



EMerge: Monthly



A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

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January 2010

....Finally



Donald Hanna (second from right) stands with his family after being approved for ordination by the Presbytery at the January 2010 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. He was also approved for a call as the Associate Pastor at St. Luke Presbyterian in Wayzata where he is currently Director of Children, Youth and Families.

Photo by Dennis L. Sanders.

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Jin S. Kim runs for Moderator



Remembering Youth Triennium 2007



Inside Note



By Chaz Ruark

Like many clergy, I saved a week of vacation for the days between Christmas and New Year. Despite the weather I drove to spend some time with our children in Oklahoma. We filled some of the time by attending two movies, Avatar and Up In The Air. Each was entertaining in its own way, but like an old preacher I couldn't help but notice an underlying theme or notion that caught my attention. While one film could be labeled pantheistic, and the other hedonistic, I found a redeeming feature in both: connections. Avatar stressed the need and the benefit of a divine connection. Obviously it didn't talk of the God head as we know it, but the parallel was strong. The heroes of the story found their strength and the redemption in their god, a trait that the villains clearly lacked. Up In The Air was about a man who was focused on serving his own desires, but who discovered by the end of the picture the benefit of connecting to other people to give his life fulfillment. (By the way, before you go see it on my advice, know that it is not a "family" picture, it deals with strongly suggestive situations and the language is coarse to say the least.) It struck me as unusual that two such different movies should end up with such similar messages.

Connections to one another and to God are of course the linchpin of the Church's message. They are reflected in the first two of our six great ends; Proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind, and the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God. In an age when the church is trying so hard to figure out how to market itself to a new generation, it is telling that pop culture seems to yearn for the long held priorities of the Church. Perhaps finding our relevance is not about finding the new needs of the world, but figuring out how to demonstrate that the church professes and provides the needs that culture is crying out to find.

As I write this I have plans to attend two funerals this week, Harold Freeman and Sally Hill, both Honorably Retired members of our Presbytery. These two servants will now enjoy a closer connection to God than we earthbound types, but it brings to mind the point that is very important to me. The Presbytery is the Church of the clergy. While we say good bye to Harold and Sally I hope that we continue to nurture the relationships that will sustain us and our needs, the connection to God and to one another. I hope the new year brings us all good tidings, and that strong connections to God and one another is that the top of that list. Happy New Year!

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

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-Chaz Ruark.

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Highlights of the January 2010 Presbytery Meeting



Inquirer Lisa Johnson is examined by the Presbytery. She was approved to become a candidate for ordination.



Charter Member Jean Nethercutt shares the beginnings of Presbyterian Church of the Way, which celebrates its 50th birthday this year.

By Dennis Sanders

As record cold continued during the early days of 2010, the first Stated Meeting of the year for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area took place on January 9 at Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview.

This Stated Meeting was packed with many items for the gathered Presbytery to consider, including the nominations for Commissioners to the 219th General Assembly, a proposed overture to the General Assembly from a local congregation, the examination of an inquirer and a candidate for ordination and the endorsement of a candidate for Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Nominating Committee Chair Betty Raitt, a Minister-Member of the Presbytery put forth the names for elder commissioners, minister commissioners and a young adult advisory delegate for the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be held in Minneapolis July 3-10, 2010. The following were the proposed candidates and alternates:

ELDER COMMISSIONERS TO 219TH GA

Bruce Beck, North St. Paul, North
Gordon Doshier, Plymouth, Plymouth
Thomas Ruter, St. Paul, Knox
Barbara VanLoenen, Hudson, First

ALTERNATE ELDER COMMISSIONERS TO 219TH GA

Aruewell Benifield, Minneapolis, Kwanzaa
Gerald Ganfield, Owatonna, Associated
Vincent Gin, Hudson, First
Ward Sessing, Shoreview, Church of the Way
Marian Michael, Golden Valley, Valley Community

MINISTER COMMISSIONERS TO 219TH GA

Matthew Johnson, pastor, Minneapolis, Aldrich Ave.
Jin S. Kim, pastor, Columbia Heights, Church of All Nations
Amy Elizabeth (Flack) Kosari, pastor, Ellsworth, First & Hager City, Laurel
Joy Smith, pastor, Burnsville, Church of the Apostles

ALTERNATE MINISTER COMMISSIONERS TO 219TH GA

Myra Carroll-Pezzella, pastor, Howard Lake, First
Gale W. Robb, Interim associate pastor, St. Paul, The House of Hope
Matthew Robbins-Ghormley, pastor, St. Paul, Randolph

Presbytery Meeting, Continued

Heights

John W (Bill) Young, Executive Director, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship

YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE TO 219TH GA

Elizabeth Brazill, elder, South St. Paul, First

Nominations came from the floor and all the alternate delegates were nominated as elder and minister commissioners in addition to the ones chosen by the Nominating Committee. The voting results for elder commissioners to the 219th General Assembly were: Gordon Doshier, Marian Michael, Thomas Ruter and Barbara Van Loenen. The elder alternates were: Ward Sessing, Aruewell Benefield, Vincent Gin, Bruce Beck and Gerald Ganfield.

The minister commissioners are: Matt Johnson, Jin S. Kim, Gale Robb and Joy Smith with the following ministers as alternates: Matt Robbins-Ghormley, Myra Carroll-Pezzella, Amy (Flack) Kosari and Bill Young.

Elizabeth Brazill was chosen as the Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) by voice vote. There is no alternate YAAD.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry's presentation was broken in two with inquirer Lisa Johnson coming before the Presbytery in the morning and candidate Don Hanna coming in the afternoon. Johnson, a student at Dubuque Seminary, shared her statement of faith where she announced her preference for rural ministry, something that one minister member said was welcomed with "sighs of delight" since ministry in rural areas is not a popular choice among seminary students.

Johnson was supported by members of Presbyterian Church of LeSueur, her home congregation. Several members of the congregation spoke in favor of her including Kathy Chamberlain, an elder at Le Sueur. In an emotional Chamberlain had "great pride and joy" at supporting Johnson, whom she has known since birth. Johnson was overwhelmingly approved by the Presbytery to enter the candidacy phase towards ordination as a minister of Word and Sacrament.

The Committee on Ministry came next to recommend Joan (pronounced JoAnn) Irminger McKenzie as the next pastor of Buffalo Presbyterian Church in Buffalo. The Presbytery approved the recommendation and Rev. McKenzie will start on February 1 at the Wright County congregation.

Bills and Overtures Committee put forward an overture from Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Paul that would "reduce vexation litigation in the church." The rationale for the overture states that currently, both the General Assembly and the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission can issue an "authoritative interpretation" of the Book of Order with the "most recent" being binding. "In light of tills provision, some have sought to change the law of the Church through private judicial cases, rather than through proper recourse to the collective discernment of the Whole church gathered in General Assembly," said a document from Arlington Hills Presbyterian to the Bills and



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/

Volunteer Website: will be available in late 2009.

Registration: Begins in March, 2010.

Presbytery Meeting, Continued



Executive Presbyter Chaz Ruark gives his report to the Presbytery.



Tim Held, pastor of Warrendale Presbyterian in St. Paul, asks a question to Don Hanna as he was examined by the Presbytery. Hanna was approved for ordination.

Overture Committee.

The document continues, "The proposed amendment would eliminate the incentives of such vexatious and improper litigation, by providing that authoritative interpretations of the Constitution that bind the whole church may be adopted only by the General Assembly, in plenary session. Such actions are properly taken with guidance on our law and polity from the Advisory Committee 011 the Constitution (the process described in G-13.0112)."

The Presbytery voted in to approve the overture to be considered at General Assembly in July over the objections of the Bills and Overtures Committee.

After lunch, the Presbytery heard Jean Nethercutt speak about the history of Presbyterian Church of the Way, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Nethercutt is a charter member of the suburban congregation and remembered the time of church planting as a time with "lots of fun and lots of laughter." Church of the Way has been instrumental in helping another new congregation, Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church in Lino Lakes, get off the ground by giving them a font, pulpit and communion table.

The afternoon session also saw PTCA Moderator Jin S. Kim announce his intention to stand for Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Presbytery voted to endorse his candidacy by voice vote.

Also during the afternoon, both CPM and COM returned to examine Donald Hanna for ordination. Hanna, who is currently the Director of Children, Youth and Families at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Wayzata, was approved for ordination and was also approved for a call to Associate Pastor at St. Luke.

The Board of Trustees put forward a proposal to reduce the selling price of the former House of Faith Presbyterian Church in Northeast Minneapolis to \$395,000. The Presbytery had not found a buyer at its current price, because of the depressed real estate market, said BOT chair Cindy Ray. The property, which was also used for years by Familia de Fe Presbyterian Church until early 2009, is in need of work and is being sold as is. The Presbytery approved the recommendation.

Finally, pastor Paul Moore came forward to say thanks. Moore is the pastor of Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church, a new church development in Lino Lakes. In November, he came forward asking for the Presbytery to pay for 75 chairs the new church had ordered. He came forward on Saturday to say that they had received enough money for...75 chairs.

The next Stated Meeting takes place March 13, 2010 at North Como Presbyterian Church in Roseville.

Jin S. Kim is second candidate for GA moderator

By Jerry Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service



The Rev. Jin S. Kim, founding pastor of [Church of All Nations](#) in Minneapolis, was endorsed January 9 by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area to stand for moderator of the upcoming 219th General Assembly (2010). The Assembly will be held July 3-10 in Minneapolis.

Kim joins Elder Cynthia Bolbach of National Capital Presbytery as candidates for the top elected post in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The winner will succeed the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow of San Francisco, moderator of the 218th General Assembly.

Kim, 41, was born in Korea and came to the United States with his family in 1975, grow up in a multi-ethnic environment in Columbia, SC and Atlanta. He holds degrees from [Georgia Tech](#) (1990), [Princeton Theological Seminary](#) (M.Div., 1993), and [Columbia Theological Seminary](#) (D.Min., 2005).

He is currently moderator of the [Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area](#), serves as a PC(USA) delegate to the [National Council of Churches](#), and sits on the boards of the [Minnesota Council of Churches](#) and the [Greater Minnesota Association of Evangelicals](#). He is also a part of the Jewish-Presbyterian Dialogue and the Special Committee on the Belhar Confession.

Kim speaks widely on the renewal of the church at conferences, colleges, seminaries, presbyteries and congregations, both in the U.S. and abroad. He was a preacher at the 2004 and 2008 General Assemblies, is adjunct faculty at [Dubuque Theological Seminary](#) and has also taught at [Princeton Seminary](#), [Columbia Seminary](#), and [Duke Divinity School](#), as well as at seminaries in Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, Russia, and Korea.

His household includes his wife Soon Pac; children Claire Nicea, 10, and Austin Athanasius; and his parents.

On his [Web site](#) (www.jinskim.com), Kim reflects on one of his campaign themes: "This is an age that requires a new conceptualizing of leadership. How can churches be re-oriented from institutional management to the kind of leadership that is daring, imaginative, prophetic, countercultural, yet peace-full? In a time when many of the historic mainline churches find themselves on the brink, how might we reinterpret this de-centering as a gift and an opportunity for transformation? Is it possible to lead our local congregations and presbyteries into an embodiment of both radical diversity and deep intimacy that counters the homogenizing and commoditizing impulses of the dominant culture?"

"Is it possible to lead our local congregations and presbyteries into an embodiment of both radical diversity and deep intimacy that counters the homogenizing and commoditizing impulses of the dominant culture?"

-Jin S. Kim.

A Christmas Greeting from Ghana



By Josh Heikkila

PTCA Minister Member Josh Heikkila sent an email updating people on his experiences in Ghana as a liaison for the Presbyterian Church (USA) in West Africa. Josh was an Associate Pastor at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN until October of this year. Below is his Christmas email.

Friends,

This past October, I moved from St. Paul, Minnesota to Accra, Ghana, to begin a term of service as the West Africa Regional Liaison for the Presbyterian Church USA. Yes, that's right, I'm living in West Africa and will be here through at least 2012. (As people sometimes say in Ghana, I will be here in West Africa through 2012, God willing.)

In this position, I am working to facilitate partnerships between the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of West Africa. There are vibrant connections with churches in Ghana, Nigeria, and Niger, and growing connections with Togo, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

The work has many aspects to it: helping to build congregation to congregation partnerships, as well as supporting programs and activities in the areas of education, health, development, and evangelism. Although at times it's a struggle to be living and working here, due to the normal challenges of life in a developing country, it's an incredibly hospitable and friendly environment, and so far, I'm enjoying it!

If you'd like to keep up on news of my work, you can do so here: <http://joshinwestafrica.blogspot.com/>

The Presbyterian Church USA is also dependent on contributions to fund both my salary and work-related expenses. I'm grateful for

any support you can provide ... just go to one of the following two web pages.

West African Regional Liaison-

(<http://www.pcusa.org/give/online/projectSelectAction.do?numberString=E051606>)

Gifts to this ECO provide travel and operating expenses for the work of regional liaisons in supporting partner churches and programs, mission personnel, involvement of PC(USA) presbyteries and congregations, and organizations and mission networks in the region, which includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Regional Liaison for West Africa, Ghana Mission Personnel-

(<http://www.pcusa.org/give/online/projectSelectAction.do?numberString=E200353>)

As regional liaison for West Africa Josh Heikkila facilitates support for the programs, relationships and activities of PC(USA) partners. He also provides support to PC(USA) mission personnel and helps connect partner churches with PC(USA) churches that want to be involved in ministry in the region.

Best wishes to you this Christmas season. I hope you're enjoying the snow and cold. I might be willing to trade it for the 95 degree weather we're having here. Peace be with you!

Sincerely,
Josh Heikkila

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Moderator's Report

By Jin S. Kim

The following is the report given by PTCA Moderator at the January 2010 Presbytery Meeting at Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview, MN on January 9, 2010.

The rationale for our new Presbytery meeting format

Since July of last year we have attempted to remind ourselves that presbytery too is church, according to the Reformed tradition. If that is the case, then presbytery must not be the locus primarily of business, but of common worship and common mission. First, a word about our new focus on worship. It is as a worshiping community that the business of the presbytery is conducted. With that understanding the Presbytery Council appointed the Worship Task Force to integrate the presbytery's business into a liturgy of worship. Since July, every presbytery meeting has included both the Word, either in sermon or testimony form, and Sacrament, in the Lord's Supper, to strengthen our communion with one another as the body of Christ. We give special thanks to God for the host congregations of Church of the Master in Coon Rapids, First Presbyterian in Shakopee and Christ Presbyterian in Edina who have offered their hospitality and unique gifts to lead us in worship (by the way, we will also include the gifts of those congregations that do not have the physical capacity to host a presbytery meeting, like my own church).

Today, we continue this practice by having Church of the Way lead us once more, and we celebrate with them their 50th anniversary as a thriving congregation. We have been enriched in sharing these mutual blessings, and are reminded that this is one of the primary reasons we exist as a presbytery: to share our gifts and blessings with one another.

The second focus has been integrating our common sense of mission into our gatherings. The Council perceived the Six Great Ends of the Church as an elegant and still relevant "mission statement" for our presbytery and its constituent congregations and ministries. Every meeting has had a theme, and this being our 4th meeting of the presbytery year means that we will be considering theologically the 4th Great End: the preservation of the truth. As before, we will gather into small groups to ask:

What is your ministry's "best practice" in providing for "the preservation of the truth" that you would want to share with others?

What can we do as a Presbytery to provide for "the preservation of the truth"?

These Six Great Ends appear in the first chapter of the Book of Order, and remind us that the mission of God transcends gender, race, ethnicity, ideology, orientation and culture, and therefore leads us to affirm that our common convictions are greater than our various differences. At our next meeting in March at North Como Church, the Rev. Dr. Mark Lomax of First Afrikan Presbyterian Church in Atlanta will preach on the Fifth Great End: the promotion of social righteousness, so don't miss it. As always, I encourage my fellow presbyters to bring your best ideas to any one of us on the Council.

Rethinking the parish concept

Did you know that within the bounds of certain presbyteries across the country formal parishes exist? It could be anywhere from two to a dozen congregations that have a special relationship and greater intimate sharing than regular presbytery meetings might provide. We are past the time when the average presbytery, as an institutional entity, has the ability to form a new church, or even to seriously help redevelop a declining church. And it's not just due to a lack of funding. I am not unaware that we tried to form smaller "clusters" of congregations a couple of years ago after the Summit to foster a greater sense of connectedness, but many perceived this to be a top-down approach, and churches seemed to lose interest quickly until the project was completely abandoned, despite the best efforts of the original planners.

What I envision is a number of congregations coming together organically, some with staff development expertise, some with community organizing experience, some with financial resources, congregations with various charisms coming together as a parish to share in worship, mission, fellowship, but the most intriguing possibility of all: helping to form vital and robust new congregations for this new century. Lest we forget, many congregations in this presbytery were started by other congregations, not the presbytery, but we have basically lost that tradi-

Hope In Our Midst: Reflections on the 2007 Youth Triennium



"In a world where our young people are confronted by war, natural disasters on an epic scale, and senseless shootings in high schools and college campuses, the theme of Hope In Our Midst was an important and powerful one. Participants...were given permission to feel the pain that is a part of living in the modern world, but were also shown over and over again the numerous ways that we as Christians in this world find hope."

-Rev. Rebecca Fletcher.

By Rebecca Fletcher

The following was an article by Rev. Rebecca Fletcher that originally appeared in Emerge in July of 2007. Fletcher was the Co-Registrar for that event and shared her views of the 2007 Triennium. Fletcher was ordained in August of 2007 and is a chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul.

At 10:03 pm on Monday, July 16, two buses pulled away from Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, carrying 52 youth and 8 adults from the PTCA who were rolling along in faith towards the 2007 Triennium. Although a few of those present had been to one or more previous Trienniums, nobody was quite sure what to expect. From the opening recreation events to the very moving and inspiring closing worship, however, all 60 PTCA participants found an experience that was beyond anything they could have dreamed.

In a world where our young people are confronted by war, natural disasters on an epic scale, and senseless shootings in high schools and college campuses, the theme of Hope In Our Midst was an important and powerful one. Participants in this year's Triennium were given permission to feel the pain that is a part of living in the modern world, but were also shown over and over again the numerous ways that we as Christians in this world find hope. We find hope in being connected as the body of Christ, a connection that is impressively demonstrated by over 4000 youth and adults singing, praying, and worshipping together. We find hope in the scriptures as they were interpreted in worship and studied in small groups. We find hope in other people who, despite being from far-away states and countries, have the same struggles and worries as we do. We find hope in caring adults who plan for and lead the activities of Triennium.

With two custom-designed shirts and a variety of pins to trade, our delegation was soon well-known on campus. Some people even thought we had a different T-shirt for

each day of the week! (We did not, but we did have committed adults who washed the ones we had so we could wear them again!) Representing 16 churches in the PTCA, our delegation reflected the diversity of our part of the world and the changing face of the church as it looks for ways to include immigrants from different countries and incorporate different cultures in its worship and ministry.

When the buses pulled back into Rochester and Oak Grove on Sunday night, those who disembarked were tired, hungry, and hoarse, but they brought home true love for one another, an increased understanding of the church, loads of contact information for new friends from all across the country, and hearts burning and bursting with the hope of Christ. It was truly a transformative trip for all who went.

On behalf of every member of the PTCA delegation, I would like to express my deepest and sincerest gratitude to the Presbytery for its ongoing support of this event. The financial support of the Presbytery makes the trip possible; without it, the cost would be prohibitive for many of the young people who attend. By investing in its youth, the Presbytery ensures that there will continue to be new leadership in our churches, our Presbyteries, and our entire denomination. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010 is July 19-24. Please encourage youth in your congregation to apply for this great event. If you have questions please contact Scott Dobovsky 612-986-9356, scdobo@gmail.com. You can register and pay your deposit online by going to the PTCA website: www.ptcaweb.org.

Moderator's Report, continued



"Real people have been hurt over the many reorganizations that our presbytery has gone through, the severe staff cuts a couple of years ago, the floor maneuvers around the General Assembly commissioner nominating process, the "command and control" type ethos that some committees and staff seemed to operate under, the lack of follow up and follow through after a presbytery-wide Summit in 2006...too many to list here ."

-Rev. Jin S. Kim.

tion by adopting a heavily centralized bureaucratic model from the 1950s and 60s. We need to go back to the future and have churches forming new churches, and even rallying around congregations that want to redevelop and transform but need the help of more vital congregations. Of course, the input of the Church Development Team and the Presbytery Council will be an important part of this initiative. Anyone interested in deeper conversation about the parish concept is welcome to contact me as an initial step.

Presbyters need healing too

In the 10+ years I have been a member of this presbytery I have witnessed some bruising battles over some of the most contentious issues yet unresolved in our denomination.

But it's not just issues with an ideological or theological bent. Real people have been hurt over the many reorganizations that our presbytery has gone through, the severe staff cuts a couple of years ago, the floor maneuvers around the General Assembly commissioner nominating process, the "command and control" type ethos that some committees and staff seemed to operate under, the lack of follow up and follow through after a presbytery-wide Summit in 2006...too many to list here.

A couple of years ago we attempted to have a healing service of worship during one of our presbytery meetings. It was well planned and thoughtfully arranged, but I did not have the sense that we as presbyters were ready to share our hurt with one another, nor that the time and space were conducive for such mutual vulnerability.

There are some things that have changed for the better since then. As I mentioned earlier, we have been functioning much more as a worshiping community in the past year, with a common mission statement binding us together at each meeting. We also have a new leader who is not only an executive, but a pastor to us all. We are on the cusp of hosting a General Assembly, which requires all of us, regardless of our backgrounds and affinities, to join together to offer the most gracious and loving

hospitality that we can muster, with a sprinkling of that famous "Minnesota nice"!

The presbytery council is preparing to incorporate a healing service of worship again during our March meeting at North Como. We wonder if this is not a kairos moment to invite God's balm of Gilead and the ministry of reconciliation to a presbytery that is known more for what divides us than what unites us. Please prayerfully prepare for the next meeting, and let us try to be a high-risk, low-anxiety .

Jin S. Kim is the pastor of Church of Nations Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and the Moderator of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.



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!

Transitions: Notes About PTCA Pastors



Ordination Anniversaries

January 2010

- Conrad Godwin (1/1/62)
- David M. Mwihiya (1/1/1992)
- Charles H. Nelson (1/2/1960)
- Julie E. Neraas (1/3/1980)
- Brent B. Coffin (1/11/1976)
- Julia O. Christensen (1/14/1979)
- John F. Crosby (1/15/1984)
- Matt Johnson (1/17/2007)
- Heidi H. Vardeman (1/18/1981)
- Donald L. Genereux (1/19/2008)
- Lucy A. Forster-Smith (1/20/1980)
- Theresa M. Roos (1/21/1990)
- Beverly Modlin (1/22/2006)
- Elizabeth J. Raitt (1/22/1984)
- William Davnie (1/25/1976)
- Bernard E. Johnson (1/26/1975)
- Robert C. Malcolm (1/27/1958)
- John T. Lindquist (1/29/1978)
- Julia A. Carlson (1/30/2000)
- Carol Shaffer (1/31/1993)

Comings and Goings

- Several pastors have died since the last publication of EMerge. We remember: **Donald McNair, Mark Bayert, Sally Hill, Harold Freeman and Stan Johnson**. Please keep their families in your prayers.
- **Janet Shannon** will become the new interim minister at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Stillwater in February. She recently concluded another interim at a UCC congregation in Washington County.
- Please keep **Teresa Roberts** in your prayers. The minister member recently had her position at Wayzata United Church of Christ eliminated due to budget issues.
- We welcome **Joan (pronounced JoAnn) Irminger McKenzie**, who will be the new pastor at Buffalo Presbyterian Church in Buffalo starting February 1. We also offer prayers and thanks for **Julie Carlson** who served as the interim pastor at Buffalo for nearly two years.
- We welcome **Reverend Theresa Latini**, who transferred from the Presbytery of Philadelphia to the PTCA. She is a professor Congregational and Community Care at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She was also approved to be a Parish Associate at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian in Minneapolis.

COLA picks communion ware for GA's opening worship

by Presbyterian Neighbor News

The executive committee of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 219th (2010) General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), slated July 3-10 in Minneapolis, has selected the communion ware for opening worship Sunday, July 4.

The committee picked Diane Millner of Stockholm Pottery of Stockholm, WI, a potter who has created hand-thrown functional stoneware for more than 25 years, as the communion ware artist.

She will produce 450 chalices and 225 patens (plates) which will be available for purchase as collector's items after being used to serve communion to the estimated 8,000 attendees at opening worship.

According to the Rev. Paula Sanders, executive coordinator for the Committee on Local Arrangements, the committee chose this artist and her pottery based on her style which well illustrates the General Assembly theme, "Rivers of Living Water."



This image shows preview of the paten selected as part of the communion ware for the 2010 General Assembly this summer.

Calling all photographers!

Presbyterians Today invites you to get out your camera and showcase your creativity!
Entry Deadline: March 1



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.

Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

Synod COM/CPM Conference at Buffalo in January: Joseph Small, director of theology worship and education ministries for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be the keynote speaker for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies 2010 COM/CPM Leadership Conference slated Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 26-28, at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minn. The theme for this year's conference is "Finding Joy in Our Vocations." Small, who has served in his position with the General Assembly Mission Council since 2007, holds degrees from Brown University, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary and Louisville Theological Seminary. He has served on the staff of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and as pastor of churches in Towson, Md., Westerville, Ohio, and Rochester, N.Y. The conference's plenary presentations include "Authoritative Interpretation and Scruples," by Diana Barber, the synod's associate executive for leadership development, and "Leadership for a Multicultural Church," by Jin S. Kim, pastor of Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights, Minn. Conference registration can be completed by contacting COM or CPM moderators of individual presbyteries, or by contacting Barber at 800.328.1880, ext. 207, or by email at dbarber@lakesandprairies.org.

-Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Cynthia Bolback Endorsed for Moderator by National Capital Presbytery: National Capital Presbytery has unanimously endorsed the first candidate to stand for moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The assembly will be held July 3-10 in Minneapolis. Elder Cynthia Bolbach, 61, (left) is a lawyer and member of First Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Va. "I feel called to stand for Moderator to help our church, proud inheritor of the Reformed tradition, discern how best to proclaim the timeless Gospel message to a 21st century world that is multicultural and religiously pluralistic," Bolbach said in a presbytery press release. She has leadership experience in many levels of the church. Bolbach served as co-moderator of the GA Form of Government Task Force. The task force first reported to the 218th GA in 2008 and will report to this year's Assembly when its proposal was referred back for more study and refinement.

Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Why Should we look forward to GA?: Looking back through the blog of the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), one finds his "top-five reasons" for looking forward to this summer's General Assembly. He begins, "Over the past few weeks I have met with both the Committee on Local Arrangements in Minneapolis and the meeting arrangements staff of the Office of the General Assembly. And while those do not sound like thrilling meetings, I must say, the sweet aroma of our bi-annual gathering is beginning to fill the air. Sure ... it is just one giant presby geek-fest and one could argue that it is one more way that we can pretend that we are more influential than we really are or used to be ... but, gosh darn-it, I do loves me some General Assembly."

Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

New Union-PSCE website connects Bible, theology and kid's lit: What do a book about sharks, a children's biography of John Calvin, and a story about a dump truck have in common?

According to a new website launched in the fall by Union Theological Seminary-Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union-PSCE), as part of the world of children's literature, the stories provide links to the Biblical story and theological reflection.

The new website — Children's Literature: A Resource for Ministry (<http://storypath.wordpress.com/>)

— offers a host of online resources for using children's and adolescent literature in educational ministry. It provides book reviews, lesson plans and ideas for ministry created by faculty and students at Union-PSCE.

Compiled from Press Releases

Rural ministry conference set at Wartburg: The 29th annual Rural Ministry Conference, sponsored by the Center for Theology & Land at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, is scheduled Sunday through Tuesday, March 7-9, at the seminary.

This year's theme is "Nurturing Generosity."

Promotional materials describe the conference as a place "where leaders in rural communities and congregations gather to gain insight and inspiration, to network and neighbor that our ministries might be empowered."

Online registration is available through the seminary's website, <http://www.ruralministry.com/conference/conference.htm>.

By Presbyterian Neighbor News

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



Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

the Lilly Endowment and Una Olisi, director of research from the Indiana University Center of Philanthropy.

by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Kwanzaa, U of M begin new community initiative: As a result the alarming rate of prostitution in the community, Kwanzaa Community Church in Minneapolis and researcher Lauren Martin of the University of Minnesota are collaborating to improve the lives of those engaged in trading sex on Minneapolis' north side.

Together, they have developed the "Northside Women's Space," whose aim is to provide women in prostitution a space to connect with one another, based on the values of empowerment, respect, dignity, integrity, community and hope.

The Northside Women's Space, which will be located inside of Kwanzaa Community Church, will offer a number of holistic services to begin the healing process. Services will include empowerment and health classes, resume and job search support, chemical dependency referrals and HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and services. There will also be spiritual offerings provided, with sessions on trauma, healing and hope, and individual spiritual direction. In addition, the space will also provide a computer/workstation with Internet access, a personal cleaning area, sitting area, a phone line and light refreshments.

To find out more about this new initiative, attend the Open House from 5:30-7:30 p.m., on Thursday, January 28 at Kwanzaa Community Church at 2100 Emerson Avenue North in Minneapolis. For more information, email kwanzaachurch@gmail.com.

From Press Releases

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 message 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

Prayers for Church Grand Opening: Paul Moore, organizing pastor of Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church in Lino Lakes is asking for prayers as they prepare for their "grand opening" service on January 31. "We are very excited for our Grand Opening worship service which will be Sunday, January 31st at 10:30 a.m. at the Lino Lakes Senior Center," Moore said in the new congregation's prayer newsletter. "This service will be a chance for people in the Blaine/Lino Lakes area to come check out what is happening at Chain of Lakes Church."

Moore said every congregation in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area has been asked to send a representative to the grand opening service. According to Associate Pastor Meghan Gage-Finn, Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis will be sending a family to represent them at the January 31 service.

Pastor Moore asks for prayers for the following: "Pray that the Spirit will be present in a special way at this service; pray that the unchurched in Blaine/Lino Lakes will be nudged by God to attend this service; pray that the every congregation in the Presbytery will send representatives to the service."

Chain of Lakes worships at 1189 Main Street in Lino Lakes. For more information, you can contact the church at 763-208-8049 or go the website at www.colpres.org.

By Dennis Sanders, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

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
- Director of Children's Ministries, Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Edina
- Pastor, Zion United Church of Christ, LeSueur

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.)

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

- Korean Presbyterian Church of Minnesota, Brooklyn Center– Interim Pastor
- 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.

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.

Bills and Overtures Forum at United Seminary: The Bills and Overtures Committee will be meeting at United Seminary in New Brighton on January 16, 2010, from 10:00 - noon, to hear input from members of the Presbytery regarding bills and overtures before the Committee. This includes the new *Form of Government*, available at www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment. For more information, please contact committee chair Barbara Anne Keely at billsandovertures@ptcaweb.org.

Synod Winter Meeting: The Synod of Lakes and Prairies will hold its annual meeting Sunday evening through Tuesday morning, Jan. 17-19, at Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, Farmington, Minn. Orientation meetings are planned for first-time commissioners and youth advisory delegates from 4 to 5 p.m. opening day. Synod Executive Phil Brown, in his memo to commissioners, wrote, "As we enter this New Year, I encourage each of us to consider the glimpse we have had of the Babe in Bethlehem. And so for the meeting of the synod assembly ... our time together in 2010 will call on us to seek a fresh glimpse for ourselves." The complete text of Brown's memo is on the synod's website, www.lakesandprairies.org.

Gubernatorial Forum on Homelessness: Sunday, Jan. 24, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55405

Be informed about what each candidate proposes to do about Ending Homelessness if elected! The Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness and the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition will present a Candidate Forum open to the public on January 24th from 6:30-8:30pm. The candidates from the major parties have been invited to gather at Temple Israel to talk about their vision of Minnesota. Please join us for the Forum!

Co-sponsored by A Minnesota Without Poverty, St. Paul

Council of Churches, Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Jewish Community Action, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, and Families Moving Forward.

For more information please contact Brian Rusche at brusche@jrlc.org or 612-230-3230.

Discussion on Vitamin Therapy and Mental Illness: Monday, January 25, 2010

Trinity Presbyterian Church

2125 Tower Drive

Woodbury, MN 55125

On Monday, January 25, 2010, Trinity Presbyterian Church will host a free discussion on the topic of vitamin therapy in treating mental illness. This presentation explores specific nutritional studies that have been conducted on various brain disorders. Researches on Omega 3 and Omega 6 fatty acids, Vitamin D, B12 and lithium orotate are a sampling of nutrients that will be presented. Common dietary interventions will also be discussed.

The presenter will be Laura McDaniel, a registered nurse at Wyndgate Health. Prior to that, she worked at The Pfeiffer Treatment Center for nine years, where she trained physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in biomedical therapies.

The class will be held from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church, located at 2125 Tower Drive in Woodbury. It is free and open to the public. Experienced child care will be available for a freewill offering. Registration is required so that we can arrange appropriate care for your child/ren. Call Dee Lindblom at (651) 738-0045.

Dare to Dream: Tuesday, Jan. 26, 10 am to 2 pm

Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-2138



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

It takes courage to step out of our comfort zones, learn about new cultures and extend ourselves as good neighbors to others who don't look like us. Might we, in the church today, dare to dream how we can make a real and lasting difference?

Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking conversation. Churches and organizations are encouraged to bring six-to-eight people that will work together throughout the day. Cost for the day is \$20 per person. Advanced registration and payment are required through mail or online (preferred) at www.faithinthecity.org. **Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 19** to assure your place at this important event.

Questions can be directed to Deborah Hutterer at 612-359-6499. This event is sponsored by Faith in the City and LINC-Twin Cities.

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.

Immigration Reform Forum at St. Luke: St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Wayzata will host a community forum on Sunday, January 31 to further explore immigration reform and rights from the perspective of our faith traditions.

The day begins with an Interfaith Service at 10:30 am followed by lunch.

Dr. Miguel De La Torre, a professor of Social Ethics at

Illiff Seminary in Denver will preach at the 10:30 service. author, professor.

A Community Forum from 1:00-5:00 pm follows lunch with workshops given by leaders in our community along with St. Luke participants.

This gathering brings together faith and community leaders to discuss immigration reform and rights from the perspective of our faith traditions, and to mobilize faith communities to support humane and just reform.

Dr. Miguel De La Torre, author of *Trails of Hope and Terror: Testimonies on Immigration*, is a well-known author of Hispano/Latina theology, Liberation Theologian and professor of Social Ethics at Illiff Seminary in Denver, Colorado. He is the Director of the Peace and Justice Institute and writes extensively on race, class, and gender with religion.

This event is Co-sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, Task Force on Immigration-MN UCC Conference, Jewish Community Action, St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Minnesota Da'wah Institute, Macalester-Plymouth Peacemakers, Resource Center of the Americas.

St. Luke Presbyterian is located at 3121 Groveland School Road in Wayzata.

Winter Pastor's School in Nebraska: The 2010 Winter Pastors' School, with the theme "When Church Stories Become Songs," runs Feb. 1-4 at Hastings (Neb.) College. The school will take participants into the stories of their congregations, mining them for wisdom in relation to the seasons of the church year. Practical applications of this year's school include preaching from the lectionary in the seasons, personal reflection on faith stories, spiritual development of church boards and leadership teams, communal story formation, and congregational understanding and developing of their own stories. Winter Pastors' School begins with the first presentation at 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1, and ends with communion worship service at 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4. For more information, please go to website of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley at www.pmr.v.org.

Events Calendar, Continued

Holiday Office Hours

The
Presbytery
Office will be
closed on
January 18 in
honor of the
Rev. Dr.
Martin Luther
King.

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.

Antiracism Resources Available: Antiracism resources and an invitation to participate in antiracism learning are again being extended by ASDIC, which is under the leadership of Herb Perkins (Cherokee Park United Church) and Margery Otto (Mayflower Congregational UCC). Resources are available at the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ website (www.uccmn.org). Click to find:

- a letter describing an upcoming ASDIC Decolonization Retreat on Feb. 13th and 14th,
- spring Antiracism Study Dialogue Circles beginning in February,
- two documents about whiteness and its implications (document 1, document 2), and
- a registration form for the retreats and circles.

Clergy and lay leaders are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to strengthen our capacity for becoming true multicultural/antiracist communities of faith. For more information you can also go to www.Cherokeeparkunited.org and click

on ASDIC.

Academy for Vital Christianity: What is the Academy for Vital Christianity? A chance to take seminary-level classes on religion and faith at a convenient time and place.

The Academy offers short-term classes in churches around Minnesota. Classes focus on topics like evil and suffering, understanding the Bible in contemporary terms, and sacred music and arts. Taught by United faculty members and regional experts, the 10-hour classes are offered evenings and weekends. Among this spring's offerings:

Professor Christine Smith leads discussions on how we can respond to "Eco-Injustice."

Gail Anderson explores the Metro area's growing communities of non-Christian faiths.

Dean Richard Weis shares a 21st century perspective on the writings of the prophets.

An interactive format encourages a lively give and take, and United's tradition of hospitality creates a sense of inclusiveness.

Early registration: \$175 (up to 2 weeks before the class)

Regular registration: \$225

For more information, including class details and registration, just go to <http://www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/academy.asp>. Questions? Contact Renee Flesner at 651.255.6138 or rflesner@unitedseminary.edu.



"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) Thursday, January 28.

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Presbytery Calendar, January 2010

Monday January 18, 2010

PTCA Office Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday

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

Tuesday January 19, 2010

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

Wednesday January 20, 2010

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

Thursday January 21, 2010

Commissioned Lay Pastors Committee: 9:30AM - 11:30AM, Minnesota Church Center, Minneapolis

Church Development Team: 12:30PM-2PM, TBA

Monday January 25, 2010

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: 4:30PM-6:30 PM, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington

Thursday January 28, 2010

Presbytery Council: 5:00PM-6:30PM TBA

Saturday January 30, 2010

Suicide and the Church's Ministry: 9:00AM-Noon, Valley Presbyterian Church, Golden Valley

Sunday January 31, 2010

Grand Opening Service: 10:30AM, Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church, Lino Lakes

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