



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

# Keeping in Touch

An e-newsletter for ministry partners in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

## FEBRUARY 27, 2009

You can find the synod online at [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org) or on My Space at [www.myspace.com/synodoflakesandprairies](http://www.myspace.com/synodoflakesandprairies).

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**1. MILWAUKEE WOMAN AMONG NEW MISSION WORKERS:** A dozen new Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) international mission personnel attended orientation in January and have begun their international assignments or will begin them in coming weeks. Alexandra Buck, a member of West

Granville Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee, Wis., is one of the 12. Buck, whose profile can be found at [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/bucka](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/bucka), is project facilitator for Bridge of Hope, a fair trade project developed in 2005 by the Joining Hands network in Peru. Joining Hands is a program of the Presbyterian Hunger Program that addresses the root causes of hunger through networks of churches and grassroots organizations in developing countries. The networks are also linked to PC(USA) presbyteries and congregations that support the networks' struggle against hunger. Buck facilitates a fair trade bridge between artisans in Peru and consumers in the United States. The availability of new markets has significantly increased the income of the Peruvian artisans. Prior to her mission appointment, Buck was a young adult intern with the Presbyterian U.N. Office. She holds a bachelor's degree in Hispanic and international studies from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. Information about other new international mission personnel can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09116](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09116). ([Return to top](#))

**2. TWO FROM SYNOD NAMED TO 'CLIMATE FOR CHANGE' TASK FORCE:** The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly, named two from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies to the "Climate for Change" Task Force that he announced last week. The task force will review current affirmative action-equal employment opportunity, contracting and purchasing policies within the denomination. It will then recommend revisions. Among those named to the task force are Elder Colby Anderson of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys and the Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes, associate executive in the Presbytery of Winnebago. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09154](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09154). ([Return to top](#))

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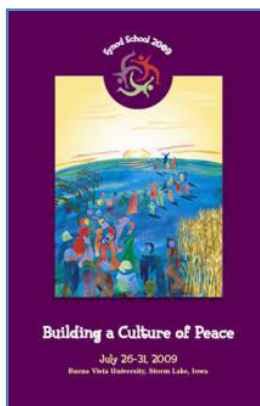
### And a few more

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[20.](#) Most teens think lying, cheating can be ethical

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Minneapolis



### 3. SYNOD SCHOOL PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS MAILED:

Synod School 2009 catalogs and posters, including registration materials, went in the mail this week and should have - at least in most cases - arrived at churches throughout the synod. Synod School 2009 runs Sunday through Friday, July 26-31, at Buena Vista

University in Storm Lake, Iowa. This year's theme is "Building a Culture of Peace." More information, including the catalog and downloadable registration forms, is available on the synod's Web site at [www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html). ([Return to top](#))

### 4. IOWA CHURCH TO HOST MODERATOR IN SEPTEMBER:

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of 218th General Assembly, will be the guest of First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, for the weekend of Sept. 26-27. Reyes-Chow has accepted the invitation of First Presbyterian to be the featured speaker for the annual Scholar in Residence program. The Presbytery of East Iowa is co-sponsoring this official visit. More information about Reyes-Chow can be found on the denomination's Web site at [www.pcusa.org/gamoderator](http://www.pcusa.org/gamoderator). ([Return to top](#))

### 5. TWO SYNOD ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE PW THANK OFFERING GRANTS:

The annual Presbyterian Women Thank Offering, usually received in congregations in the fall, is supporting 28 national and international projects. Thirteen projects were selected in the United States and two are within the bounds of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies -- The Common Cup Ministry in Hutchinson, Minn., and the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, St. Paul. The Common Cup Ministry, which combines resources of area churches into "one common cup," received a \$30,000 grant that will provide housing loans and other basic needs. The Immigrant Law Center, which received a \$10,000 grant, will use the funds to support its work in Worthington, Minn., home to a significant immigrant population. Additional information about Thank Offering grants, including criteria, can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/thank/criteria.htm>. ([Return to top](#))



## 6. LINCOLN CHURCH SLATES ANDRUS

**APPEARANCE IN APRIL:** The Rev. Chip Andrus, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Ark., who has been instrumental in the emerging church movement in mainline denominations, will lead a workshop at Heritage Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, Neb., Sunday, April 19.

Andrus, who worked in the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) from 2001 to 2006, will lead a workshop that will "explore ways of reclaiming" the Christian and Reformed tradition. Participants will discuss ways in which sacramental understanding provides meaning to worship, daily prayers and daily living. The workshop is supported in part by a grant from the Congregational Development Committee of Homestead Presbytery. Cost of the workshop is \$25 and includes lunch. Details are available at [www.heritagepres.org](http://www.heritagepres.org). ([Return to top](#))



## 7. NEW RESOURCES ADDED AT IOWA RELIGIOUS MEDIA

**SERVICES:** Iowa Religious Media Services has recently added multiple resources for adults and children. Established in 1986, IRMS is a source for more than 7,900 video, audio and book titles, plus other resources, for enhancing Christian education and worship, and for assisting with the ministry and management of churches. The resource center is supported by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and IRMS member churches and their members may borrow materials from its library. It is located at 3116 104th Street, Urbandale, Iowa.

Additional information can be found at [www.irms.org](http://www.irms.org). ([Return to top](#))



## 8. SPRING RETREATS APPROACHING QUICKLY AT

**CLEARWATER FOREST:** Spring retreats are approaching quickly at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, according to Andy Kennaly, program director at the camp in Deerwood, Minn. The camp's Confirmation Retreat is March 27-29 and the Senior High Spring Retreat is April 24-26. Confirmation Retreat focuses on Presbyterian heritage and explores the affirmation of faith. The Senior High Retreat will be led by the Rev. Dan Wolpert and focus on the spiritual discipline of prayer. Registration forms for

individuals and a packing list can be downloaded from [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org). ([Return to top](#))

**9. PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGES RECOGNIZED FOR CIVIC SERVICE:** A total of 29 member colleges of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, including three from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, have been recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service for their commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. The three institutions within the boundaries of the synod are Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa; Hastings (Neb.) College; and the University of Dubuque (Iowa). Additional information about APCU institutions can be found at [www.presbyteriancolleges.org](http://www.presbyteriancolleges.org). ([Return to top](#))

**10. DUBUQUE SEMINARY SETS ANNUAL MISSION CONFERENCE:** The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary plans to conduct its second annual mission conference, March 10-11, addressing mission from both the Methodist and Presbyterian perspectives. The Rev. Hunter Farrell, director of world mission for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the Rev. Phil Thrailkill, past chair of the board of directors of the United Methodist Church Mission Society, will be conference speakers. The conference includes two days of worship, workshops and discussions. More information can be found at <http://udts.dbq.edu>. ([Return to top](#))



## 11. NATIONAL EVENT SET FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT

**MINISTRY:** The Presbyterian Association for Collegiate and Higher Education Ministries is sponsoring what it calls the "first-ever event for people seeking creative ways to be in ministry with young adults and college

students." The event, called Young Adult Ministry Jam Conference - or YAM Jam - is slated May 27-30 at Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Seminary. It will provide time for participants to spend time together to "cooperate, encourage and stimulate each other's ministries, a process similar to musicians' 'jam' sessions," according to promotional materials. The conference is open to a limited number of participants. Additional

information can be found at <http://www.pachem.org/YAMJamConference/tabid/40218/>.  
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**12. MODERATOR WRITES ABOUT BLACK CAUCUS INTERFAITH SERVICE:** The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly, began his most recent monthly column: "I was privileged last month to participate in the Congressional Black Caucus inaugural interfaith prayer service as a representative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). And while the historic nature of the presidential inauguration was certainly important, I was most struck by the constant remembrance of the Rev. Martin Luther King's commitment to non-violence in response to the shackles of oppression." The complete column can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09120](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09120). ([Return to top](#))

**13. PRESBYTERIANS URGED TO DOUBLE GIVING TO OGHs:** In just one hour, Presbyterians can help bring water to communities in the Dominican Republic, rally against government corruption in Cameroon and provide support to those still struggling to rebuild on the Gulf Coast. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing ([www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs)) - now in its 60th year - the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joins with eight other Christian denominations across the country to raise money for refugee assistance, disaster relief and development aid. The offering is usually collected at worship services on Palm Sunday or Easter or throughout Lent. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09131](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09131). ([Return to top](#))



**14. 'GIFTS OF WOMEN' TO BE FETED MARCH 8:** "Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday," planned March 8, honors women who contribute their gifts to the church and community and lifts up issues of women's rights. The day is also International Women's Day. This year's celebration also coincides with the 500th birthday of John Calvin. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is offering multiple resources, including pieces for worship services. More details can be found at [www.pcusa.org/womensministries/resources](http://www.pcusa.org/womensministries/resources). ([Return to top](#))

**15. RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENT B IS TRAILING:** With nearly half the votes in, a hotly-contested proposed amendment to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution is trailing. The amendment, officially dubbed "Amendment B," would replace the current requirement that church officers live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" with a new G-6.0106b. As of Feb. 25, the unofficial tally is 36 presbyteries in favor, with 46 opposed. The final tally will be certified and announced by the Office of the Stated Clerk. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09150](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09150). ([Return to top](#))

**16. REFLECT, REFRESH, RETOOL AT WORK IN YELLOWSTONE:** (This is the third in a series of stories about congregations engaged in significant outreach and evangelism ministries, reflecting the General Assembly's commitment to "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide" ([www.pcusa.org/deepandwide](http://www.pcusa.org/deepandwide))). ... Yellowstone Presbytery is the perfect place for experimenting with new ways of doing, or, more accurately, new ways of being. "The old ways aren't working here," said Kathy Goodrich, co-executive presbyter. "We don't live in a place where people just show up to church because it's the thing to do." The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09135](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09135). ([Return to top](#))

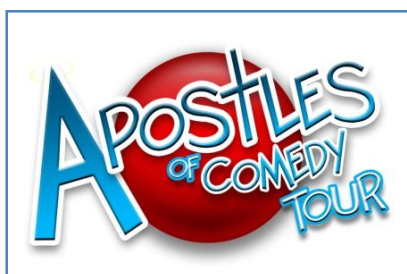
**17. WCC SEEKS STEWARDS FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING:** The World Council of Churches is accepting applications now for its 2009 Stewards Program Aug. 19-Sept. 4 in Geneva, Switzerland, in conjunction with the meeting of the WCC's Central Committee. English-speaking young adults ages 18-30 from WCC member churches are eligible to apply. The deadline for applications is March 31. Twenty-five young adults will be accepted. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09128](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09128). More information about the 2009 WCC Stewards Program can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/bjwhn6>. ([Return to top](#))

**18. APA TO HOST CERTIFICATION EVENT:** The Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will conduct a week-long certification event in conjunction with its national conference at Walt Disney World, Fla., in July. The certification event runs July 12-19. The annual conference is July 16-19. During the

week, church administrators who are APA members may complete one of three levels of certification. Non-members will receive a certificate of completion. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09124](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09124). ( [Return to top](#))

**19. DAY1 LAUNCHES NEW CONTENT-RICH WEB SITE:** The Day1 radio ministry has launched a redesigned and expanded Web site at Day1.org that could become one of the largest collections of mainline Protestant resources on the Internet. "Our goal is to truly become the online voice of the mainline Protestant churches," said the Rev. Canon Louis C. Schueddig, president of the Alliance for Christian Media, parent organization of Day1. The new site brings together text transcripts of the Day1 program sermons, audio podcasts of the weekly program and other special interviews and programming, a variety of video segments, and additional materials accessible to anyone at no charge. The site can be found at [www.day1.org](http://www.day1.org). ( [Return to top](#))

**20. MOST TEENS THINK LYING, CHEATING CAN BE ETHICAL:** A new survey finds that 80 percent of American teenagers believe they are "ethically prepared" for life in the real world but 40 percent believe they have to "break the rules" to succeed. The poll of 750 teens, conducted by Junior Achievement and Deloitte, doesn't bode well for religious leaders. It shows that only 3 percent of teens see members of the clergy (pastor, priest, rabbi or imam) as "role models." The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09149](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09149). ( [Return to top](#))



**21. 'APOSTLES OF COMEDY' PLAN STOP IN MINNEAPOLIS:** Building on the success of THE 2008 film, "The Apostles of Comedy," the comedians will tour the country again during April and May. The "Apostles of Comedy 2009 Spring Tour" features Jeff Allen, Brad Stine, Anthony Griffith and Ron Pearson, all comedians who have honed their craft in secular entertainment venues, yet have kept their comedy clean, free of crude themes, and faith-based and meaningful. In addition to comedy, the show features personal discussions of the comedians' personal lives and their faith. Speaking of the tour last fall, producer Don Donahue said, "The fans loved it and the guys loved doing it. Moreover, it turns out that there is a real need for alternative entertainment in the church." The USA Today newspaper in December 2008 even cited "The Apostles of Comedy" sold-out Orlando show. According to Donahue, the group plans a stop in Minneapolis, but the stop is not yet listed on the group's Web site, [www.apostlesofcomedy.com](http://www.apostlesofcomedy.com). ( [Return to top](#))