



JANUARY 11, 2008

You can find the synod online at www.lakesandprairies.org and on MySpace at www.myspace.com/synodoflakesandprairies.

News from around the synod

- 1. SYNOD MEETING SLATED JAN. 20-22**
- 2. SYNOD SCHOOL BULLETIN INSERTS/ADS TO BE MAILED SOON**
- 3. CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON RESIDENCE HALL AT CARROLL**
- 4. PRESBYTERIAN HOMES' PROJECTS AGAIN NOTED IN STAR TRIBUNE**

News from around the presbyteries

- 5. CAPETZ SEEKS REINSTATEMENT TO ORDAINED MINISTRY**

Highlighted upcoming conferences

- 6. STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE SET IN MARCH IN TEXAS**
- 7. OUTLOOK FOUNDATION SPONSORS 'CHURCH UNBOUND' IN JULY**
- 8. COMMUNICATORS NETWORK SETS REGIONAL MEETINGS**

National PC(USA) news

- 9. CHURCES ALIVE AND GROWING**
- 10. PRESBYTERIANS TODAY WANTS YOUR CHURCH**
- 11. PRESBYTERIANS TODAY PUBLISHES '2007 IN REVIEW'**
- 12. CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TOGETHER HOLDS 2ND ANNUAL MEETING**
- 13. SUMMER PROGRAMS GIVE YOUTHS CHANCE TO HELP WITH RECOVERY**
- 14. RESTORED MUSTANG BRINGS NEW LIFE TO HEARTS & HANDS EFFORT**

A few good resources

- 15. ONE-GREAT-HOUR OFFERING IS JUST DOWN THE ROAD**
- 16. NAVIGATION/NEWS POSTS A VARIETY OF PC(USA) INFORMATION**
- 17. HEALTHY AGING WEB SITE GOES ONLINE**

And just one more

- 18. RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY CREATES SPECIAL WEB PAGE**

1. SYNOD MEETING SLATED JAN. 20-22: The winter meeting of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies runs Sunday, Jan. 20, through Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn. The purposes of the meeting are to elect officers, to hear reports, to worship, to grow in fellowship, and to take such other actions as

necessary. In his note accompanying the call to meeting, Phil Brown, synod executive, "Be mindful that at the first meeting of the new year approximately one-third of those participating are new. ... Building relationships and growing a sense of community will allow us to act as a distinctive part of the Body of Christ."

2. SYNOD SCHOOL BULLETIN INSERTS/ADS TO BE MAILED SOON: Synod School, an annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is for laity, clergy, families and singles. Synod School 2008 runs July 27 through Aug. 1 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. The courses are described as both "fun and mind-stretching," but beyond the courses there is time for worship, fellowship and private reflection. This year's daily convocation speaker is Scott Nesbitt, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, Iowa, and this year's theme is "Coloring Outside the Lines." To get a full copy of this year's brochure go to <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFFiles/SYNOD-SCHOOL-BROCHURE-08.pdf>.

3. CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON RESIDENCE HALL AT CARROLL: Construction has started on a new 264-bed residence hall at Carroll College, a Presbyterian-related college in Waukesha, Wis. The four-story, 66-unit residence hall at 324 W. College Ave. is being built by Clysmic Properties, owned by local developers William and Alan Huelsman and James Tarantino. The property is the site of the former Clysmic Spring, which operated during Waukesha's famous Springs Era in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Water from the spring was shipped to New York by tanker car, bottled and served in fine city restaurants. The dorm's construction completion date is Aug. 1. Carroll students will occupy the building beginning in fall semester 2008. Carroll College is on the Web at www.cc.edu.

4. PRESBYTERIAN HOMES' PROJECTS AGAIN NOTED IN STAR TRIBUNE: In a Jan. 3 article in the Star Tribune newspaper, reporter Jenna Ross wrote, "Condos sit atop shops, restaurants surround a grassy plaza and families stroll beneath elegantly lit porticos. This is not your average senior housing. Presbyterian Homes and Services' plans for 14 acres in Wayzata are much like its plans for a 21-acre site in Eden Prairie: a senior housing complex that offers much more than senior housing. While such developments often include small amounts of retail – a pharmacy, for example – Presbyterian Homes' plans for Wayzata include 130,000 feet of retail space. They also call for office space, housing that's not just for seniors and possibly a hotel." The complete story is located at www.startribune.com/local/west/12992576.html. Additional information about Presbyterian Homes and Services can be found at www.preshomes.com.

5. CAPETZ SEEKS REINSTATEMENT TO ORDAINED MINISTRY: A story in the Dec. 17 edition of The Presbyterian Outlook magazine addresses Paul Capetz' request for reinstatement to ordained ministry. The story by Leslie Scanlon noted, "Capetz, a seminary professor who set aside his ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2000, is asking the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area to allow him to declare a scruple regarding the denomination's ordination standards on sexual practice, and to be reinstated to the ministry." The complete story can be found at <http://www.pres-outlook.org/tabid/2011/Article/6478/Default.aspx>. Remember that to gain access to the full story, readers must register at the site. Registration is free. The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area has scheduled a special meeting Jan. 26 to consider Capetz' request. Information regarding the special meeting can be found at the presbytery's Web site www.ptcaweb.org.

6. STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE SET IN MARCH IN TEXAS: The Presbyterian stewardship conference, "Stewardship Kaleidoscope," designed for elders, pastors,

presbytery staff and volunteers, runs March 10-12 at the American Airlines Training & Conference Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Plenary leaders for the conference are Charles F. Easley Sr., former dean and director of development at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary; Cynthia Campbell, president of McCormick Seminary; and Karl Travis, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, and according to conference promotional materials, he is an "irreverent Generation Xer ... and a disciple possessed of the idea that stewardship is the foundational concept for mature faith." Additional information about the conference, including registration information, can be found at www.synodsun.com/stewardship.

7. OUTLOOK FOUNDATION SPONSORS 'CHURCH UNBOUND' IN JULY: The Presbyterian Outlook Foundation, the Cross Cultural Alliance of Ministries and Montreat Conference Center are co-sponsoring an event called "Church Unbound," an event promoted as a way to build relationships among Presbyterian leaders across boundaries of age, culture, race, gender, region and theology, and to provide a way to continue conversations and foster connections after the event has ended. According to promotional material, the event is designed for lay leaders, clergy, commissioned lay pastors, seminary students and all who wish to take part in fashioning a new vision for the church. "Church Unbound" runs July 1-5 at the Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, N.C. For additional details and registration information, go to www.montreat.org/current/2008-church-unbound.

8. COMMUNICATORS NETWORK SETS REGIONAL MEETINGS: The 2008 regional conferences of the Presbyterian Communicators Network are slated at the Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, N.C., April 30-May 2; Stronghold Camp and Conference Center, Oregon, Ill., August 25-27; Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, Corbett, Ore., Oct. 29-31. More details, such as content and cost will be announced soon. More information about the conference locations can be found at www.pcusa.org/comnet.

9. CHURCHES ALIVE AND GROWING: "We often hear stories about congregations doing exciting ministry resulting in churches that are alive, vibrant and growing – but we know there are many more that we don't hear about and we're hoping you'll share them with us," wrote Mindy Marchal, creative services associate for the General Assembly Council. "If you have a story of a congregation experiencing growth and transformation please share it with us so we can share it with others," Marchal wrote. This type of sharing to a broader audience will allow more of us to learn from best practices, and be renewed in our faith that the Presbyterian Church (USA) is alive and moving into the future making disciples in the name of Jesus Christ. Send your stories to mindy.marchal@pcusa.org.

10. PRESBYTERIANS TODAY WANTS YOUR CHURCH: To celebrate the rich variety of ministries going on across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterians Today magazine is featuring profiles of individual congregations. If there is a church in your area that you think should be featured in the magazine, please send information and three to five photos to today@pcusa.org. Is there something unique about the church? Does it have a long history? Unusual location? Creative worship? Is it actively engaged in a mission project? What stands out about this congregation? More information about the project can be found at www.pcusa.org/today.

11. PRESBYTERIANS TODAY PUBLISHES '2007 IN REVIEW:' For a quick review of 2007 in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) the one in the January-February edition of Presbyterians Today is short, direct and informative. The story can be found in the printed magazine or at <http://www.pcusa.org/today/featured-story.htm>.

12. CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TOGETHER HOLDS 2ND ANNUAL MEETING: Christian Churches Together (CCT) – the most broad-based ecumenical grouping in the U.S. – convened its second annual meeting in Baltimore Jan. 8. The group, which includes 37 participating churches and six participating organizations, was officially launched in Pasadena, Calif., last February. CCT member churches include representatives of five identified "families:" Evangelical/Pentecostal, Catholic, Orthodox, Historic Protestant, and historically Racial/Ethnic. Participating organizations include Bread For The World, Habitat For Humanity, World Vision, Evangelicals for Social Action, Sojourners/Call to Renewal, and the American Bible Society. The complete story on the gathering can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08022.htm.

13. SUMMER PROGRAMS GIVE YOUTHS CHANCE TO HELP WITH RECOVERY: As rebuilding continues along the hurricane-ravaged U.S. Gulf Coast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is offering young people opportunities to help with the response. Two programs scheduled for June will allow youth to help with the recovery effort while staying in one of six volunteer villages sponsored by PDA, the disaster response and relief agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08025.htm.

14. RESTORED MUSTANG BRINGS NEW LIFE TO HEARTS & HANDS EFFORT: Brad Copeland took his son-in-law's urgent phone call straight from a vacant lot, where the neglected shell of a vintage car had come to its presumed final resting place. Copeland, pastor of the 350-member Magnolia Presbyterian Church here, listened patiently as Aaron Cohen made his plea. "About a year and a half ago, Aaron called to tell me that he had discovered a 1967 Mustang that needed restoration," Copeland explained. "He asked me to buy it so that we could restore it together." The full story is at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08034.htm.

15. ONE-GREAT-HOUR OFFERING IS JUST DOWN THE ROAD: The instructions on the Web site are easy to follow – if you're thinking about an offering this spring for One Great Hour of Sharing. The site notes that the first step should be to set dates. It notes, "Ask your session to set dates to receive the offering. Most congregations choose Palm Sunday (March 16) and/or Easter Sunday (March 23), but the session can choose any dates. The session should also set a goal, preferably an ambitious one." And the subsequent steps are all three. The Web site is www.pcusa.org/oghs/howpromote.htm.

16. NAVIGATION/NEWS POSTS A VARIETY OF PC(USA) INFORMATION: The Web page starts like this, "Through the Bible, the cornerstone of our faith, we know the stories of God's efforts to communicate with creation and of creation's response. God communicates through rainbows and burning bush, through earthquakes and fire, and through the still small voice. We pray that God will speak through us as we tell new stories of the faith, life and mission found in Christ's church." And the page goes on to include links to a variety of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) information, including headlines to the PC(USA) News Service, newsletters from missionaries, reflections by Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Council, and much more. This informative Web location is www.pcusa.org/navigation/news.htm.

17. HEALTHY AGING WEB SITE GOES ONLINE: A new Web site aimed at getting Presbyterians 50 and over on the road to healthy aging has been launched by the National Health Ministries (NHM) office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Living Longer, Feeling Better (www.pcusa.org/healthyliving/) features health and wellness resources to assist older adults in achieving and maintaining good health. It also examines vital roles

congregations can play in helping aging members stay fit by keeping them involved in the church and its activities. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08028.htm.

18. RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY CREATES SPECIAL WEB PAGE:

Thirteen/WNET New York, which produces Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly, a television production that covers the interaction of religion and politics, has launched a special page on its award-winning Web site that focuses exclusively on religion and the campaign for president. "One Nation: Religion and Politics in 2008" features extended video clips of interviews and events tied to the 2008 election, commentary by experts in religion and politics, and regular video blog. Updates on candidates' faith-based campaign outreach efforts, attitudes of religious voters and interviews with religious activists can be found at www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/blog.html.