



FEBRUARY 29, 2008

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1. CAMPS ACROSS SYNOD HOST SPRING, SUMMER PROGRAMS: Camps across the Synod of Lakes and Prairies are announcing spring and summer programs. The camps and their Web sites are Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, Deerwood, Minn., www.clearwaterforest.org; Camp Calvin Crest, Fremont, Neb., www.calvincrest.org; Camp Rimrock, Rapid City, S.D., www.camprimrock.org; Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji, Milford, Iowa, www.presbycamp.org; and Camp Wyoming, Wyoming, Iowa, www.campwyoming.net.

2. LEONARD SWEET KEYNOTES CLEARWATER 2008: Leonard Sweet, called by some one of the most influential Christians in America, will be the keynote speaker for Clearwater 2008, but there is far more taking place at the three-day event April 18-20 at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, Deerwood, Minn. Some of the session titles include "Congregational Transformation," "Managing Change," "Front Porch Church" and "Rattling the Rafters: Worshiping as if Culture Matters." To get the full brochure, go to www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFFiles/Clearwater%202008%20Brochure%20Large.pdf.

3. CALVIN CREST CELEBRATES 50 YEARS: Camp Calvin Crest is 50 years old this year and plans are being made for a celebration Aug. 22-24. The event will include family activities, camp reunion campfire, tours, entertainment, a quilt auction and more. Calvin Crest is putting together a commemorative cookbook and camp friends are being asked to submit their favorite recipes. The recipe submission form can be found at www.calvincrest.org/50_Years_Of_Ministry.php. The deadline for submitting recipes is March 25. (*From Monday Morning in the Presbytery, Feb. 25*)

4. CHAIN OF LAKES PROJECT RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL GRANT: The Mission Development Resources Committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) awarded \$1.361 million to 15 congregations and church-related projects across the United States during its recent meeting. The Mission Program Grants [www.pcusa.org/missionprogramgrants] funded new church developments and transformation of existing congregations. Among the grant recipients was Chain of Lakes Area New Church Development, Minneapolis, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Twin Cities Area Presbytery — a \$100,000 grant to establish a new congregation. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08155.htm.

5. HOMESTEAD ELDER BECOMES GA MODERATOR CANDIDATE: Elder Roger Shoemaker, a member of Southern Heights Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Neb., has become the fourth candidate to stand for moderator of the upcoming 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Shoemaker, 74, was endorsed Feb. 16 by Homestead Presbytery. The only elder in the race, he joins the Rev. Bill Teng of National Capital Presbytery, the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow of San Francisco Presbytery and the Rev. Carl Mazza of New Castle Presbytery as a candidate for the denomination's highest elected office. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08158.htm.

6. EDUCATORS HONOR WOMAN WITH IOWA TIES: Loretta Gratias-Bremer, a semi-retired church educator and elder from Countryside, Ill., who has Iowa ties, was one of two recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators in San Diego, Calif., Feb. 13-16. Gratias-Bremer grew up in Iowa, fascinated by the stories of visiting Presbyterian missionaries. After earning a Christian education degree from the University of Dubuque and a master's degree from National-Louis University, she served five Presbyterian congregations in Illinois, Nebraska and Michigan. She also served on numerous General Assembly, synod and presbytery task forces and committees, and worked with the LOGOS ministry writing team for "LOGOS at Home." The full story concerning awards at the conference can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08144.htm>.

7. PRES HOUSE SEEKS PROPERTY, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR: Pres House – The Presbyterian Student Center Foundation – is looking for a committed and energetic person to direct the property and operations functions for its rapidly growing organization. Pres House is a dynamic, supportive and exciting non-profit organization with an annual budget of over \$2 million. In August 2007 Pres House opened a brand new, \$15 million, 240-bed student apartment building. This facility, called the Pres House Residence, is connected to a 75-year old landmark church building that was renovated during construction. The complete job description can be found at www.preshouse.org/abt.jobs.cfm.

8. FOREST LARGER PARISH HELPS DEFINE USE OF PDA FUNDS: Members of the Forest County (Wis.) Committee for Peace and Reconciliation met Feb. 7 to discuss uses for a \$10,000 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. PDA issued the grant to Winnebago Presbytery following a shooting rampage in October that left seven people dead in Crandon, Wis. Commissioned Lay Pastors Dennis and Wendy Mannering of Forest Larger Parish called the meeting to establish a committee to oversee the use of the grant. Representatives of the Wabeno, Crandon, Laona and Armstrong/Goodman school districts, the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe, Forest County clergy, St. Mary's Hospital/Ministry Healthcare and area funeral homes participated in the meeting. The group agreed that grant funds should be used to help young people develop coping skills in all types of crisis situations. The committee will continue to meet to determine a focused mission, set goals and to locate resources to enable teachers, clergy and other community agencies to teach children in this area. "We see this as an on-going need for this entire community, and we are sure others will want to help fund this effort in the future," said Dennis Mannering. PDA grant funds come from the donations of all Presbyterian Churches (U.S.A.) through the One Great Hour of Sharing. *(From the Winnebago Presbytery Newsletter, Feb. 15)*

9. 'FESTIVAL OF HOMILETICS' COMES TO TWIN CITIES IN MAY: The "Festival of Homiletics: Transformational Preaching!" is coming to the Twin Cities May 19-23 at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Central Lutheran Church, both in Minneapolis. The 2007 Festival drew 1,700 pastors from all denominations to Nashville, Tenn. The speakers list for this year's festival is long and distinguished, and the week will include liturgical, blended, and jazz worship. Information regarding the festival can be found at www.goodpreacher.com/festival.

10. WEE KIRK CONFERENCE PLANNED IN SIOUX FALLS: The Great Plains Wee Kirk Conference is scheduled May 6-8 at the Holiday Inn Sioux Falls City Centre in Sioux Falls, S.D. The purpose of this conference is to inspire, equip, motivate, encourage, and provide rest and refreshment for pastors, CLPs and leaders of small Presbyterian congregations. Details about the conference can be found in the brochure at <http://www.pfrenew.org/images/pdfdownloads/2008GreatPlainsBrochure.pdf>.

11. ANNUAL NEBRASKA FIVE-DAY ACADEMY SET IN APRIL: The annual Nebraska Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation will be April 6-11. Going since 1991, this ecumenical event is for both clergy and laypeople – for anyone who wants to deepen his or her spiritual journey. Presenters this year are Don Salliers and Stephanie Ford. More about them and academy details are at www.nebraskafiveday.com. *(From Monday Morning in the Presbytery, Feb. 18)*

12. NISHIOKA PRESENTATION SET AT IOWA CONFERENCE: Rodger Nishioka, who has been described as vital voice in today's Presbyterian Church, will be the keynote speaker at Iowa Religious Media Services' second Re:Image Conference Saturday, Aug. 16 in Des Moines. "Pay attention to trends," Nishioka advised the Presbyterian Communicators

Network last August. "Fads are what toss us ... but trends are worthy of your attention." Nishioka's focus on youth and young adults and why they leave the church led him to interview young people in their 20s and 30s across the country, including in the Des Moines area. In his keynote, he will share his insights into how to approach young people in this Reformation-like age. Complete conference information can be found at www.irms.org.

13. INTERFAITH LOBBYING DAY IN MINNESOTA SET MARCH 13: The joint Joint Religious Legislative Coalition in Minnesota is planning what it calls "the largest most influential interfaith lobbying day in Minnesota" Thursday, March 13. The event will feature morning briefings and afternoon meetings with legislators. Information about the event can be found at www.jrlc.org.

14. NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHRISTIAN UNITY PLANNED IN CHICAGO: The National Workshop on Christian Unity – 2008, "Pray Without Ceasing," is slated April 14-17 at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare. The keynote speaker for the event is the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, general secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. More information, along with registration and a brochure are at www.nwcu.org/events/index.htm. (From the Winnebago Presbytery Newsletter, Feb. 22)

15. 'BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON' TRAINING PROGRAM SET: "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon," a community reintegration training program for faith communities to support soldiers returning from overseas and their families, will be conducted Thursday, April 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1154 Seminole Ave., West St. Paul, Minn. The event is sponsored by BeFriender Ministry. Complete information can be found at www.befrienderministry.org/yellow.htm.

16. REGISTRATION OPENS FOR COMMUNICATORS EVENT: Presbyterian communicators can learn to upload multimedia to their Web sites, create an online social network, develop a communicators network in their presbytery, and freshen up writing skills at the first of three regional conferences of the Presbyterian Communicators Network this year. Registration is now open online for the conference at the Montreat Conference Center April 30 to May 2. If communicators can't make it to Montreat, they will have the opportunity to attend regional conferences at Stronghold Camp and Conference Center Aug. 25-27, or at Menucha Camp and Conference Center Oct. 29-31. More information and registration materials can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/comnet/>.

17. 'SPRING RENEWAL' SET AT DUBUQUE SEMINARY: The Woods and Berger Lectures of Spring Renewal 2008 are slated in Blades Chapel at the University of Dubuque Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25-26. Professor Robert K. Johnston, professor of theology and culture at Fuller Theological Seminary, will present the Woods Lectures, "Re-Framing Theology and Film," and Professor Richard B. Hays, professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School, will present the Berger Lectures, "Reading the Old Testament with Matthew and John." Details are at <http://udts.dbq.edu/lifelong/Events.html>.

18. 'PROJECT BURNING BUSH' SET JUNE AT UTS: "Project Burning Bush," a program for high school youth who are considering ministry as a vocation, is slated June 29-July 12 at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Va. The program includes creative workshops, classes with seminary faculty, community outreach, spiritual formation, mentored projects, vocational retreat and future resources. Additional information about the program can be found at www.projectburningbush.org.

19. BOARD OF PENSIONS OFFERS 2007 INVESTMENT REVIEW: The Board of Pensions 2007 Investment Review, "Keep the Lights on: SIVs, SWFs and Things That Go Bump in the Night," is now available. It reviews the structure, performance, performance attribution, and asset allocation of the Board of Pensions Balanced Investment Portfolio. It details the performance of its U.S. Equity, International Equity, and Fixed Income components. It also includes an outlook for 2008. It can be found online at

<http://www.pensions.org/library/publications/news/2007InvestmentReview.pdf>.

20. PRESBYTERIANS FOR RENEWAL CREATE GA2008 WEB SITE: Presbyterians For Renewal has created an interactive Web site to enable discussion of news and business related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly in June in San Jose, Calif. The site notes, "We'll have various 'polls.' ... And you can offer your own comments on any item of business facing the Assembly." The site currently offers a discussion of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC) ruling "that no ordaining body (session or presbytery) has the right to ordain a candidate who is in violation of constitutional standards, including the 'Fidelity and Chastity' standard expressed in the Book of Order (G-6.0106b)." The site can be found at www.ga2008.com.

21. GAC LOOKS AT COST OF MAINTAINING MISSION WORKERS: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly Council (GAC) voted Feb. 15 to seek a cost estimate for maintaining an "appropriate number" of international mission personnel. The denomination's top staff was instructed to come back to the council's meeting in April with the financial projections. The action came after the council was informed that the number of PC(USA) mission co-workers serving overseas is expected to drop soon to a record low level. The full story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08130.htm.

22. COUNCIL ADOPTS 'COLLABORATIVE' MODEL FOR MISSION: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly Council (GAC) affirmed and adopted a covenant agreement Feb. 15 that calls for a "more collaborative model of Presbyterian mission." The agreement, "An Invitation to Expand Partnership in God's Mission," means the PC(USA) will work more cooperatively with The Outreach Foundation, the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, the Medical Benevolence Foundation and other Presbyterian-related entities engaged in mission around the world. Leaders from those organizations were among a diverse group of 64 people instrumental in Presbyterian mission to approve the covenant at a consultation last month. The complete story can be read at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08129.htm.

23. PDA OFFERS SUPPORT FOLLOWING NEVADA EARTHQUAKE: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provided a status report late last week following the 6.0 magnitude earthquake centered near Wells, Nev. In its announcement, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance said it "has been in contact with the Presbytery of Nevada and the Wells Presbyterian Church to determine how One Great Hour of Sharing funds and members of the PDA National Response Team can help the community recovery from this disaster. Disaster and giving information can be found at

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/nv-earthquake-index.htm>.

24. SDOP SUNDAY, 'CELEBRATING SELF HELP,' IS MARCH 2: For more than 35 years, Presbyterians have helped poor and oppressed people worldwide through the Self-Development of People (SDOP) program. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is celebrating SDOP's ministry by encouraging congregations to proclaim Sunday, March 2, Self-Development of People Sunday. SDOP, funded primarily through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, enables members and non-members of the PC(USA) to establish

partnerships with oppressed and disadvantaged people, providing small grants for self-help projects aimed at helping recipients achieve self-sufficiency. The full story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08143.htm.

25. NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR NEW HYMNBOOK COMMITTEE: Twelve Presbyterians — including two under the age of 25 — are being sought for the committee that will create the first new Presbyterian hymnal since 1990. The new hymnal will be put together by a committee of 12 Presbyterians plus David Eicher — the hymnal's editor — as voting members, plus three ex-officio members representing the Theology, Worship and Education Ministry Area, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, the publisher of the new book. Two committee members will be under the age of 25. Those interested in applying for the committee have until July 11 to submit an application form and three references. Application information is at www.ppcbooks.com. The full story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08157.htm.

26. PEW FORUM RELEASES SURVEY ON RELIGION: The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life today released the first report of the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, which finds that a remarkably high number of people have changed their religious affiliation since childhood. The report details the religious affiliation of the American public and explores the remarkable dynamism taking place in the U.S. religious marketplace. "People will be surprised by the amount of movement by Americans from one religious group to another — or to no religion at all," said Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum. "They'll also be surprised by the extent to which immigration is helping to reshape the U.S. religious landscape." Results of the study can be found at <http://religions.pewforum.org/>.