



JUNE 6, 2008

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

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7. SDOP DISBURSES \$671,604, INCLUDES MANKATO PROJECT
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### National news, information

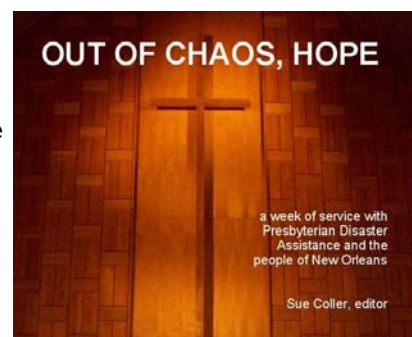
9. PDA SENDS \$50,000 TO EARTHQUAKE-BATTERED CHINA
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1. **RACIAL ETHNIC COMMITTEE POSTS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:** The synod's Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry has mailed its scholarship application to all presbyteries within the synod and it has posted the application online. The scholarship fund is an educational assistance program designed to encourage racial-ethnic students in their preparation for service in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The scholarship application, with a deadline of Sept. 30, 2008, is available at [www.lakesandprairies.org/resources\\_re\\_scholarship.html](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/resources_re_scholarship.html).

2. **BOOK SHOWS WORK OF MULTI-PRESBYTERY MISSION TRIP:** Around the synod it is quite well known



that multiple presbyteries - including 130 individuals - cooperated in a mission trip to the Gulf Coast in January. They helped with the continuing efforts to rebuild homes and help bring a sense of stability to people's lives. Sue Coller, executive presbyter in the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys and a participant in the mission trip, edited a 148-page book with about 450 photographs that can be purchased through Blurb at <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/220723>. According to the Valley Bridge, the newsletter of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys, "You'll find some background info at the beginning about the destruction and the need and response, and then photos and reflections from each of our 10 work sites."

**3. NORTH CENTRAL IOWA HELPS TORNADO VICTIMS:** The Rev. Dave Feltman, general presbyter in the Presbytery of North Central Iowa, wrote about the events of last week following the May 25 tornado that destroyed portions of a number of towns and rural areas. He noted on the presbytery's Web site, "Where does one begin this week? The devastation in Parkersburg, New Hartford, Dunkerton, Hazleton and rural areas is almost beyond belief. If we could list the emotions - terror, loss, grief, numbness, gratefulness for life - we could fill pages. Many of us have simply felt helpless. On Sunday evening and Monday we would have liked to have offered help but how? Let's remind ourselves that this is going to be a long term rebuilding. Long after the TV trucks have gone home the work will continue. Let's be those folks who are in for the long haul. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is known for the long haul." The presbytery is helping. More recently he wrote, "The Presbyterians in Aplington are stepping to the plate to help their neighbors and church members who live in Parkersburg. They are also providing us with names. We will match those names with volunteer groups to offer hands on help, emotional and spiritual support." Feltman's full initial response can be found at [www.presbynciowa.org](http://www.presbynciowa.org). Offers of assistance can be made by contacting Kaylene Hoskins at 319.233.1747.

**4. MT. VERNON TAKES STEPS IN 'LONG JOURNEY OF RESTORATION:'** After the steeple was struck by lightning over the holiday weekend, FPC Mt. Vernon has taken the initial steps in the long journey of restoration. Here is an update on what is happening:

- Moving Sunday morning worship for the next 3 months to their sister church, Linn Grove, in rural Mt. Vernon
- Hiring a construction service who will secure sub-contractors
- Setting up a new web site in the near future where updates on the restoration process will be posted
- Waiting for the adjuster to come since the insurance company is currently busy with claims in the tornado-affected areas of Parkersburg and New Hartford
- Moderating the session is the Rev. Russell Proffitt, whose calming presence is helping them navigate through the process



Turning their attention towards the future even though deeply saddened by the destruction; the session, building committee and PNC all remain optimistic. *(This story originally appeared in the May 29 edition of Out & About, the newsletter of the Presbytery of East Iowa.)*

**5. MONTICELLO CHURCH CONTINUES RECOVERY FROM FIRE:** The Eagles' Club in Monticello, Iowa, was host for a gathering of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Monticello, sponsored by the Presbytery of East Iowa, May 18. Church member and local restaurateur, Darrell Reyner, catered a meal for the 125 persons who attended the event. The gathering, celebrating the ongoing mission and ministry of the congregation as they work through the loss of their church building to fire as well as the renovation process, provided an opportunity for those in the congregation to view pictures of the fire's aftermath and to share in conversation and fellowship as they remember the past and envision their church's future. One significant part of the church's ministry that continues is the pie ministry. The "Pie Ladies" are hard at work baking their scrumptious pies for purchase by members of the community. Contact the church office at 319.465.3393 if you would like to purchase one of these pies. *(This story originally appeared in the May 29 edition of Out & About, the newsletter of the Presbytery of East Iowa.)*



**6. PDA LISTS DONATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. DISASTERS:** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance continues to respond to numerous storms that have affected the United States, including tornadoes in the Midwest. With about 100 deaths attributed to tornadoes this year, 2008 has been deemed one of the deadliest for tornado-related deaths in a decade. Since January, \$206,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds have been provided to 26 presbyteries that have been affected by the storms. PDA will be working with presbyteries affected by tornadoes in Iowa. Additional information, and an online link to online donations, can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/tornado-may2008.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/tornado-may2008.htm). Gifts by credit card can be made by calling PresbyTel at (800) 872-3283 or online. Checks payable to Presbyterian Church (USA) can also be mailed directly to:  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Central Receiving Services  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

**7. SDOP DISBURSES \$671,604, INCLUDES MANKATO PROJECT:** The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People - [www.pcusa.org/sdop](http://www.pcusa.org/sdop) - has approved grants totaling \$671,604 to 27 self-help projects in the United States and the Dominican Republic. The money is from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The national SDOP, which met in the Dominican Republic May 14-18, enables members and non-members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to form partnerships with oppressed and disadvantaged people in order to help them achieve self-sufficiency. One of the grants funded was Sudanese Community Development, Mankato, Minn., which received \$18,000 to support training programs for Sudanese immigrants in basic English as a second language, basic computer skills and basic orientation to workplace culture. The full story

can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08433](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08433).

**8. MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LISTS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:** Get resources to help you serve the critical human needs in your community through the Compassion Capital Fund Project. The focus of the training and grants to greater Minnesota community organizations is capacity building in leadership, program design, financial sustainability, infrastructure and community engagement. Rural Churches-Rural Communities partners with the Compassion Capital Fund of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches and Fairview Health Services to make funding available to faith- and community-based organizations in Greater Minnesota. More information is available at [www.mnchurches.org/programs/partnerships/rural/ruralgrants.html](http://www.mnchurches.org/programs/partnerships/rural/ruralgrants.html). The deadline is June 16 for the St. Cloud Area and July 15 for the Mankato area.

**9. PDA SENDS \$50,000 TO EARTHQUAKE-BATTERED CHINA:** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [ [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda) - has sent \$50,000 from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to help meet the needs of survivors of the massive earthquake that rocked central China earlier this month. Assistance includes providing food support to 16,000 of the most vulnerable people in the quake-battered country and distribution of 8,000 tarpaulins and quilts to help families protect and shelter themselves from the elements, according to a recent situation report issued by PDA, the disaster-response and relief agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The full story can be found online at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08412](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08412).

**10. PRESBYTERIANS TODAY ARTICLE FOCUSES ON MODERN-DAY SLAVERY:** Presbyterians Today magazine, in its current June-July issue, includes information on modern-day slavery. In a sidebar, the magazine lists multiple locations to gain more information and options for getting involved. Those resources, including subject matter, are:

- Enslavement of farm workers: [www.pcusa.org/fairfood](http://www.pcusa.org/fairfood); [www.allianceforfairfood.org](http://www.allianceforfairfood.org)
- End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA): [www.ecpatusa.org](http://www.ecpatusa.org)
- Freedom Network (U.S.A.): [www.freedomnetworkusa.org](http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org)
- Contemporary Slavery Institute at National Underground Railroad Freedom Center: [www.freedomcenter.org](http://www.freedomcenter.org)
- Women's Advocacy, PC(USA): [www.pcusa.org/womensadvocacy](http://www.pcusa.org/womensadvocacy)
- Sex Trafficking, 4-session study for adults, by Martha Bettis Gee: [www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com)
- Learn to recognize trafficking and slavery in your community: [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)
- To report human trafficking in the United States: 888.428.7581

Presbyterians Today's cover story, "Proclaim Freedom," can be found online at [www.pcusa.org/today/cover.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/today/cover.htm).

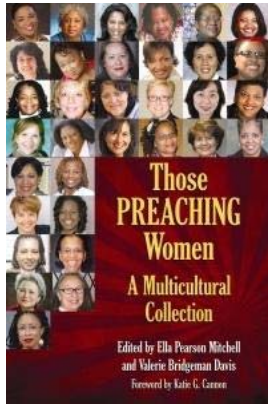
**11. OUTLOOK COVERS MODERATOR CANDIDATE FORUMS:** The June 2/9 issue of The Presbyterian Outlook magazine includes information about moderator and stated clerk candidates. Regarding moderator candidates, the article begins, "The four declared candidates for moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) were together for the first

time in two back-to-back forums on April 25 held at Presbyterian-related Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, N.J., and Lawrenceville Church in Lawrenceville, N.J. The different formats of the two events gave candidates opportunities to present their ideas in different ways." The complete article can be found at [www.pres-outlook.org/news-and-analysis/1-news-a-analysis/7452-moderator-candidates-discuss-issues-at-new-jersey-forums-.html](http://www.pres-outlook.org/news-and-analysis/1-news-a-analysis/7452-moderator-candidates-discuss-issues-at-new-jersey-forums-.html). Free registration is required at the site.

**12. MEN OF CHURCH SUNDAY IS JUNE 15:** According to the Web site of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Men of the Church Sunday - set June 15 -- is a day for recognizing the gifts and the contributions to ministry that men have made in every congregation. The site states, "It is to give thanks for the witness that they make in the home, the workplace and the community. It is a time to celebrate the unique possibilities that lie ahead in the future when men and women, working together, lift up the gospel in every realm of their daily existence. Designated as the Sunday that is usually recognized as "Father's Day," was an intentional act of the General Assembly to recognize the contributions of men, but not be limited only to those who have children, but to be inclusive of single men, stepparents and men who are unable to be with their children on this day." Additional information about Men of the Church Sunday can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/men/mensunday.htm>.

**13. 'BIG TENT' CONFERENCE SLATED NEXT SUMMER:** The Big Tent is a one of a kind conference next summer, June 11-13. Ten different network conferences, consultations and convocations will be held concurrently - all at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Atlanta. Each group will be hosting their normally scheduled event. What's really exciting is that there will be "common" time for all participants to come together for worship, meals and a Saturday night celebration. Additionally all participants will have an opportunity to sample workshops from the different networks. Details about the event can be obtained from Mindy Marchal, [mindy.marchal@pcusa.org](mailto:mindy.marchal@pcusa.org), or 888.728.7228, ext. 5212.

**14. INTERGENERATIONAL PEACEMAKING EVENT SET IN JULY:** The 2008 Peacemaking Conference is set July 15-19 at Chapman University in California. The event, titled "Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice, Confronting Poverty, shows a collaborative spirit in practice in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Conference directors Edie Gause and Andrew Short noted, "It's inspiring to watch a conference come together that encompasses the Presbyterian Peacemaking and Hunger Programs, the Joining Hands against Hunger Program, the Child Advocacy Office, the Presbyterian Washington and United Nations Offices, the Office of Small Church and Community Ministries, and Mission Responsibility through Investment. Registration is available now at [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm).



**15. FIFTH TITLE RELEASED IN 'PREACHING WOMEN'**

**SERIES:** Edited by Ella Pearson Mitchell and Valerie Bridgeman Davis, the collection is the fifth title in the series, "Those Preaching Women," which saw its first volume published in 1985. While previous editions were dedicated to sermons of African American women in various denominations and ministries, this resource uniquely reflects the rich ethnic diversity of 21st century America by including the voices of African American, Cuban, Native American, European American, Puerto Rican, South Korean, South Vietnamese, and West Indian women. Additional information can be found at [www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product\\_id=12693](http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=12693).

**16. AND A COUPLE OF INTERESTING BLOGS:**

For those who may be interested in political blogs, a couple have been brought to our attention during the past week. One, presented by beliefnet and Sojourners, is titled "God's Politics a blog by Jim Wallis and Friends" and can be found at <http://blog.beliefnet.com/godspolitics>. Another is associated with State of Belief Radio, an effort of Welton Gaddy. This blog can be at [www.stateofbelief.com](http://www.stateofbelief.com).

**17. AND FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN CHURCH TECHNOLOGY:** For those who may be interested in "production-oriented houses of worship," we have been informed of Church Production Magazine, a highly targeted technology magazine. With church-specific coverage of audio, video, lighting and duplication, Church Production Magazine is presented in an editorial context that is designed as a reference for churches to use in their decision-making process. According to its Web site, Church Production Magazine "has become a leading resource for news, new product announcements, trends, product reviews, tours and installations in facilities across the country." The magazine can be found online at [www.churchproduction.com](http://www.churchproduction.com).