We also wish Godspeed to **Paul Gilmore**, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater who has accepted a call to become pastor of First Presbyterian Church in New Cannan, CT. His last Sunday with the congregation will be February 7. Paul has served First-Stillwater since 2002.
- Honorably Retired Member **Margaret Thomas** is resting at home after slipping and breaking a leg recently. Thomas attends Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis and is on the Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission.

Raise Your Voice With Haiti

*By The Staff of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and the Mission and Witness Committee
(Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area)*



Presbytery Goal:

\$25,000

**Presbytery Totals
(as of February 5):**

\$7,575

Are you wondering about the best way you and your congregation can support the emergency relief that is so desperately needed in Haiti after the devastating 7.0 earthquake of January 12? The Mission and Witness Committee of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area challenges our congregations and other individuals to join our drive as a Presbytery to collect \$1 from every person represented in the membership of our churches and clergy in the PTCA. All of this special offering will be donated directly to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

The Presbytery of South Alabama set a goal of \$10,000.00 and challenged other Presbyteries to match them. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 thru March 13th, our next Presbytery meeting.

So far the Presbytery office has received \$7575 in gifts for Haiti (as of Friday, February 5).

All donations should be made out to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and sent directly to the Presbytery Office at **122 W. Franklin Ave. , Suite 508, Minneapolis, MN 55404** . Please indicate Haiti Offering in the memo line. If your congregation has already responded with a gift of some sort, possibly through another agency, please let us know in the Presbytery office so that we may report the extent of our gifts to one another. Please email the Presbytery office at communications@ptcaweb.org and let us know other creative ways your congregation and members have reached out with loving support to our dear friends in this time of extreme need.

It was reported that the first night in complete darkness, the people of Port-Au-Prince raised their voices singing hymns to ward off their fears and help them through the night. We have much to learn from the strong faith of these sisters and brothers. And we each have much to give. Let us demonstrate Christ's compassion through this opportunity to make an impact for good on a people who have been forced into long-suffering and grief.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Situation Report on Haiti



A boy stretches in a backyard of Bel Air in Port-au-Prince. He is dancing capoeira, a Brazilian martial art that has been turned into therapy for children affected by the earthquake. Ironically, the aggressive dance is now being used for trauma recovery.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, working in collaboration with members of the ACT Alliance, has provided the people of Bel Air left homeless by the earthquake with tents, water, psychosocial care and other support. While parents try to create order in the lives of their families, the children dance. A Brazilian organization, now working with nearby ACT Alliance programs, has worked with children in this area for years.

Capoeira sparring is marked by fluid acrobatic play, tricks and extensive use of sweeps and kicks. For some time, capoeira was criminalized and prohibited. It came to the Caribbean with slaves and was seen as a dangerous aggressive act. Not anymore. "Capoeira creates a stronger sense of belonging to family and group", says the dance instructor, Flavio Soares. "Haitian children are submitted to a great deal of violence, and children do not know how to express their emotions. For that reason, children hardly know how to work on their emotions. Capoeira can help children get in touch with their emotions and learn to control them. Since the earthquake, capoeira has become a tool for mental recovery and a part of the relief work", he says.



-February 2, 2010

Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

Lakes and Prairies commits funds to Haiti water effort: The Synod of Lakes and Prairies committed the balance of accumulated receipts from the Peacemaking Offering, minus funds received from the 2009 offering, to clean water projects of the Synod of Living Waters and Synod of the Sun for Haiti earthquake recovery efforts.

The dollar amount is approximately \$14,000.

The synod made the decision to make the commitment during its winter meeting Jan. 17-19 in Farmington, MN.

Background information for the action stated, "We understand that long term infrastructure recovery in Haiti will take time and that clean water is a concern even beyond the immediate area of Port au Prince and the area of great damage."

-Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Lakes and Prairies CREM grants \$15,500 in scholarships: The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry granted \$15,500 in scholarships to twelve students for the 2009-10 academic year.

Elona Street-Stewart, synod associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment, presented the report for the committee during the synod's winter meeting Jan. 17-19 in Farmington, Minn.

More than half of the funds went to students studying at seminaries, including Louisville, Dubuque, United and Luther.

In addition, the committee distributed a total of \$2,000 in institutional awards for tribal colleges within the "boundaries of the synod and Cook College."

Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

New Leadership for Synod: The Synod of Lakes and Prairies installed the Rev. Bob Bouton of the Presbytery of East Iowa as moderator of the synod for 2010 during its winter meeting Jan. 17-19 at Mount Olivet Retreat Center, Farmington, MN. The synod also installed Elder Ardeth Kocourek, South Dakota Presbytery, as vice moderator.

A retired pastor, Bouton and his wife Sherrie reside in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Bouton earned his master of divinity degree from the University of Dubuque (Iowa) Theological Seminary. He also holds a doctorate from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL.

Born and raised in Princeville, IL, Bouton began his ministry in Christian education at First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE. He then served a 24-year call as pastor to Christ Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids. His last call as pastor brought him to Knox Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids where he served until he retired in 2003.

He has chaired several synod committees and has served numerous times as a synod commissioner. He recently served on the synod's Administrative Review Task Force on the Presbytery of Dakota, and continues to serve on the synod's Finance and Nominating committees.

Kocourek, elder commissioner from the Presbytery of South Dakota, describes

himself as a "transplanted Iowan, who thinks of herself as an educator."

She has been a teacher and library-media specialist in the Bennett County (SD) Schools, part-time instructor for Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, SD, a farm homemaker and operator, member of the South Dakota State Library Commission, and a 4-H and extension leader.

Kocourek holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, and a master's degree from New York University.

For the synod, she serves on the Personnel and Synod School committees, and is a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission. A resident of Martin, SD, she has more than eight years experience as a Commissioned Lay Pastor.

-Presbyterian Neighbor News

A Valentine for Haiti: First, Rev. Tom Dillard, a Presbyterian minister and police chaplain for Jeffersonton, Ky., successfully persuaded the city council — which was considering making a donation to aid Haiti — to make the \$4,000 check out to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

A few days later, at his church's annual chili cook-off and pie auction, Dillard volunteered to take a chocolate cream pie in the face to raise funds for Haiti, resulting in another \$325 check.

Now Dillard's church, Hopewell Presbyterian in Louisville, Ky., is collecting a special love offering for Haiti on — what else? — Valentine's Day.

"I just figured, let's extend this a little further," said Dillard. "And this year, since Valentine's Day falls on Sunday, it seemed natural."

The Rev. Dillard and his congregation of about 170 members are urging other churches to follow their lead. "We would like to challenge all churches to take a special offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on Valentine's Day, to show our love and support for the people of Haiti, and all those who are working so hard to help them now."

Presbyterian News Service

Presbyterian Church of the Way Celebrates 50

years: On Sunday, February 14, 2010, Presbyterian Church of the Way (PCOTW) will celebrate its 50th anniversary of ministry with a worship service at 10:00 a.m. in its sanctuary located at 3382 North Lexington Avenue. The Rev. Jin S. Kim, moderator of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, will provide the mes-



Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

sage on this special day.

PCOTW began its ministries at Island Lake Elementary School, Shoreview, before constructing its building in 1962 at the current location on the corner of Lexington and Cannon avenues. There have been two subsequent building additions and construction of a Parish House.

The congregation has grown from 125 charter members to nearly 500 members today. PCOTW currently is being served by Rev. Todd Allen, its 4th pastor. Previous pastors who served this congregation include founding Pastor Rev. David Ling, who also served a term as the mayor of Shoreview, Rev. Neal Lloyd, and Rev. Eugene Orr.

Members of PCOTW have dedicated themselves to being an open, vibrant, intergenerational presence of Christ's ministry in the Northern suburbs. Ministries for the community include partnering with Children's Way Preschool, Cub Scout Pack 408 and Boy Scout Troup 408. In addition, they provide meeting space to several community groups and participate in numerous mission and outreach ministries. A sampling of ministry projects has included participation in an ecumenical coalition of churches (Holy Hammers) building houses for Habitat for Humanity. It has also reached around the world to Ghana, where this congregation has provided funding to construct 14 new wells to provide clean drinking water to a number of communities in Ghana.

From Press Releases

Dayton Avenue, North Como Partner for Lent: Two St. Paul-area congregations are teaming up for Lent to learn together to care for the City.

Dayton Avenue Presbyterian in St. Paul and North Como Presbyterian in Roseville will host Lenten gatherings every Wednesday during Lent and the two church will also share their Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

"As Jesus wept over Jerusalem we will examine our tears over our City," said North Como Pastor David Maghakian in the church newsletter. Our topics will be on homelessness, violence, unemployment, racism, and the concerns for our city children- which are the tears of the city. We will hear from advocates in each of these areas who will give us facts that will challenge us to strive for change. Each of these topics sabotages the health and well being of God's children. Many encouraging services and programs exist to wipe away and clear the tears of the city. We will be challenged to be a part of wiping tears through prayer and action."

Each Wednesday program (except Ash Wednesday on February 17) will begin with a soup supper at 6PM followed by a forum on a specific topic and concluding with prayer. Each gathering last 50 minutes.

For more information, please contact either North Como at 651-488-5561 or Dayton Avenue at 651-227-7389 .

Latest from the Resource Center for Churches:

How to Worship as a Presbyterian (Book)

This book teaches worship participants how to go about experiencing God in worship. Chapman believes worship should not be treated as a spectator sport, but rather a divine vocation, a holy work. that summons the energies of all who are present. Too often worshipers expect to be entertained by God, and the moment for divine communion is transformed into something like a theme park attraction.



Between Millennia: What Presbyterians Believe about the Coming of Christ (Book)

This booklet discusses Presbyterians' beliefs about the second coming of Christ, end times, the rapture, and the millennium. Included are confessional statements and bibliographic resources.

Dancing in the Dark: Lessons in Facing Life's Challenges with Courage and Creativity (Book)

A collection of brief but uplifting stories of real people facing adversity to meet life's challenges with creativity, persistence, and hope.

Gift of Listening (Book)

A guide to teach people how to listen to another to be able to help your church create a listening ministry.

God A Brief History (Book)

This brief tour through three thousand years of religious history shows how the Christian doctrine of God evolved in response to tensions within the insights of monotheism. The very personal, changeable, and involved God of the Hebrew Bible transformed decisively in its encounter with Greek metaphysical concepts and with the emerging Trinitarian notions of the early Christian period. The author skillfully traces this history and shows how the tensions thus created are with us still.

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To borrow this or a different resource, contact the **Resource Center for Churches** at info@resourcesforthejourney.org or telephone (888) 293-9901 (toll free). You can also visit the center which is located in the Minnesota Church Center, 122 W. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. The staff will gladly reserve one of these or another resource for you. The center has books, DVDs, reference works, choir anthems, and even a labyrinth available for loan. For a complete listing of resources, go to: <http://resourcesforthejourney.org/>

Positions Available

Non-Ordained Positions

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

- Organist, Presbyterian Church of the Way, Shoreview
- Accompanist, Chain of Lakes Presbyterian, Lino Lakes
- Custodian, North Como Presbyterian, Roseville
- Christian Education/Youth Coordinator, First Presbyterian Church, Red Wing
- Director of Children's Ministries, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Director of Children's Ministries, Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Edina

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.)

Vacant Pulpits

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

- Presbyterian Church of LeSeur, LeSeur– Interim Pastor
- Interim Pastor, Church of the Master Presbyterian Church, Coon Rapids
- First Presbyterian Church, Rochester– Pastor

To find out about the status of these congregations, please contact the Committee on Ministry at com@ptcaweb.org.



2010 March Campaign Against Hunger

Your help is needed to make the largest food drive in Minnesota a success. The March Campaign, by Minnesota FoodShare organizes a statewide media campaign to promote food shelf donations, produce and distribute free promotional and educational resources for food drive organizers, and act as a clearinghouse for all cash donations by distributing the funds to participating Minnesota food shelves. Help your congregation, corporation, nonprofit, school, local civic group, etc. sponsor a food drive to-day. MN FoodShare is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches cosponsored by the Minnesota Council of Churches. For ideas on how you can be a superhero visit <http://www.mnfoodshare.gmcc.org/march.php>.

Events Calendar

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

Open House and Dinner at Lake Nokomis: Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, will host an open house on Wednesday, February 10 from 5-7pm.

The south Minneapolis congregation sees this event as a way to introduce themselves to their surrounding neighborhood and also as a way to show how an existing congregation can renew itself.

Lake Nokomis is on a transformational journey a "new way of being church." That journey is threefold, focusing on meeting God through "creative worship, radical hospitality and Sabbath rest."

"We're hoping lots of folks will attend, to see who we are now and what we're up to, and to help us continue to network and build relationships, collaborations and partnerships," said pastor Kara Root in a recent email to the Presbytery.

Several changes are taking place at Lake Nokomis in its attempts to transformation itself. One of the major changes is establishing a "Day of Rest" two Sundays a month where no worship takes place. In its place, a contemplative worship service takes place the Saturday evening before the Day of Rest to ready people for Sabbath.

The open house will also show off other changes taking place including the ArtSpace Galley featuring Wicked Game, an interactive exhibit by local artist Mark Carlson and tour of their "Kid's Club" space which will house a bi-monthly children's program. The event will also include a long-standing tradition at Lake Nokomis, the Ham and Cherry Pie dinner which will begin at 5pm.

"We've changed when and how we meet for worship, opened our space to new groups and experiences, and are partnering in more ways in the community," Root says. "We're a church 'in progress', and would love to meet more of our neighbors and collaborate more with other churches, local artists and musicians, and community groups."

Lake Nokomis is located at 1620 E. 46th Street in Minneapolis. For more information, please call 612-721-4463 or visit the website at www.lakenokomispc.org.

Connecting Spiritual Life with Social Action:

What: An interfaith panel discussion among young adult leaders and activists in Minnesota
Where: Sateren Auditorium in the Foss, Lobeck and Miles Center

Augsburg College (625 22nd Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55454)
When: February 11, 2010 - 7:00 PM

The Joint Religious Legislative Council and Augsburg College Campus Ministries are co-sponsoring this event that explores the work being done in Minnesota on the issue of social justice. This multifaith panel will discuss the connection between one's faith and working for social justice; how different faith communities approach positive social change; the variations in different traditions' approaches to justice; and each panelists' work for positive change in their communities.

For more information please go to the JRLC website at www.jrlc.org

African American Worship Celebration @ United:

To Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land: A Chapel Series Celebrating African American Sacred Music will take place February 9, 16 and 23 at the Bigelow Chapel at United Seminary beginning at 11:35am. The series will include the following:


Tuesday, February 9 11:35 AM

To Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land: The Sacramental Qualities of African Rhythms
Preacher: *Erika Sigauke*

Tuesday, February 16 11:35 AM

Something Got a Hold of Me: Afro Pentecostalism and the Question of Radical Inclusion
Invited preacher: *Rev. LaTeasha Richardson*

Tuesday, February 23 11:35 AM

To Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land: African American Spirituals as Engines 

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

of Social Justice

An interactive sermon by *W.J. Moussa Foster*
Guest artist: *Dr. Robert L. Morris*, Minister of Music,
Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church

2:30-4:30pm

[St. Peter Claver Catholic, St. Paul](#), Corner of N.
Oxford and W. Central, St. Paul

Monday, February 22

7:00-9:00pm

[Bethel University, Arden Hills](#), 3900 Bethel Drive,
Arden Hills

For more information, Contact Renee Flesner at
651.255.6138 or rflesner@unitedseminary.edu.

"Wicked Game" Art Exhibit: During Lent the Artspace gallery at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian is hosting a provocative, enlightening and troubling exhibit about hate crimes. "Wicked Game is a spin on the classic card game of concentration. Based on real, bias-motivated crimes in Minnesota between 1998 and 2006, the 'game' asks the participant to pair paintings representing moments in time with the narrative of the crimes committed. Bias-motivated and/or hate crimes have the power to instill fear not just in the heart of the victim, but within the respective minority communities. The stories in this project represent all of the victims you will never hear about."

Artist Mark Edwin Carlson focuses on subjects relating to the broad themes of fear, love, and justice, helping others on the road to forgiveness and understanding.

Lake Nokomis is located at 1620 E. 46th Street in Minneapolis.

The event is open to all. If you have questions, you can contact the Regional office of Bread for the World at 612-871-9084 or

breadm@bread.org.

Mental Health Events at Trinity:

The following events take place at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2125 Tower Drive, Woodbury, (651)738-0045.

The Powerful Effect of Nutrition on Our Mental Health and Well Being (February 22):

Participants will gain an understanding of the nutritional needs of the brain and how addressing these needs can bring positive changes to ones mental well-being.

Uncovering the Myth Around Eating Disorders (March 22):

Eating disorders are serious conditions and are more prevalent than people think. Participants will learn what eating disorders are, eating disorder prevention, how to approach someone who may be suffering from an eating disorder, and how recover is possible.

Lower Your Risk Factors For Developing Alzheimers (April 26):

Scientific evidence shows us how to improve the way our brains work to potentially decrease the risk. Participants will learn how the brain works and changes with age; how the heart and brain are connected; and how social connections and emotional health affect your brain.

Bread for the World 2010 Offering of Letters Workshop:

The focus of the 2010 Offering of Letters by [Bread for the World](#) is to

protect and strengthen tax credits (like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit) that benefit low-income working families. Bread is sponsoring three workshops in the Twin Cities to learn about the struggles people face in Minnesota and how you, and your congregation can help protect and strengthen these important programs.

The times and dates are as follows:

Saturday, February 20

9:00-11:30am

[Colonial Church of Edina](#), 6200 Colonial Way, Edina

Sunday, February 21

Events Calendar, Continued

Next Presbytery Meeting:

**Saturday,
March 13,
2010
North Como
Presbyterian
Church,
Roseville
9:30am-
3:00pm**

"Leading From the Heart:" How do leaders in a congregation remain in community with people through conflict and differences?

"Leading from the Heart" a special workshop sponsored jointly by Luther Seminary and Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church wants to teach ways to communicate that seek to build rather than tear down the body of Christ. Led in part by PTCA minister-member Theresa Latini, this intensive workshop teaches the skills and consciousness of compassionate communication (also called nonviolent communication) as a means of connecting to God, self, and others in the midst of interpersonal impasses of all sorts.

This event takes place June 20-25 at Luther Seminary and is limited to 45 people. To register or for more information, please go to www.luthersem.edu/leadingfromtheheart.

Susan Draper White Lectures: MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010, 7:30 PM
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010, 11:00 AM, Bigelow Chapel

Girls, God, and Vampires:

The Spiritual Lives of Adolescent Girls
March 1

Fighting Like Girls:

Feminist Theological Reflections on Girlhood Faith and Congregational Conflict
March 2

Joyce Mercer, a former minister member of the PTCA, is a professor of practical theology at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va., completed her Ph.D. at Emory University in 1997, focusing on issues of faith, gender, and violence in the lives of adolescent girls. She previously earned a D.Min. at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago; a Master of Social Work from the University of Connecticut; an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School; and a B.A. in religious studies from the University of Virginia. She is the author of *Welcoming Children: A Practical Theology of Childhood*, *Lives to Offer: Accompanying Youth on Their Vocational Quests* (co-authored with Dori Grinenko Baker), and *Girl Talk, God Talk: Why Faith Matters to Teenage Girls—and Their Parents*.

The lectures are free and open to the public. Parking is free. For more information, call 651.255.6143.

Church of All Nations Receives Grant

ATLANTA — The Church of All Nations, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation in Minneapolis, is one of five congregations to receive a \$10,000 Cultures of Call grant from [The Fund for Theological Education](#) (FTE).

The grant was awarded for the church's "Discerning Vocations Together," a program that integrates a resident internship program with congregational life, creating new opportunities for congregation members and resident interns to discern vocations together through forums, group meetings and community service.

FTE will award nearly \$50,000 to five initiatives selected from proposals nationwide. The programs, to be implemented over the next 18 months, represent congregations in six different denominations.

The investment is part of an ecumenical [Calling Congregations](#) initiative designed by FTE to equip churches and church-related organizations to play active roles in fostering vocational discern-

ment among young men and women — and to support those considering pastoral ministry as a profession.

Congregations across North America are seeking new ways of cultivating and calling talented young leaders for the future as fewer students entering theological schools today do so with the aim of one day serving a local congregation as a pastor.

Calling Congregations seeks to establish a national network of 500 congregational and church-related partners committed to the cause of raising future pastoral leaders. It offers regional workshops; a national conference; teaching tools; Web-based resources and up to 40 fellowships annually which match a congregation's financial support toward tuition and expenses for a young church member's first year of seminary.

With these awards, FTE reaches a milestone of \$400,000 in [Cultures of Call grants](#) since launching the program with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. in 2007.

-Fund for Theological Education

Presbytery of the
Twin Cities Area



"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. Usual distribution: Thursdays. Next Deadline: Close of Business (4:30pm) Monday, March 1.

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**Clearwater 2010:
Finding Our Way
in the
Wilderness
April 16-18**



Presbyterian Clearwater Forest
Deerwood, Minnesota

Featuring:



Bruce Reyes Chow

**Carol Howard
Merritt**



Cost: \$75

Worship ■ Workshops ■ Music ■ And Much More...

To register, go to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies website at www.lakesandprairies.org.