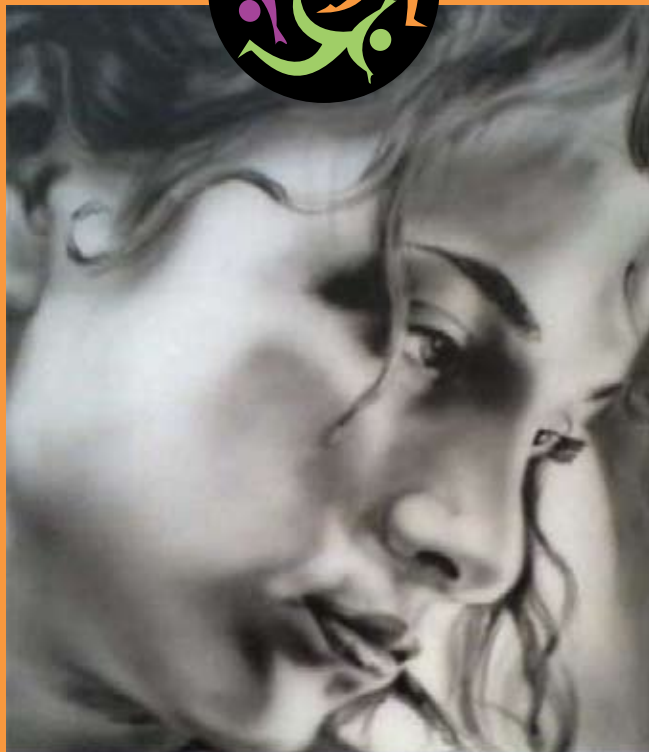


Synod School 2010



Grace Notes

July 25-30, 2010

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Purpose

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth, and children.

Grace Notes is the theme of Synod School 2010.

Come...

- to participate in a unique experience of Christian community as we worship, study, play, and live together;
- to grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit;
- for continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth;
- take it all in, then return home to share and serve.

For additional information contact

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Convocation speaker

We welcome **Rodger Nishioka** as convocation speaker in 2010.

Rodger holds the Benton Family chair in Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. While he teaches in the area of Christian education and practical theology, he specializes in ministry with youth and young adults and has completed a research project comparing the participation of young adults in mainline Protestant congregations and non-denominational independent Christian movements.



Prior to his joining the faculty at Columbia, Rodger served for 12 years as denominational staff in youth & young adult ministry for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He received his undergraduate degree from Seattle Pacific University, his master's degree in theological studies from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, a Doctor of Divinity degree from Austin College and his Ph.D. from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

He has published several articles, chapters, and books largely focused on ministry with youth and young adults and the educational ministry of the church as spiritual formation.

A gifted and engaging presenter, teacher, and storyteller, Rodger is one of the very few who has been invited to return a second time to be convocation speaker at Synod School. And, being the son of an honorably retired Presbyterian pastor, Rodger is evidence that you can be a pastor's kid and still love Jesus.

About convocation

"Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace."
In the late 18th century, Robert Robinson penned these words naming God as the source of all blessings and asking God to tune our hearts to sing of the grace we find in Jesus Christ. Now here we are in the 21st century even more aware of the blessings that God bestows upon us through God's grace in Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. The moment-by-moment task for us all, children, youth, and adults, is to tune our hearts and our whole lives so that we sing of this grace—to give witness to the grace notes we experience over and over. This year, through the theme of *Grace Notes*, we will explore what it means in the 21st century to tune our hearts and our very lives to sing of God's grace through all of life's turns, blessings and struggles, joys and tragedies. Through the particular lens of Reformed theology, we will explore what it means to respond to God's gift of grace.



Worship leaders

Barb Nish and **Mark Davis** have been leading worship as a team at Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive, IA since 1996. During that time they have established a reputation for offering creative and inclusive worship, with innovative worship themes and unique musical, visual, and embodied approaches to those themes. Most notably, Heartland Church began using jazz as its primary musical form in 2002, as a means of finding a musical style that lends itself to a wide expression of human experience and the message of the gospel.



As graduates of McCormick Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary respectively, Barb and Mark bring a strong commitment to theological integrity in the process of worship planning. This year's theme, "Grace Notes" will provide Synod School with times of worship and reflection that are powerful and expressive.

Steve Plank, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Omaha, NE since 1999, will lead morning worship. He also serves as the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley. Before moving into this Synod, Steve served in different leadership positions in congregations in Illinois and he has been involved in the work of all the presbyteries of which he has been a member. Steve was graduated from Sterling College (KS) with a degree in Biblical Studies and Philosophy, and completed his seminary studies from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has served as chaplain of a volunteer fire department, adjunct faculty member in philosophy at a community college, member of the Cultural Diversity Commission of the City Council



in one city, and co-chair of a committee that led a successful drive to pass two school referenda. Steve enjoys writing and reading, music and community theater, and once every year or so spends a prayer and retreat week at a monastery.

Artist in Residence



Derrick Ogden teaches art in the Des Moines public school system. He has been involved in drawing and other artistic disciplines since a very young age. However, his formal Art education is from Skidmore College in upstate NY. He has worked as an Art teacher in the public schools for the better part of 17 years of teaching. He works primarily with drawing, and sculpting (wood or stone), but his training also includes painting, ceramics, glass blowing, jewelry making, photography, and textiles. His main subject matter is the human figure.

At Skidmore he chose to use the airbrush as a fine arts medium for portraiture. Typically, the airbrush is confined to commercial and graphic applications. Using the airbrush free hand, with very fine black ink on paper, produces an effect that is a cross between a charcoal drawing and a black and white photograph. This technique can create a rich interplay of light and shadow by applying value without the lines or marks other mediums make by touching the paper.

The cover art is one of Derrick's portraits and he will be working on a large portrait during Synod School so people can see the process.

The Synod School Community Covenant

Synod School is a weeklong experience of intentional Christian community. At the heart of successful community is agreement about how we will live together. The Synod School Committee asks that you join in a covenant for the well being and safety of the whole community. That covenant includes:

- being responsible for and to your family members during the week;
- welcoming other Synod School attendees as part of your extended family for the week—parent, child, grandparent, aunt, uncle ... and treating them accordingly;
- exercising courtesy toward everyone, Synod School attendees and Buena Vista staff alike;
- being good stewards of the environment, our resources, and campus property;
- respecting quiet time in the dorms to honor everyone's need for rest;
- leaving at home skateboards, inline skates, and other recreational equipment that would compete with pedestrian use of the sidewalks;
- obeying all laws and all campus and Synod School rules.

Worship and spiritual formation

Whether you're a first timer or longtime attendee, Synod School is an exceptional experience, especially because of the many opportunities it offers for enriching worship and nurturing spiritual practices. Every class or activity offered during the week enriches our faith lives. Some classes and experiences are included especially because they invite us to worship and engage God in ways that may be new to us. All worship experiences are planned to be intergenerational.

Morning worship

Everyone is invited to morning worship as we gather as a community to start our day in worship and praise to our God. Come be energized for the new day as we look for signs of God's grace.

Evening worship

The community gathers for worship each evening after dinner. Other activities are not scheduled during this time so that everyone may participate. Children and youth are encouraged to attend worship and everyone will be invited to participate in a variety of ways. Communion is traditionally celebrated on Thursday evening. A special offering for the Synod School Scholarship Fund is also received in that service.

Taizé Worship Planning and Service

A special mini-course time on two evenings will provide the opportunity to plan and/or experience a Taizé worship service. Together, using our own constellation of spiritual gifts for music, Scripture, art and liturgy, we will design a worship service in the style of the Taizé community. Using prayers, Scripture, musical meditations and silence, we will create a reflective worship space into which others will be invited. Those interested in helping to plan the service should bring any worship accoutrements, instruments, etc. that they think may be useful. Appreciation of creativity

required of planners. You will be able to participate in the service whether or not you help plan it.

Spiritual direction

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to meet with a spiritual director? Would you enjoy taking a “long, loving look at the real” with an attentive companion? Would you like some help in weaving together your Synod School experience so that you can discern what the Spirit might be trying to communicate to you during this week?

Experienced spiritual directors will be offering free spiritual direction to Synod School participants. Spiritual directors meet with you, in an atmosphere of prayer, to pay attention to the undercurrents of the Spirit in your life. The goal is to become more aware of and responsive to the presence of God in our lives, and to live our lives from that standpoint. Participants can sign up for individual spiritual direction sessions throughout the week.

Spirituality center and labyrinth

The small chapel in the basement of the Schaller Memorial Chapel will be set up to accommodate a number of personal spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, reading, etc. We invite anyone looking for a few minutes of quiet “time away” to take advantage of the opportunities the center will provide. Participants from First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks, ND, will again facilitate a labyrinth for your personal reflection. A meditative walk through a labyrinth combines the physical and the spiritual. An outdoor labyrinth will be available at any time during the day. Each evening following worship there will be opportunity to walk an indoor labyrinth.

Schedule of classes



All-day classes

01 Newly Ordained Clergy Newcomers Seminar

All-morning classes (9:30-11:45)

02 Newly Ordained Clergy Reunion Seminar

03 The Pastor’s Spouse

04 Sistine Secrets

05 Stained Glass

06 Seminar for Young Adults

Morning session 1 (9:30-10:30)

07 Spirituality 101: Stop, Look and Listen

08 Basket Weaving 101

09 The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom

10 The Book of Proverbs: Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World

11 China and the Chinese Church

12 Belly Dance 1

13 *The Irony of American History*: Reinhold Niebuhr’s Message for Today

14 Understanding Presbyterian Polity

15 Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Churches, Professionals, and Communities

16 The Fast and the Furious

17 Technology for Worship

18 Artist Trading Cards – Art in Your Pocket!

19 Yoga: Vacation Style

20 Listening to the Gospels Speak

Morning session 2 (10:45-11:45)

21 Spirituality 201: Revitalizing Congregations

22 Publisher Pizzazz

23 Prayer Shawl Ministry

24 Gilligan’s Island and the Seven Deadly Sins

25 Biblical Poetry

26 Render Unto Caesar

- 27 Praise and Prayer
- 28 Kumihimo: The Sequel or "That's nice, what do we do with it now?"
- 29 Horizons Bible Study: The Book of Revelation
- 30 Belly Dance II
- 31 Aging Well: Mind, Body and Soul
- 32 A Green Church Isn't Just Irish
- 33 Christmas in July through Quilling
- 34 Beyond "An Eye for an Eye:" *The Oresteia* and the Death Penalty

All-afternoon (2:30-4:45)

- 35 Outer Work, Inner Life: Discovering the Rhythm of Work/Life Balance
- 36 God at the Box Office
- 37 Introduction to Figure Drawing
- 38 Guided Spiritual Retreat
- 39 Love & Logic's Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun!

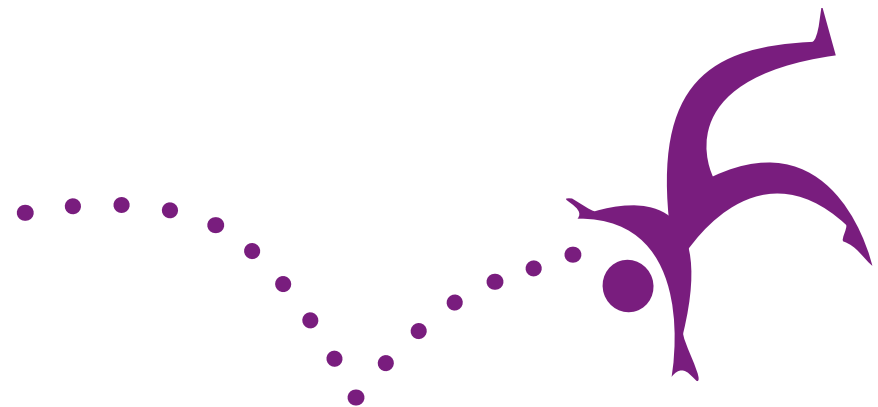
Afternoon session 1 (2:30-3:30)

- 40 Ultimate Sports I
- 41 Cake Decorating
- 42 Finding Meaning from Change: Opening New Windows
- 43 Bible's Best Jokes, Pranks, and Gags
- 44 Hope on the Mountain
- 45 Ministry in the 21st Century
- 46 Schwinns and Spirituality
- 47 Getting in Shape Fiscally
- 48 The Yoke's on You
- 49 Talking with God
- 50 Roadtrip! Vacation Planning
- 51 African Style Drumming
- 52 Usury: Then and Now
- 53 Memoir Writing

Afternoon session 2 (3:45-4:45)

- 54 Ultimate Sports II
- 55 Random Weave Baskets
- 56 The Desert of the Real
- 57 The Art of Parables

- 58 CSI: Fact and Fiction
- 59 Juggling: (A Second Dose of) A Most Creative Sport
- 60 More Good, More Evil
- 61 Religion – A Missing Piece in Foreign Affairs?
- 62 Electrical Repair for the Homeowner
- 63 Emerging Church
- 64 Tatting
- 65 Silk Screening: The How, Why and Awe!
- 66 Acoustic Music Jam and Song Share
- 67 Improvisation



Course descriptions

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All-day classes

01 Newly Ordained Clergy Newcomers Seminar

Clergy ordained since January 2007, who have not previously attended, are invited to begin their Newly Ordained Clergy Seminars experience with this seminar.

Gary Fugman

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Lyons, NE

Roxie Sullivan

*Pastor, First United Presbyterian Church, Falls City, NE
and First Presbyterian Church, Hiawatha, KS*

All-morning classes (9:30-11:45)

02 Newly Ordained Clergy Reunion Seminar

Clergy who participated in the 2009 newcomer's seminar are invited to renew connections and build skills.

Candace Adams

Pastor, Hope Presbyterian Church, Spicer, MN

Scott Prouty

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Redwood Falls, MN

03 The Pastor's Spouse

This class will explore the unique role of being a pastor's spouse. It's a confidential forum for discussion, sharing concerns, and sharing resources. We will also consider the benefits and drawbacks of ministry on family life (e.g., flexible schedule versus weekend and evening commitments, self-directed goals versus high congregational expectations). Whether you've figured it out or are still trying on the role, we can learn from one another. Come for sharing, listening, and mutual support. Limited to clergy spouses.

Mark Sundby

Executive Director, North Central Ministry Development Center, New Brighton, MN

04 Sistine Secrets: How a Sixteenth Century Masterpiece Has Hidden Messages to Heal the Disease of the 21st Century Soul

This class will explore the genius of Michelangelo and his master work: the frescos of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. Embedded in the multi-layered ceiling paintings and altar wall is a secret message which his culture abhorred and ours needs to embrace. Participants in this class will be introduced to the art and intrigue of the sixteenth century and invited into the world of artful meditation. We will explore the biblical messages found in Michelangelo's work and how they direct us towards a renewed understanding of our Christian faith in the current context. There will be hands-on drawing/painting so bring a smock that can be cleaned. No previous knowledge of the bible or Michelangelo's art is required...just bring an open mind and hopeful heart.

Christopher Levan

*Professor of Ethics and Pastor of Wilmot United Church, Fredericton,
New Brunswick*

05 Stained Glass

This course will be a brief introduction to stained glass crafting using the copper foil technique. You will learn to use glass cutters, grinders, soldering irons and other glass crafting tools. You will attach hanging hardware so the pieces you make this week will be ready for use. Each student will receive a good glass cutter and a pamphlet of tips, hints and sources. Most glass, use of all tools, and other materials are also covered in the materials fee of \$25. Additional special glass will be available for purchase. Enrollment limited to 15 students.

Carrie Colvin-Murphy

Artist and Stained Glass Enthusiast, Marshall, MN

06 Seminar for Young Adults

High School graduates through 20-somethings are invited to gather for frank conversation about faith and life and where the two intersect in their busy lives. How do you balance school and work with a personal life? How do you make decisions about the things that really matter? How do you find meaningful community on and offline? Join us to talk about these and other interesting things.

Bill Humphreys

Chaplain, Carroll University, Waukesha, WI

Ken Meissner

Chaplain, Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA

Morning session 1 classes (9:30-10:30)

07 Spirituality 101: Stop, Look, and Listen

Discover ways to receive God's energy in your daily life so that you are more alive and more robust in your compassion. This will be a workshop approach to learning. "Focusing on a single practice can lead you into a new way of life." –Dorothy Bass

John Ackerman

*Pastor, author, facilitator for clergy groups, spiritual director,
Minneapolis, MN*

David Butler

Pastor, United Presbyterian Church, Rice Lake, WI

James York

Pastor, North Presbyterian Church, North St. Paul, MN

08 Basket Weaving 101

In Colonial times, families made baskets for everyday use. Try your hand at this art form by weaving a classic Williamsburg basket. Made from reed, this basket has an unusually shaped handle that causes it to widen as the weaving progresses. All skill levels are welcome but we recommend prior crafting experience. A \$10 materials fee will be collected in class. Enrollment limited to 16 students.

Jennifer Giles and Lorraine Stanfield

*Basketmakers and students of Sandy Maxa from Clive, IA
and Milton, MA*

09 The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom

This class will read and discuss the book of this same title by Don Miguel Ruiz. We live in challenging times. Economic uncertainty, changing world dynamics, and our own personal life journeys can bring us to places we never expected to be and change the plans we've made for our lives. How do we deal with these challenges, with the people who fill our lives, and with our own inner dynamics in a way which leads to peace? The Four Agreements give us practical advice in down-to-earth terms. Pick up a copy of the book and join us for lively discussion. (Because Synod School days are full, students who choose this class may want to read the book in advance.)

Gretchen Graf

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks, ND

*Through Soulfood she also teaches and leads retreats in the areas of
church transformation, conflict resolution, healthy workplace dynamics,
and spiritual growth.*

10 The Book of Proverbs: Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World

We will be delving into the wisdom literature of the Bible, looking specifically at the Book of Proverbs. After a brief overview of the structure of the book, we will address the more difficult question of what this collection of ancient wisdom has to say to us as 21st century Christians. Students should bring the Bible in at least one English version—two versions would be even better. If you bring a modern translation such as *The Message* or *The Living Bible*, please bring a more literal translation such as NRSV or NIV to use along side it.

Marquita Klaver

*As a member of Wycliffe Bible Translators, she worked on a Bible
translation project in Togo, West Africa from 1986-2008. She has an
M.A. in Old Testament from Regent College, Vancouver B.C. and lives
in Lake City, IA*

11 China and the Chinese Church

We hear much in the news about China and its growing economy. But did you know that the church in China is flourishing? Come learn about China and the Chinese church with Heidi Vardeman who spent four months visiting Chinese churches and church leaders, including weeks with ethnic minority tribal churches in Yunnan. We will study how Christianity came to China in the 7th century and the modern missionary enterprise in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will explore the expulsion of foreign missionaries in the 1950s, the suffering of many Christians during the Cultural Revolution and how the church has grown since the “opening” of China in 1978. The class will include a basic introduction to Chinese culture and language (including how to write Chinese characters with ink and brush), presentations about Buddhism and Islam in China, audio visual presentations, short films and lots of time to ask questions.

Heidi Vardeman

Pastor, Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul, MN.

Heidi majored in Chinese in college and studied at the Chinese University of Hong Kong but was not able to travel to mainland China until 2009 when she was awarded a Lilly Endowment fellowship to study and travel there

12 Belly Dance I

Celebrate the feminine with this low impact aerobic workout suited for women of all ages. Energize, relieve stress, and improve coordination while learning the basic posture, movements and techniques of this ancient movement form. Enrollment limited to 18 students.

Della Bynum

Della has taught dance for more than 35 years and has traveled for study across the United States and Middle East and lives in Omaha, NE

13 The Irony of American History: Reinhold Niebuhr's Message for Today

Unquestionably the most publicly influential American theologian in the 20th Century (on the cover of *Time* magazine's 25th anniversary issue in 1948!), Niebuhr's analysis of the intersection of politics and the human condition has been rediscovered in recent years by a wide-range of thinkers, left and right. Called “Obama's favorite theologian,” his trenchant work *The Irony of American History* is “the finest book ever written on American foreign policy” according to a conservative Catholic writer who helped get this text back into print last year. The class will address this book in the context of Niebuhr's own theology and current foreign policy thinking, including time for class conversation about the American Christian experience and the place of the United States in world affairs. Reading the book in advance will be helpful, but is not required.

William Davnie

Ordained Presbyterian minister and retired Foreign Service Officer with twenty-five years of service in embassies abroad and the State Department in Washington, DC. He lives in Minneapolis, MN.

14 Understanding Presbyterian Polity

Why do Presbyterians do things the way they do? How does our Constitution define and direct our decision making and governance? Participants will see how the foundations of Presbyterian polity inherited from our ancestors influences and shapes current practice. Theoretical discussion and practical applications will be shared.

Alyson Janke

Stated Clerk of John Knox Presbytery, member of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, and Adjunct Faculty at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, she lives in Westfield, WI.

15 **Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Churches, Professionals, and Communities**

Jesus teaches that the banquet is not a success until everyone is sitting at the table. American society is becoming increasingly divided by the haves and the have-nots. Seeking truly sustainable community in our churches, agencies and communities requires that everyone present have a voice at the table. But, if you didn't grow up in poverty, you may be unaware of the "hidden rules" that govern the aspects of life for the poor. Likewise, if you have grown up in poverty, you may likely not know the "hidden rules" of the middle class. This course will seek a deeper understanding of the challenges and strengths of those who live in generational poverty. We will emerge from the week with a better understanding of the people we worship with and serve, better equipped to become bridge builders out of poverty.

Ann Sukraw-Lutz

Former Christian Educator who is currently serving low income and elderly Nebraskans as a paralegal for Legal Aid Of Nebraska, Grand Island, NE

16 **The Fast and the Furious**

Are you tired of eating expensive and unhealthy drive-thru and take-out meals? We will learn to plan and prepare fast, healthy, homemade, inexpensive meals for you and your family. We will discuss time saving techniques such as cook once and prepare two different dishes, freezing tips, and crockpot cooking. You will leave with a new collection of recipes and ways to streamline your life in the kitchen. You don't need to be an expert cook to have fun in this class. The instructor will contact you prior to Synod School to personalize the class to meet your needs. Enrollment limited to 10 students. A \$10 materials fee will be collected in class.

Becky Swartz-Brown

Personal chef and member of the United States Personal Chef Association since 1999, Omaha, NE

17 **Technology for Worship**

Many churches are just beginning to use technology in worship. This class will cover the basics and will be especially appropriate for beginners who are eager to start using technology but don't know how. We'll demonstrate presentation software (PowerPoint and MediaShout), finding a photo and preparing it for worship, preparing a movie clip, preparing a slideshow, preparing an audio clip, and taking video yourself to use in worship. We'll also discuss where to find resources. Enrollment limited to 20 students.

Suzanne Gorhau

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Centerville, IA

18 **Artist Trading Cards – Art in Your Pocket!**

The process of making Artist Trading Cards has only two rules— the size of the card (2.5 by 3.5 inches) and that cards can never be sold, only traded. From this relaxed point of view, we'll explore the incredible possibilities of these little works of art. Sue will present a variety of techniques that you can use to create your own cards and other artworks. We'll experiment with paint, drawing tools, collage, stamps, and much more. Learn something new to take home and share with adults and children, expand your creative sense, and have fun with other folks who come to create and share. No experience necessary; do bring an apron or "art shirt" because we will work with permanent media. Enrollment limited to 20 students.

Sue Rutford

Wearer of many hats, White Bear Lake, MN

19 **Yoga: Vacation Style**

Gentle, leisurely stretching will clear your mind and renew your energy. The class is designed for beginners but welcomes advanced practitioners to elaborate on the daily practice at will. Please wear clothing for easy movement, bring a yoga mat and a strap (could be a belt, a neck tie, sash of a robe). Enrollment limited to 25 students.

Jodi Stanfield

Yoga enthusiast and certified Pilates instructor, Des Moines, IA

20 Listening to the Gospels Speak

If we listen closely, we can hear messages from the gospels that are easy to miss. The authors of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have gathered up lots of stories about the life and ministry of Jesus, but these stories are not the only messages from the gospels. The particular stories that are chosen for each gospel and the way they are assembled, create messages that transcend all the particular stories about the life and ministry of Jesus. In this class we will explore these transcendent messages and listen to the truth they proclaim.

Ron Bump

Pastor emeritus, Southern Heights Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE

Morning session 2 classes (10:45-11:45)

21 Spirituality 201: Revitalizing Congregational Life

Clergy and leaders will learn to adapt the *Stop, Look, and Listen* practice in your session, worship, education, and mission. This helps the Spirit to change the culture of a congregation.

Participants must be familiar with practicing “*Stop, Look, and Listen.*”

John Ackerman

*Pastor, author, facilitator for clergy groups, spiritual director,
Minneapolis, MN*

David Butler

Pastor, United Presbyterian Church, Rice Lake, WI

James York

Pastor, North Presbyterian Church, North St. Paul, MN

22 Publisher Pizzazz

Want to create documents with a little pizzazz and professionalism? Come join us as we explore what Microsoft Publisher has to offer. We will create: letterhead, cards, brochures and newsletters.

This class is primarily for beginners, but all are welcome.

Enrollment limited to 20 students.

Shauna Seaman

*Shauna works full time as a mom and part-time teaching computer
classes and designing websites in Omaha, NE*

23 Prayer Shawl Ministry

Over the centuries shawls have been a symbol of warmth and comfort. They symbolize shelter, peace and spiritual sustenance showing inclusiveness and unconditional loving. In the 1990s, the idea of offering this comfort and caring to those in need grew into a new ministry called the Prayer Shawl Ministry. People joined together to knit or crochet shawls to be given to someone who had experienced a loss or suffered a serious illness as a reminder of God’s presence. Prayers are offered at many points of the ministry such as while knitting or presenting the shawls.

During this class the participants will:

1. Learn the concept of what a Prayer Shawl Ministry is.
2. Discuss how to start a Prayer Shawl Ministry.
3. Learn how to knit and/or increase their knitting skills.

The class is open to all knitters, beginners to experienced of all ages—the more the merrier. Please bring size 10 29” circular needles and three skeins of yarn.

Gracia Fulwiler

RN, Parish Nurse at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo ND

24 Gilligan’s Island and the Seven Deadly Sins

“How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?” Proverbs 6:9

“Be angry but do not sin; Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil.” Ephesians 4:26-27

Back in civilization, at work on their new boat, our two crewmen are not only at their wacky worst—lazy & angry—but also their unexpected best—diligent & patient! When the insurance company rejects their story on the first “Minnow” and demands that all the Castaways confirm the claim, the dysfunctional duo sets off to reunite with their friends. And provide a humorous way to see those deadly sins embodied!

Ron Lewis

Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

25 Biblical Poetry

We will explore some of the poetry found in the Bible and discuss what this means for us today. It is not necessary for you to be a poetry wizard to be in this class, just someone who would like to understand the poetry in the Bible more. This class will be a discovery process through reading passages, writing responses, and discussing our reactions. Let's explore the poetry of our Bible together!

Tamara Cox-Burnett

Servant of God, CLP and teacher, Merrill, WI

26 Render Unto Caesar

This class will review effective salary, housing allowance, flexible spending plans, taxable vs. non-taxable income, tax and income reporting and tax advantages retirement savings plans. It will explain how Terms of Call are structured, so that both the pastor and the church can take advantage of the available options, as well as file correctly for tax purposes. It is designed specifically for clergy and spouses; church treasurers and business administrators; COM, CPM, and PNC members. But anyone interested in church compensation issues is welcome.

Steven R. Fleming

Education specialist, The Board of Pensions of the PCUSA.

Steve has been leading seminars on financial and tax issues for over 25 years.

27 Praise and Prayer

"Speak to one another with Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:19-20

Praise and Prayer will allow participants the chance to deepen their relationships with God through scripture and singing for the entire class time. It will be the opportunity to "be still" and worship, to praise and pray, and to sing the word of God. A variety of hymns will be used including traditional, contemporary and meditative.

Jean Herold

Church musician, Holy Name Catholic Church, Omaha, NE

28 Kumihimo: the Sequel or "That's nice, what do we do with it now?"

This course will continue exploring the strength and beauty of woven cords and their uses. It will focus on advanced techniques including design, the use of beads and other elements, and how these woven cords can be used today. Class size will be limited to 10, with preference given to those who took Kumihimo the Three-fold Cord (summer of 2009). A materials fee of \$10 will be collected in class. Beginner kits will also be available from the instructor, so you don't have to be an experienced weaver.

Janey Nottage-Tacey

Fiber artist (weaver, spinner, dyer, knitter, crocheter, felter...), Hastings, NE

29 Horizons Bible Study: The Book of Revelation

The last book of the Bible has long been misunderstood. Some regard it as a frightful document portending doom and disaster. Others treat it with a mixture of superstition and mystery. And many Christians go about their faith pretending it doesn't exist. Join this year's Horizons Bible Study class and journey into the pages of Revelation in order to discover a treasure trove of good news and hope for the ancient Christian Church, and today's Church as well.

Scott Nesbitt

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Clinton, IA

30 Belly Dance II

Celebrate the feminine with this low impact aerobic workout suited for women of all ages. Energize, relieve stress, and improve coordination while learning the basic posture, movements and techniques of this ancient movement form. Enrollment limited to 18 students.

Della Bynum

From Omaha, NE, Della has taught dance for more than 35 years and has traveled for study across the United States and Middle East

31 Aging Well: Mind, Body and Spirit

Our golden years can be an exciting time in our lives if we approach them with energy and intention. This class will discuss ways to keep our bodies, our minds and our spiritual lives fresh and invigorated. We will spend time on brain exercises and challenges, explore ways to incorporate healthy nutrition and exercise into our day and learn ways to calm our minds through prayer and meditation. Education on dementia and senior care will be included. Brain health includes all ages, so come prepared to try something new!

Jean Ann Buller

Geriatric mental health nurse, New Hope, MN

Richard Buller

pastor, Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Golden Valley, MN

32 A Green Church Isn't Just Irish

This will be an introduction to "Sustainability" and "Green" as they relate to your churches. We will define "Sustainability" and "Green", explore their theological basis, and how to plan and implement "Sustainable Development (long-term)", and "Best Practices (daily operation)". We will explore how to become Green through the "Who-What-Where-When-Why" along with the \$\$\$ using the example of the cups used for coffee (styrofoam, paper, recyclable, bio-degradable or washable). We will also explore the various audit forms and checklists you can use to determine how "Green and Sustainable" your church is.

Doug Rutford

Facilities Manager for Infinite Campus, an educational software company in Blaine, MN, Doug has initiated automated lighting systems,

HVAC control systems, and real-time electrical consumption monitoring to reduce energy usage and has implemented various programs to reduce disposable waste.

Brett Emmons

Professional engineer from Lake Elmo, MN, his work has ranged from planning the development of watershed-wide plans to designing building projects emphasizing minimal impact on the environment and developing

Community Sustainability Plans.

33 Christmas in July thru Quilling

Quilling started in the 15th century, when nuns would take thin strips of paper and roll them around feather quills to create delicate patterns, hence the term "quilling". In this class we will be creating beautiful Christmas ornaments that can be shared with friends and family. This is a great addition to either scrapbooking or card making. Each participant will receive a slotted quilling tool and a design board with which to create patterns. Please bring a pair of scissors and a fine tipped glue pen or glue stick. Enrollment limited to 15 participants. A materials fee of \$15 will be collected in class.

Sheila Beshears

Chief Geologist for Illinois Department of Transportation, Chatham, IL

34 Beyond "An Eye for an Eye": The Oresteia and the Death Penalty

Aeschylus' trilogy (*Agamemnon*, *Choephoroi (The Libation Bearers)*, and *Eumenides (The Furies)*), is a study of the development of civil institutions to resolve strife over murder and revenge. The course will read and examine the three plays which celebrate the evolution of ideas of justice, in this, the only extant trilogy surviving from classical Greek drama. The themes developed by Aeschylus will be discussed for their relevance to modern debates over the death penalty.

Dwight Marsh

Professor Emeritus, Hasting College, Hastings, NE

All-afternoon classes (2:30-4:45)

35 Outer Work, Inner Life: Discovering the Rhythm of Work/Life Balance

One well-known psychologist has referred to work as “a cornerstone” of life. Work often provides us with a sense of purpose, fulfillment, and enjoyment. At the same time, if we are not careful, it can be too much of a good thing and come to dominate our lives. Recent surveys show that a quarter of us cite our jobs as the number one source of stress in our life, and three quarters of us believe that work stress is greater than a generation ago. This class will consider ways to bring things back into focus. Join us to discover again the rhythm of work/life balance. This class is intended for individuals in all lines of work.

Mark Sundby

*Executive Director, North Central Ministry Development Center,
New Brighton, MN*

36 God at the Box Office

We learn, nurture, communicate and celebrate our faith in a variety of ways, including through the movies. This class features viewing and in-class discussion of how a movie a day portrays God and our relationship to matters of faith. NOTE 1: the movies may be rated for mature audiences; NOTE 2: This class will convene at 2:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and consider excerpts on Friday.

Bill Humphreys

Chaplain, Carroll University, Waukesha, WI

37 Introduction to Figure Drawing

This class will explore the basics of proportion, gesture, and weight as they relate to drawing the human figure. Each day a new master work involving the figure will be discussed. No previous drawing experience required. Drawing materials will be provided and a \$20 materials fee will be collected in class. Enrollment limited to 16 students.

Derrick Ogden

Art Teacher, Des Moines Public Schools, West Des Moines, IA

38 Guided Spiritual Retreat

In this retreat-within-a-retreat we will explore how God is working in our lives during the dark and dry times. The goal of this retreat will be to experience freedom and joy in Christ. We will balance study, discussion, silence and experiential exercises to see how God is at work in our lives. Our time will be deep and fun. Enrollment limited to 20 students.

Charles Ayars

*Pastor, retreat leader and spiritual director, First Presbyterian Church,
Sioux Falls, SD*

Rose Ayars

Social worker and seminar leader, Sioux Falls, SD

39 Love & Logic's Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun!

Just wondering...

- Is there a child in your life between the ages of 6 months and 6 years?
- Could you use a few more techniques with which to experiment?
- Would it be a worthwhile investment of your time to learn some techniques that you can use immediately?

The goal of this class is to provide parents (and grandparents?) of young children with practical and proven tools for raising respectful, responsible, and happy kids. A materials fee of \$10 will be collected in class for the Love & Logic workbook.

Elaine Butler

*Facilitator of Love & Logic classes for five years for a variety of groups
(parents, camp counselors) and used it as a classroom teacher for six
years, Rice Lake, WI.*

Afternoon session 1 classes (2:30-3:30)

40 Ultimate Sports I

This class is for those who like to have fun and get exercise by participating in competitive sports. Friendly competition will be waged in Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, volleyball, football, and basketball—each day will feature a different sport. It doesn't matter how talented you are, but be prepared to get a workout! Teens and adults welcome!

Tim Maxa

*Pastor, United Presbyterian Church, Lenox, IA and Sharpsburg
Presbyterian Church, Sharpsburg, IA*

Richard EnTin

Sports enthusiast, Johnston, IA

41 Cake Decorating

Come and see how much fun it is to decorate your own cakes. I will show you how to ice the cake, make roses, borders, writing, and anything from basic to fancy decorations. I will bring all items that you will need for the class. You may purchase the items to take home with you for \$25.00. Enrollment limited to 10 adults.

Chuck Getz

Accomplished cake decorator, Omaha, NE

42 Finding Meaning from Change: Opening New Windows

The only constant in our lives is change and how it transforms us. Transitions alter our roles, relationships, routines, and assumptions. Changes we may experience are births, illness, marriage, job change, divorce, moving, loss of loved ones, caregiving, or aging parents. Reactions, grief cycle, support systems, coping skills, and new meanings will be discussed. Life is 10% what happens and 90% how we react to it. The ways in which we respond and support our family, friends and faith communities during change will also be addressed.

Roger and Marian Michael

*Retired educators and elders at Valley Community Presbyterian Church,
Golden Valley, MN*

43 The Bible's Best Jokes, Pranks, and Gags

Did you hear the one about the reluctant prophet? What about the tale of the couple in itchy underwear? Or how about the "Dirty Coin" prank? Pious Christians, beware! The Bible is overflowing with humor, and we're long past due to rediscover the punch lines. Bring your Bible and your funny bone to class!

Scott Nesbitt

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Clinton, IA

44 Hope on the Mountain

Since 1991, The Presbytery of Des Moines has had a mission partnership with the moderate sized town of Berlín, El Salvador. Currently, 9 different churches have chosen to become "Hermanamientos" (Sister Churches) with 9 of the desperately poor dirt-floor villages within the municipality of Berlín. From humble beginnings when the needs seemed hopelessly huge to the current relationships of friendship and solidarity...the successes and struggles that the communities and churches have faced together have brought about today's reality. Now, there is truly hope on the mountainside. There will be daily photo slide shows depicting the history of El Salvador, the current brutal realities of daily life of the poor majority there, who the mission partners are and what we do, updates on current mission projects that will help illustrate the journey from 1991 to now and finally ending with our hopes for the future. This will provide the springboard for discussions on a new view of the world and provide a chance to brainstorm a vision of where congregational involvement on an international level might lead.

Kathy Mahler

Mission Co-Worker, La Casa Pastoral Comunitario, Berlin, El Salvador

45 Ministry in the 21st Century

Many of us assume there haven't been and don't need to be any changes in the way the church has done its work for the past 50 to 100 years. In truth the God who calls us to discipleship and creates the church to be His witness expects all of us to change and be transformed by His Holy Spirit. That means the role of ministers and ministry has changed. This course will take a look at what that might look like in regard to the changing landscape of the context (community, nation, or world) in which we serve.

Bob Houser

General Presbyterian, Central Nebraska Presbytery, Kearney, NE

46 Schwinn's and Spirituality

This exercise class (45-60 minutes of riding) will offer participants bicycling opportunities around the lake and other parts of Storm Lake. We will gather each day to pray, stretch, and ride. Participants are invited to bring their own bicycles or rent from Lakeshore Cyclery (www.lakeshorecyclery.com). An extended riding session will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday for those who wish to ride longer than one hour. Helmets are required to participate in the class. Enrollment limited to 15 students.

Darin Seaman

Pastor, Faithful Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Omaha, NE

47 Getting in Shape Fiscally

How "fiscally fit" are you? In this class you will learn basic financial planning concepts and explore practical savings and debt reduction tips to benefit your long-term personal goals. You **don't** have to be clergy or a member of the Pension Plan to attend this class! Everyone is welcome!

Steven R. Fleming

Education specialist, The Board of Pensions of the PCUSA.

Steve has been leading seminars on financial and tax issues for over 25 years.

48 The Yoke's on You

Liturgical stoles are a wonderful way to bring color and symbolism to worship. You have seen and priced those beautiful stoles. Here is your opportunity to be creative and produce your own liturgical garb. Join in choosing your own fabric and design and plan to construct at least one stole during this class. Some sewing skills will be helpful. A materials list will be sent to participants prior to Synod School. Enrollment limited to 10 students.

Emily Seeger

Atlantic, IA

49 Talking with God

Our Christian tradition has a rich variety of ways in which people have engaged in the act of prayer. Stretch your spiritual muscles by encountering a number of new ways to think about prayer. We will be focusing on: prayer as a way of life rather than an occasional activity; prayer as something that changes us rather than getting God to do something; and prayer as a communal rather than private act.

Bob Wollenberg

Pastor, United Presbyterian Church, Washington, IA

50 Roadtrip! Vacation Planning

Want to go on a vacation, but don't know what to do, or where to go? Bored with going to the same places and doing the same things? Someone in your family not enjoying it or feeling left out? This class will focus on planning a vacation that everyone in the family can enjoy. It will discuss ways to plan a vacation by using a road trip through Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska as an example. We will look at a variety of sources for ideas, plan a sample vacation, and tell each other what we came up with. We will also look at ways to preserve these vacation memories. By the end you will be excited and ready to go on your next vacation. Enrollment limited to 20 students.

Scott Amlee

Avid vacationer, Omaha, NE

51 African Style Drumming

Africa is a continent of rich musical tradition. We will be learning to drum using techniques from Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia. Basic technique, songs and pieces from Africa and traditional American hymns and songs that include drumming will be explored.

Drumming can be used as an activity for groups, as performance art and as a way to build community. If you have a djembe or other drum, please bring it along. Some drums used in class may be available for sale at the end of the week.

Kristine Johaneck

*School Music teacher in Marshfield, WI and musician at
First Presbyterian Church in Abbotsford, WI,
she has studied World Music Drumming with Will Schmid.*

52 Usury, Then and Now

Lending money at interest has had a long and varied history, including a complicated relationship with Christianity.

Condemnation of the practice in the Old Testament led to its being considered a sin in the Middle Ages (Dante's hell has a special punishment for moneylenders). It played a role in the disastrous development of Christian anti-Semitism (as seen in the famous Shakespearean moneylender, Shylock). Today, most states have laws forbidding usury (the definition of which is always changing), but some modern and especially onerous forms of unregulated moneylending have recently become the focus of community organizing efforts. This course aims to embrace Biblical interpretation, cultural history, existing law, and the quest for social justice in trying to answer what usury means today for people of faith.

Burns Stanfield

Pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Boston, MA

Mac Stanfield

Attorney, Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C., Des Moines, IA

Scott Stanfield

Professor, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE

53 Memoir Writing

Grab your paper! Grab your pens (or pencils)! Oh yeah, grab your memories too! We will spend time exploring how our memories can become stories on paper. We will be brainstorming, writing, sharing, and maybe pulling out a hair or two. But we'll have fun doing it! No writing experience necessary! Just a little life experience is helpful. So join us in exploring and writing memoirs to last a lifetime.

Tamara Cox-Burnett

Servant of God, CLP and teacher, Merrill, WI

Afternoon session 2 classes (3:45-4:45)

54 Ultimate Sports II

This class is for those who like to have fun and get exercise by participating in competitive sports. Friendly competition will be waged in Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, volleyball, football, and basketball—each day will feature a different sport. It doesn't matter how talented you are, but be prepared to get a workout! Teens and adults welcome!

Tim Maxa

*Pastor, United Presbyterian Church, Lenox, IA
and Sharpsburg Presbyterian Church, Sharpsburg, IA*

Richard EnTin

Sports enthusiast, Johnston, IA

55 Random Weave Baskets

Random weave is a technique that produces freeform, nestlike baskets. Sizes and shapes will vary according to the person creating the basket. We will begin with purchased reed and then scavenge throughout the week to find additional materials to add to our baskets (you may also bring treasures with you from home). This class is for free spirits, perfectionists who want to loosen up and everyone in between. Materials fee of \$10.00 will be collected in class. Enrollment limited to 12 students.

Sandy Maxa

*From Lenox, IA, her randomly woven life includes being a wife, mother,
dental assistant, basketweaver, cat lover, etc.*

56 The Desert of the Real

It seems that we live in a place that is almost like Eden, with all of our needs able to be met within a few miles of our homes, with all of our wants catered to for a price. But when you start to peel back the thin veneer of our everyday world, you start to see that what seems to be life giving can actually lead to harm. In this class we will take a look at the commercialized world around us, examine what of it brings life and what of it takes life, and then turn to the metaphor of desert for ways to live in this world in which we find ourselves residing. We explore how knowing the lay of the land can help us survive in a harsh environment and look for gems of wisdom that can nourish us in our daily lives.

Will Houts

*Pastor, North Lima Presbyterian Church outside of Whitewater, WI.
Prior to attending seminary he worked as a landscape architect in the Chicago suburbs. In seminary, Will completed a course on sacred places as well as worked on an independent project examining theology of place and the North American ideation of place attempting to create an eternal reality.*

57 The Art of Parables

Seeking to understand the parables of Jesus can be a challenging, exciting and joyous exercise. Discussing them with others just adds to the fun. Parables are meant to puzzle us—to challenge our thinking. They help us to reveal and better understand the Kingdom of God. Parables provide life lessons and perhaps even transform our thinking and allow our minds and hearts to see things in a new and different way. Using the sculptural works of artist and theologian Charles McCollough, the thoughts and interpretations of noted Biblical scholars, and our own thoughts and feelings, we will attempt to discover the lessons provided by the parables for people long ago and for ourselves in today's world. Open, inquiring minds and a willingness to share ideas, thoughts, opinions and feelings will be welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Jim Hoffman

Member of GROWMARK's Career Development Staff and Teaching Associate, West Des Moines, IA

58 CSI: Fact and Fiction

Crime scene investigation has captured the public by storm mostly as a result of the extraordinary success of the popular TV series CSI. In reality a homicide takes place almost every 30 minutes in the United States. Like the TV program, forensic professionals process the scene, collect evidence and document findings that are later analyzed using conventional, time-tested techniques as well as the latest scientific technology.

How much of the technology portrayed on TV actually exists? Can a forensic scientist really glean the direction and number of blows from a club? Can one really tell if the body has been moved? What is real and what is Hollywood? The basics of what is DNA and how it is applied to solving crimes will be used as an example of forensic science technique. We will also discuss the importance of the autopsy in determining the cause and manner of death and how autopsies are performed. At the end of the course students will participate in a mini mock scene to try out their forensic skills.

Dennis Klein

Deputy State Medical Examiner, Des Moines, IA

59 Juggling: (A Second Dose of) A Most Creative Sport

Would you like to not only know the trick to rubbing your head and patting your belly, but juggling multiple objects with ease? Come learn how to juggle! Guaranteed, by the end of Synod School, you will return home with a unique skill to wow and amaze your youth group, church group, friends and family. Please bring three of the following: tennis balls, juggling balls, or bean bags. If you plan to bring tennis balls, please e-mail me (walker_noyes@yahoo.com) for directions on how to prepare (add weight) your tennis balls for class. If you already juggle and would like to brush up your skills, share a trick or two, learn clubs, 4-ball juggling or passing, come join in the fun. If time (and interest) allows, we'll also try our hands at making balloon animals.

Jennifer Walker-Noyes

Mom and juggler, Hartland, WI

60 More Good, More Evil

We will seek to continue the rambunctious energies that permeated last year's course as we explore new areas, new adventures, new quests that will pursue grasping the intricate relationships connecting and separating the titanic concepts of good and evil. If you were in last year's class, this will be all fresh material. If you were not in last year's class, you will absolutely belong. Our many sojourns into things will include looking at what caused the greatest outburst of anger Jesus ever showed, and it wasn't the money-changing tables. Along with additional scriptural examinations we will utilize the mediums of film, literature, current events and history to get at good and evil issues. As always the ultimate goal will be to generate an arena of discussion, where thoughts and feelings of varying directions are guaranteed to come forth. The Bible itself is not in a united agreement on what constitutes good and evil. As we found out last year, neither are we likely to be. And that should make for a memorable classroom experience.

Ken Stuber

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, IA

61 Religion—a Missing Piece in Foreign Affairs?

Long considered a cultural or personal issue, religion has come back into discussions of foreign affairs and international relations in recent years. While much of that attention has focused on Islam and its violent extremes, other major faiths also have political dimensions. Religion can be a positive, as well as negative force in relations among nations, and in efforts to address internal and external conflict. The class will discuss the place of religion in international affairs, how it shapes national perspectives (including that of the United States), the sources of violence in religion teachings, and the positive role religion has and can play in reducing international tensions.

William Davnie

Ordained Presbyterian minister and retired Foreign Service Officer with twenty-five years of service in embassies abroad and the State Department in Washington, DC. He lives in Minneapolis, MN.

62 Electrical Repair for the Homeowner

Every house with electricity most likely is in need of some type of electrical repair. Can you do the repairs yourself? Safely? Can you add an outlet or a 3 or 4 way light switch? What about a ceiling fan? When is the job too big for the average homeowner? How do you properly size circuit breakers, fuses and wire? Where do you need a CGFI? What is a CGFI? What tools do you need?

Arnie Hart

Journeyman Electrician and Reliability Engineer certified in Vibration Analysis, Machine Lubrication Analysis, and Airborne Ultrasonic Emission from West Liberty, IA

63 Emerging Church

In the midst of dramatic and global changes in society, the culture of churches is changing, too. The Emerging Church conversation takes into consideration new questions of authority, ancient/future styles of worship, a significant emphasis on relationships and the role of technology in communities of faith. If you are an early adopter of change, if you are excited about new expressions of faithfulness in the 21st century—join our conversation. If you are suspicious of all these changes—join the conversation and see what God is doing in our midst. Enrollment limited to 20 students.

Susan Phillips

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Shawano, WI, child of God, called and blessed, convicted and forgiven, mother, spouse, pastor, servant, trying to be a disciple

64 Tatting

Learn the antique art of making delicate lace by knotting thread. No experience necessary but some familiarity working with thread would be helpful. \$10 materials fee will be collected in class and cover the cost of two tatting shuttles and thread.

Margaret Dakins and Lynn Hollander

Third and fourth generation crafters from Oconto, WI

65 Silk Screening: The How, Why and Awe!

Silk screening—a great device to bring groups together, commemorate events, carry a message to the world, bring out the artist in you, and witness magic. Make your own screen and learn how to help others create. Participants are encouraged to bring black and white camera-ready art with them to help them get a quick start. A fee of \$15 will cover cost of your screen and supplies.

Cindy Wray Lowe

Carver County Librarian, Chanhassen, MN

Diane Wray Williams

City Council Member, Moorhead, MN

both with a passion for printmaking

Tim Lowe

Chanhassen, MN,

the only one who's ever held a job silk screening!

66 Acoustic Music Jam and Song Share

Musicians and singers of all skill levels are invited to gather together to share their musical talents and passion in a relaxed atmosphere. Bring your guitar, mandolin, banjo, harmonica, fiddle or any other acoustic instrument. And if you don't play an instrument, you can sing along! All class members are asked to bring a few songs (with music or chords and lyrics if possible) to share with the class. If you have some original music, we'd love to hear that, too!

Jerome Brich

*founder and host of the FolkHouse concert Series in Omaha, NE,
guitar player with numerous bands, and solo artist since the mid-1970s*

Curt Anderson

Musician, Los Angeles, CA

67 Improvisation

Improvisation is the art of creating something from nothing. No script, no plan—all that is required is creativity and a willingness to play. Chances are, you've seen actors improvising at a comedy show or on television's "Whose Line is it anyway?" and wondered what it would be like to do that. This is your chance to find out. You do not need to be an actor to join us as we learn the basic rules of improvisation and play a variety of theater games that build creativity and confidence. Improv stresses communication—listening and responding to others—making it a great team-building activity. We will also explore how to use improvisation as a tool to create performance pieces. Most importantly, we will have fun, because that is what improvisation is all about. Come dressed to move and ready to play!

Heather Anderson

*Studied and performed improvisation with such groups as The Groundlings,
Theater-A-Go-Go and LA Connection in Los Angeles, CA*



Synod School in Mission

Watch for opportunities during the week to participate in and learn about the mission of the church. This will include some special activities for children and youth, several adult classes, a mini-course Mission Track each night, hands-on mission activities during Art Share, and more.

Art Share

During the afternoon break Art Share offers everyone the opportunity to create a special Synod School memory. Diane Wray Williams and Cindy Wray Lowe coordinate the activities which include silk screening a t-shirt or tote bag. Synod School teachers take turns during the week offering a mini-experience of their particular art or craft. You can bring something you already have to embellish or purchase a kit, t-shirt or tote bag for a project. You can also bring your "UFOs" (unfinished objects) to work on (and maybe finish).

Evening activities

After evening worship, the following learning and fellowship opportunities are available. Pick and choose at your own pace.

Hymn sing

As a prelude to worship and orientation on Sunday evening everyone is invited to join in a hymn sing. Led by our worship leaders, we'll have a chance to warm up our vocal chords for the week ahead.

Mini-courses

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, you can spend an hour in a one time only session addressing a wide range of topics. These require no advance registration. One of these will

be a time to continue discussion begun each morning with convocation speaker Rodger Nishioka. Each evening's additional offerings will be posted daily.

Coffee House

Visit over refreshments at the Coffee House each evening after mini-courses. Live music will be provided by our many Synod School musicians. Watch the announcements during the week for the schedule.

Saints-a-Playin'

Everyone is invited but families with young children will especially enjoy this time to work off some excess energy following worship on the lawn outside the chapel or in the Forum. Suggestions are welcome! If you'd like to organize an event for an evening, contact a committee member. Expect to be able to experience "Norwegian Softball" one evening. Watch the announcements during the week for details!

Game Night

Every night will be Game Night during the mini-course time with a different kind of game offered each night. Board games, card games – check it out! On Wednesday, join us for a special group trivia game where you can test your knowledge of possibly irrelevant facts! Everyone is welcome!

Tie Dyeing

On Monday and Tuesday evening, join the Synod School tie-dye craze. Bring a 100% cotton article of clothing or other item to dye or plan to purchase a t-shirt or tote bag at the School to transform into something unique. We reserve the right to limit the number of pieces an individual can dye so that everyone interested can participate.

Children and youth programming

Programming for children and youth is based on the grades they will *enter* in August or September. All young people, including those entering grade 12, must have a parent or an adult sponsor at the school. Those who have completed grade 12 should register as adults. Because the Synod of Lakes and Prairies values and encourages family participation, the synod subsidizes part of the cost for all children from birth through those entering grade 6.

Age group coordinators plan the programs and a dedicated faculty is recruited to lead the children and youth programs at Synod School.

Infant/toddler Program Coordinator — Carol Sanderhoff

Pre-school Program Coordinator — Julie Erlandsen

Elementary Program Coordinators — Mary Fisk,

Christine Hoffman and Ann Sukraw-Lutz

Junior High Youth Program Coordinator — Kris Adler

Senior High Program Coordinator — Shamaine Chambers-King

Children's Program

Children (infants through 6th grade) participate in carefully planned programs appropriate for each age group during convocation and the four scheduled class periods. Parents are responsible for their children during free time and evening sessions or must arrange for childcare.

Youth Programs

Following convocation, both junior and senior highs will have planned programming in the morning. In the afternoons, all junior high youth (grades 7-9) will have planned activities. Senior highs (grades 10-12) must select and register for regular afternoon classes or volunteer to assist with one of the children's programs. Senior highs are welcome in all afternoon classes.

Youth Convocation

Instead of a separate youth convocation, this year Junior and Senior Highs will participate with the adults in the convocation with Rodger Nishioka. A special section of the chapel will be reserved for the youth. Rodger will follow up with some special time with the youth following convocation to continue conversation focused on youth and their experiences.

Young Adult Program

This year we will offer a special morning seminar class (#6) designed specifically for young adults. High School graduates through 20-somethings are invited to gather for frank conversation about faith and life, where the two intersect in their busy lives, and other topics of interest.

Parent Responsibility

Parents or adult sponsors are responsible for their children and youth during worship, mealtimes, and at all times other than during supervised, scheduled events for children and youth. There will be an orientation for parents on Sunday evening to review the schedule and clarify expectations. This will include an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and meet the teachers for the week. Parents will receive an information sheet with your registration confirmation suggesting ways to make your family's Synod School experience great!

Parents are asked to help us honor the 10 p.m. quiet time in the dorms and the 11 p.m. curfew by making sure all children and youth are in their own dorms at the appointed times.

Guidelines for Safety of Our Children and Youth

The safety of the children and youth at Synod School is a paramount concern of the Synod School Committee. We must have a Health Information Form completed for each child and youth before they will be allowed to participate in any Synod School activity (see registration section). While at Synod School, please remember that Buena Vista is a college campus and not designed

with young children in mind. While we believe that Storm Lake is a safe community, vigilance is always wise. We have never had a serious mishap, but children and young people should be appropriately supervised **at all times**. We offer these guidelines:

- **Elementary and younger children** should be under adult supervision at all times.
- **Junior high youth** should be in groups when outdoors or visiting restrooms, and after dark should walk outdoors only with adult supervision.
- **High school youth** should stay in groups or pairs when walking outdoors or visiting restrooms and after dark should only walk outdoors in groups.



Synod School schedule

Sunday

1:30–5:30 p.m.	Registration
4:00 p.m.	Faculty Orientation
5:00 p.m.	Newcomers Orientation
4:45–6:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30–6:45 p.m.	Hymn Sing
6:45–7:15 p.m.	Worship
7:15–7:45 p.m.	Welcome and Orientation (entire family)
	Children, Youth and Parent Orientation
7:45 p.m.	Fellowship and Hospitality
10:00 p.m.	Quiet Time in Dorms
11:00 p.m.	Curfew

Monday-Thursday

6:30–8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:50 a.m.	Gathering Time and Synod School News
8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship
8:20 a.m.	Announcements and Dismissal of Children
8:30–9:15 a.m.	Convocation
9:30–10:30 a.m.	Morning session 1
10:45–11:45 a.m.	Morning session 2
11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–2:15 p.m.	Free Time/Art Share/Quiet Time
2:30–3:30 p.m.	Afternoon session 1
3:45–4:45 p.m.	Afternoon session 2
4:45–6:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:40 p.m.	Announcements
6:45–7:30 p.m.	Evening Worship
7:45 p.m.	Evening activities
10:00 p.m.	Quiet time
11:00 p.m.	Curfew

Friday

6:30–8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:50 a.m.	Gathering time, Announcements and dismissal of children, Morning Prayer
8:05–8:40 a.m.	Convocation
8:50–9:30 a.m.	Morning session 1
9:40–10:20 a.m.	Morning session 2
10:30–11:10 a.m.	Afternoon session 1
11:20–12:00 p.m.	Afternoon session 2
12:10–12:50 p.m.	Closing Worship Celebration
1:00–2:00 p.m.	Lunch

Additional information

Housing

All registrants residing on campus will be housed in campus dormitories and eat in the cafeteria. All rooms are air conditioned and have two twin beds. The regular “dorm” buildings have rooms with two single beds, bathroom facilities “down the hall,” and group lounges. The “suite” buildings have multiple suites of 3 bedrooms (2 single beds in each room) that share a communal living room; each suite bedroom has a private bath. A linen packet with sheets and towels is provided for each bed. Requesting a “double” means that you will share the room with another person. If you are requesting a roommate, **both** registrations must be received before a room assignment will be made. Go to www.bvu.edu/living_at_bvu/living_arrangements to see typical room layouts.

Single Rooms: Requests for single rooms will be accommodated, as available, on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rooms are offered **only in the dorms** unless there is a medical or handicap-related need that would require suite accommodation.

Housing Options for Children

Children through 6th grade are provided with two housing options:

- **Resident:** Children can sleep in a bed for the higher fees and the university will provide linens. (Age 3 and under: \$50; Age 4 through 6th grade: \$110 for regular dorm and \$135 for the suites)
- **“Camper”:** Children can also sleep in a sleeping bag on the floor, or on a cot or air mattress *brought from home* in a room with at least one adult or older youth who is acceptable to parents. (Age 3 and under: \$50; Age 4 through 6th grade: \$85 in any room). Up to two children can be a “camper” but no more than 4 people will be assigned to any room. Families choosing this option should also bring towels and other linens needed for the “camper” child.

If a family requires more than one room for housing, adjacent rooms will be assigned.

Accessibility

All Buena Vista classrooms are handicapped accessible. The university has limited dormitory accommodations for people with physical disabilities. Elevators are available in two of the dorms, but not in the suite buildings. Limited first-floor housing is available. If you need accessible or first floor housing, please indicate that on your registration form and include the specific limitation which must be addressed. If you have special needs and requests associated with your housing, please register as early as possible and make your specific needs known on your registration form. Early registration is very important for persons needing handicapped-accessible rooms. We will work with the college to meet needs to the best of our ability, using the college’s available resources.

Meals

All meals are served in the college cafeteria. A variety of items are available at every meal which should accommodate all special needs. If you have particular food allergies or other concerns, please **indicate that on your registration** and we will communicate that to the college food service. If they are unable to meet your special needs, we will try to inform you, but there may be limits on what can be provided.

Scholarships

First Timer Scholarships Because of the generosity of previous Synod School participants we are able to offer a \$50 scholarship to the first 57 *first-time* registrants in celebration of our 57th annual Synod School.

The Salee Stanfield Scholarship Fund will provide up to 10 scholarships for the 2010 Synod School. This fund will match local church scholarships up to half the cost of tuition, room and board. Applications should be made on forms obtained from the Salee Stanfield Scholarship Fund, PO Box 6126, Des Moines, IA 50309. Phone: 515-255-3494.

The Mike Carruthers Scholarship Fund will also provide up to 10 scholarships for the 2010 Synod School. This fund will match local

church scholarships up to half the cost of tuition, room and board. Applications should be made on forms obtained from the Mike Carruthers Scholarship Fund, 15569 Harney Circle, Omaha, NE 68154-2727. Phone: 402-333-1062.

Synod School Scholarships Other Synod School Scholarships are also available from the annual Synod School offering given by participants. These are ordinarily matching grants. In addition, a special gift in memory of Roger Harp will provide up to 5 scholarships for persons from congregations of under 200 members. Application forms for these scholarships are available from the Synod office. Contact Diana Barber at the Synod office so we can help ensure that Synod School is affordable for you.

First Timers

We expect many will be attending Synod School for the first time. A special orientation session will be offered at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday to introduce you to Synod School and Buena Vista. Information sent prior to the School will answer some questions we usually get as people prepare to come to Synod School. We can also match you with an experienced Synod School attendee to guide you through the first days. Check the box on the registration form to request a “buddy.”

Commuters

Commuters are welcome at Synod School and are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the school. Registration should be completed in advance of Synod School to ensure that the desired courses are available. A la carte meals may be purchased by making arrangements at the Synod School office or upon arrival at registration.

Information about Buena Vista and Storm Lake

The Buena Vista campus is in the city of Storm Lake, Iowa. For maps, pictures, and other information about the college, city and region, go to www.bvu.edu/visitorinformation/. Storm Lake is also the location of the office of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill, one of 16 presbyteries in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

Registration

Tuition (includes insurance)

One person	\$ 80
Two in family	\$150
Three or more in family	\$180

Room and board (per person)

Adult

Double dorm room	\$210
Double suite room	\$250
Single dorm room	\$255
Single suite room	\$290

Children (see page 46 for explanation of options)

Birth to 3 years	\$50
Age 4 to grade 6	\$85/\$110/\$135

Registration deadline

Registrations must be received by July 1 to ensure availability of requested courses. Please note that several classes have very limited enrollments. If an enrollment limit is reached before a registration is received, the person will be given their second choice. Due to the college's requirements, registrations for housing cannot be accepted after Friday, July 16. No tuition refunds will be made for cancellations after July 1.

All tuition fees must accompany the registration form. Make check payable to Synod of Lakes and Prairies and send to 2115 Cliff Drive, Eagan, MN 55122-3327. Registration forms may also be downloaded from www.lakesandprairies.org and emailed to the synod office with payment mailed separately. **Be sure to put “Synod School” in the subject line of your email.**

Room and board may be paid in advance or on arrival at the school. **Early registration is encouraged, especially for those with special needs.**

Registration for adults

(one person per form; photocopy as needed)

- Commuter Dorm resident Single room
 Suite resident Double room

Special needs _____

Name _____

Name to appear on nametag _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check age range: 18-25 26-40 41-55 56-70 Over 70

Congregation _____

If under 18, name of parent or adult _____

Name of preferred roommate _____

Have you attended Synod School before? Yes No If not, would you like a "buddy" to introduce you to Synod School? Yes No

Indicate 1st and 2nd choices for each period:

All-day	All-morning	Morning 1	All-afternoon	Afternoon 1
01 _____	02 _____	07 _____	35 _____	40 _____
	03 _____	08 _____	36 _____	41 _____
	04 _____	09 _____	37 _____	42 _____
	05 _____	10 _____	38 _____	43 _____
	06 _____	11 _____	39 _____	44 _____
	OR	12 _____	OR	45 _____
		13 _____		46 _____
		14 _____		47 _____
		15 _____		48 _____
		16 _____		49 _____
		17 _____		50 _____
		18 _____		51 _____
		19 _____		52 _____
		20 _____		53 _____
		Morning 2		Afternoon 2
		21 _____		54 _____
		22 _____		55 _____
		23 _____		56 _____
		24 _____		57 _____
		25 _____		58 _____
		26 _____		59 _____
		27 _____		60 _____
		28 _____		61 _____
		29 _____		62 _____
		30 _____		63 _____
		31 _____		64 _____
		32 _____		65 _____
		33 _____		66 _____
		34 _____		67 _____



Make checks payable to:
Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Mail with completed form to:
Synod School
2115 Cliff Drive
Eagan, MN 55122-3327

Registration for children and youth

Use this form to register infants, children, and youth through 12th grade. Be sure to include first and last names. See page 46 for housing details.

- Name of child or youth _____
Name to appear on nametag _____
 Boy Girl Age ____ Entering grade ____ or pre-school ____
 Dorm resident Dorm camper Suite resident Suite camper
- Name of child or youth _____
Name to appear on nametag _____
 Boy Girl Age ____ Entering grade ____ or pre-school ____
 Dorm resident Dorm camper Suite resident Suite camper
- Name of child or youth _____
Name to appear on nametag _____
 Boy Girl Age ____ Entering grade ____ or pre-school ____
 Dorm resident Dorm camper Suite resident Suite camper
- Name of child or youth _____
Name to appear on nametag _____
 Boy Girl Age ____ Entering grade ____ or pre-school ____
 Dorm resident Dorm camper Suite resident Suite camper
- Name of child or youth _____
Name to appear on nametag _____
 Boy Girl Age ____ Entering grade ____ or pre-school ____
 Dorm resident Dorm camper Suite resident Suite camper

Senior Highs select afternoon classes

Senior Highs (grades 10-12) must register for classes in the afternoon from among those listed in the catalog or volunteer to assist with the children's program by indicating that choice below.

Classes:

All-afternoon # _____

OR Afternoon 1 # _____ AND Afternoon 2 # _____

OR Assist with Children's Program _____

Please complete the Health Information Form on the next page and return it to the Synod office with your registration.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

To complete your child's registration, please provide the following health information, sign the permission and return to Synod of Lakes and Prairies, 2115 Cliff Drive, Eagan, MN 55122.

Health Information

Name _____

Grade Entering _____ Birthday _____

Medical Insurance Company _____

Policy Number _____

Guarantor _____

Medical History

Chronic Illnesses: _____

Food/Other Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

If child has been to Synod School before, what changes should teachers be aware of? _____

What special needs should teachers be aware of? _____

Permission

- I give my permission for my child to participate in field trips away from the campus.
- I give my permission for my child to have emergency medical treatment.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date



Grace Notes

Administrative staff

Dean: Bob EnTin
 Associate Dean: Tammy Rider
 Housing Coordinator: Sue Nedderman
 Mission Coordinator: Betty Weidert
 Worship Coordinator: Pat O'Donnell
 Synod Staff: Diana Barber

Synod School Committee

Jude Carlin
 Bob EnTin
 Carol Ferrell
 Mary Holtey
 Ardeth Kocourek
 Bob Nedderman
 Mary Pol
 Tammy Rider
 Bob Wollenburg

Contact information while at Synod School

Buena Vista University
 Attn: Forum Office/Synod School
 610 W 4th St
 Storm Lake, IA 50588

Synod School Office at BVU712-749-1447
 Campus Information (8 a.m. – 11 p.m.)712-749-2400
 Campus Security (11 p.m. – 8 a.m.)712-749-2500



Synod School 2010 is an educational ministry of:

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

2115 Cliff Drive
Eagan, MN 55122-3327
651.357.1140 or 800.328.1880
www.lakesandprairies.org