

AUGUST 4, 2009

The synod can be found online at www.lakesandprairies.org.

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1. SYNOD SCHOOL WRAPS UP FOR

2009: Nearly 600 people in all age groups took part in the activities (and there were many) of Synod School last week on the campus of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Kim Coulter, director of communication for the Presbytery of Des Moines, blogged daily from Synod School as she taught, took classes and enjoyed a family vacation. Her blog can be found [here](#). The Rev. Bill Humphreys, chaplain

at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wis., wrote a summary of the week's events which can be found in the discussion area of the [Facebook](#) group: Synod School - "Is this Heaven? No, it's Iowa!" The group has nearly 100 members. There are also nearly 50 photographs from Synod School on the Facebook group. Coulter and Humphreys' posts can also be found in the discussion area of the synod's Facebook group. (Synod School photos by Kim Coulter.) ([Return to top](#))

2. ORGAN RECITAL RAISES FUNDS, FOOD FOR

FOOD SHELF: The Rev. Lon Weaver, pastor at Glen Avon Presbyterian Church in Duluth, Minn., presented an organ recital July 26 at the church that raised funds and food for the food shelf of Duluth's Churches United in Ministry. Weaver said the recital raised \$913 and several pounds of non-perishable food items. Churches United in Ministry (CHUM) is a nonprofit human services agency sponsored and governed by 39 Duluth congregations. CHUM began in 1973 when 10 Central Hillside congregations pooled resources to assist low-income people in Duluth. The organizational goals are to provide basic needs services for homeless and marginalized members of the community while working to effect changes that will eliminate the need for its services. CHUM can be found online at www.chumduluth.org. ([Return to top](#))

3. CONFERENCE SHOWS NEW WAYS TO

COMMUNICATE: Communicators, and anyone else who might want to attend, are being invited to the second Synod-wide Communicators Conference Wednesday through Friday, Sept. 2-4, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Eagan, Minn. Sarah Moore-Nokes, associate executive presbyter in Winnebago Presbytery, will lead the conference's first session Wednesday evening on Google Tools. Attendees are asked, if possible, to bring their own laptop computer. Shane Whisler, communications director in the Synod of the Sun, will provide details about working with Presbyterian Neighbor News on Thursday morning, and Bethany Furkin will also

church boosted
by immigrant
congregation

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tells youth
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A few
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[14.](#) MPR looks
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Sunday' slated
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And just
1 more

[18.](#) Removing
skunk smell?
Not tomato
juice

address the conference about the Presbyterian News Service during that time. There is also a possibility that the executive director for the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 2010 General Assembly will be on hand before Thursday's lunch. Full registration is \$100 and includes all sessions, accommodations, opening dinner, two breakfasts and a lunch. For those who do not need accommodations, registration is \$40 for all sessions. Registration is easy, simply send an email to Duane Sweep, associate for communications at the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, at dsweep@lakesandprairies.org. The email should include name and position. The registration fee can be mailed to Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, 2115 Cliff Drive, Eagan, MN 55122. ([Return to top](#))

4. LOCATION CHOSEN FOR COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES CONFERENCE: The planning Group working on the second annual Collegiate Ministries Conference in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies is planning the event Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 9-11, in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Just as last year, the conference is targeted at campus ministry staff and chaplains of Presbyterian-related colleges and universities. ([Return to top](#))

5. WINNEBAGO BEGINS TO LOOK AT 'GREEN STRATEGY:' Winnebago Presbytery is contemplating a "green strategy," according to a note in the July 24 issue of News and Notes, the presbytery's newsletter. The note stated: "An 'interest only' meeting to determine how many people might want to participate in a task group to pursue a green strategy for Winnebago Presbytery and its congregations and what the focus of the group would be is scheduled in the meeting room on the first floor at Neenah First Presbyterian at 1 p.m. Aug. 13." Persons interested in attending the meeting are being asked to notify Sarah Moore-Nokes, associate executive presbyter, at sarah@winnebagopresbytery.org. ([Return to top](#))

6. MACALESTER GRAD NAMED PC(USA) ASSOCIATE AT UN OFFICE: The Presbyterian United Nations Office announced this week the appointment of Jessica Hawkinson as associate for international relations and education. This is a one-year term position. In her new position, Hawkinson will help cultivate educational and advocacy programs for the Presbyterian United Nations Office. Hawkinson graduated with degrees in political science and international studies from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. While at Macalester, Hawkinson was involved in the college's Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and engaged with the newly created Institute for Global Citizenship. <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/gamc09027.htm>. ([Return to top](#))

7. JAMESTOWN COLLEGE ENTERS AGREEMENT WITH KOREAN COLLEGE: Jamestown (N.D.) College, one of seven Presbyterian institutions of higher education in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, has entered into an agreement with Ansan College of South Korea that will pave the way for student and faculty exchanges and collaborative research projects. The college can be found online at www.jc.edu. ([Return to top](#))

8. ANONYMOUS GIFT HELPS SEND MORE MISSIONARIES: Citing deep concerns for the health, education and well-being of the world's children, an anonymous donor has made a gift of \$500,000 to Presbyterian World Mission. The gift, received in July, will help fund the General Assembly Mission Council's effort to expand the number of mission co-workers serving around the world. The funds have been received and will support mission workers in Zimbabwe, Mexico, Brazil, Zambia, Egypt and Germany. "Clearly this donor has a great passion for Christ's mission," said Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Mission Council. "There is no telling how many lives will be touched by the gospel thanks to this donor's generosity." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/gamc09026.htm . ([Return to top](#))



9. VICE MODERATOR ENJOYS STAYING CONNECTED: Writing in his monthly column, the Rev. Byron Wade, vice moderator of the 218th General Assembly, wrote: "I enjoy the opportunity to keep in touch and stay connected to others. I am a part of virtual social networking sites such as Twitter, Dopplr, Classmates and Flickr, to name a few. The one that occupies most of my time is Facebook because it's there that I hear from people who are part of my present and past." The rest of the column can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09616.htm. Wade's blog can be found at <http://presbyterian.typepad.com/vicemodblog/>. ([Return to top](#).)



10. PARSONS CALLS ON PRESBYTERIANS TO GREET STRANGER: Writing in his monthly column, the Rev. Gradye Parsons, stated clerk of the General Assembly, wrote: "Here is my suggestion for celebrating John Calvin's 500th birthday: Greet a stranger. Let me explain." Parson's complete column can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09626.htm. ([Return to top](#))

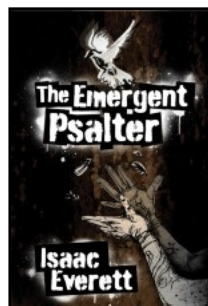


11. PRESBYTERIANS TODAY ANNOUNCES HARRY POTTER BIBLE STUDY: With the sixth film in the Harry Potter series just released, Presbyterians Today magazine has announced a companion Bible study and discussion guide for use with J.K. Rowling's popular book on which the film is based. This new resource is designed to help young people, especially in grades 5-8, draw connections between the characters and stories and their own personal life of faith. This study and discussion guide is the final installment in the 10-part series, "Biblical Themes in Children's Literature." Information about obtaining the materials can be found at www.pcusa.org/today/media/study-guides/book-list.htm. ([Return to top](#))

12. TENNESSEE CHURCH BOOSTED BY IMMIGRANT CONGREGATION: Brentwood First Presbyterian Church in Brentwood, Tenn., was a dying church, so having a pastor with a primary job as an oncologist probably wouldn't be a concern. That's what the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee thought. It didn't expect much and had left the church to fade away on its own. "It was a dying church for years," said Phil Leftwich, Middle Tennessee's executive presbyter. "In 1998, we wanted to close it, but that decision caused an uproar, so it was reversed and the church was simply left to die. ... " The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09660.htm. ([Return to top](#))

13. KEYNOTER TELLS YOUTH TO 'SET WORLD ON FIRE:' After a week of exhortations to change the troubled world fueled by strength in numbers, 1,300 Montreat Youth Conference participants prepared to return home July 17. Now the trick is to carry the enthusiasm of this gathering back to the everyday life of the average teenager. "Regardless of whether we want to go or stay, we have to leave," keynoter Adele Halliday of The United Church of Canada told her youthful congregation. "We are called to go and blaze trails home. Sometimes it will mean taking a stand, sometimes using our voices, but it definitely means staying fired up." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09617.htm. ([Return to top](#))

14. MPR LOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO COMMENT ABOUT RECESSION: Minnesota Public Radio is looking for young people to comment on the current recession's impact on their lives. Children have to be at least 13. Here's the Web site for "[My First Recession](#)." ([Return to top](#))



15. EMERGENT PSALTER BLENDS ANCIENT, INNOVATIVE: The Psalms rank as one of Christianity's oldest liturgical treasures, while the Emergent Church movement ranks as one of its newest developments. Blend these two together and the result is a unique and original new take on church music: "The Emergent Psalter," by Isaac Everett. The author is currently offering selections from the book in a variety of styles as a free weekly podcast on his Web site, www.isaaceverett.com. Each week includes an interview with a guest and a recording of the psalm in a variety of styles, including rock, electronica, and a capella chant. There is additional information at [Church Publishing](#). ([Return to top](#))

16. PBS PLANS 3 DOCUMENTARIES ON RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN U.S.: The Public Broadcasting System will present three documentaries in 2010 that explore faith and the varieties of religious expression in the United States, which is one of the most religiously observant and spiritually diverse countries in the world. The documentaries are "God in America," "The Buddha" and "The Calling." "For many Americans, exploring religion and faith is one of life's biggest and most central questions, and PBS offers some of the

most compelling, wide-ranging programming on this subject anywhere on television," said John F. Wilson, PBS' chief television programming executive. Additional information can be found at www.pbs.org/aboutpbs/news/20090802_pbsreligion.html. ([Return to top](#))

17. 'BACK-TO-CHURCH SUNDAY' SLATED SEPT. 13: As many Americans head back to school this fall, organizers of a new faith-based outreach campaign hope that millions more will come back to church as well. The "Back to Church Sunday" campaign, organized by San Diego-based Outreach Inc., urges church members to invite friends and family to church for a worship service specifically geared toward visitors. The program kicks off with national "Back to Church Sunday" on Sept. 13 aimed at reaching the "un-churched" and "de-churched," people who used to go to church, but don't anymore. Complete information about "Back to Church Sunday" can be found at www.backtochurch.com. ([Return to top](#))



18. REMOVING SKUNK SMELL? NOT TOMATO JUICE: A variety of questions come to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies on a regular basis, but Phil Brown, synod executive, received a rare one a couple of weeks ago from another synod office. The caller wanted to know how to remove the skunk odor when a dog gets sprayed by the black-and-white critter. Ever helpful, Brown discovered a Web site that provides a recipe for removing the odor from the pet. The site of Lav Plourde notes, "A vet once told me that skunk and porcupine chasing dogs fall into two classes: (1) those who learn the first time and (2) those who never learn." The odor-remover recipe can be found at <http://lavplourde.tripod.com/skunk/>. ([Return to top](#))