



MAY 23, 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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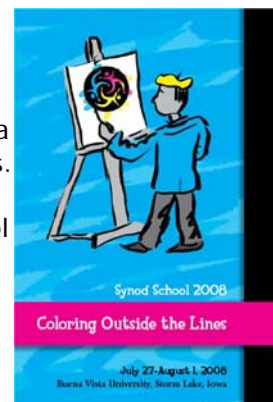
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## 1. SYNOD SCHOOL 2008 IS 'COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES:'

Synod School 2008, which runs July 27 through Aug. 1 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, is about "Coloring Outside the Lines," a look at how the church might move beyond timidity and try new things. The Rev. Scott Nesbitt, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, Iowa, will be this year's convocation speaker. More about Synod School - a week of Presbyterians of all ages having fun - including registration materials can be found at

<http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html>.



**2. MILWAUKEE GROUP SUPPORTS UGANDAN GRANDMOTHERS:**

Grandmothers don't often expect to raise their grandchildren, but in Africa, where the AIDS epidemic has killed the parents of thousands of children, it happens too frequently. But a group in Milwaukee is doing what they can to help. Called Grandmothers Beyond Borders, and only a little more than 2 years old, the organization is building relationships with grandmothers who are raising grandchildren in Uganda, increasing awareness of the impact of AIDS in Africa and working to improve the African grandmothers' standard of living. The organization describes itself as a volunteer, grass roots effort , which started through the efforts of Amy Peterson of Milwaukee, who heard of the plight of Ugandan grandmothers through a National Public Radio broadcast. The origins are more fully described at the organization's Web site at [www.grandmothersbeyond.com](http://www.grandmothersbeyond.com) . All funds donated to Grandmothers Beyond Borders support the Ugandan grandmothers and grandchildren who have been affected by AIDS. Donations provide the basic necessities of raising children, including food, bedding, clothing, school supplies and school fees. Administrative costs are currently covered by donors and sponsoring organizations. Jerusalem Presbyterian Church, Wales, Wis., is actively participating in the program. The Grandmothers Beyond Borders group at the church recently worked on book bags that it will sell at the church's Donna Lexa Memorial Art Fair in August. All proceeds from the sale of the bags will go to Grandmothers Beyond Borders.



**3. NORTH CENTRAL IOWA ACCEPTS VEHICLE DONATIONS:** The Presbytery of North Central Iowa will receive cars or trucks you no longer want or need. You will receive a contribution statement for the fair value of your vehicle. These cars and trucks will be sold with priority going to inquirers and candidates for the ministry and pastors making minimum salary, then to the general population. The proceeds will go to the presbytery. Additional information is available from the Rev. David Feltman, general presbyter, at [dfeltman@presbynciowa.org](mailto:dfeltman@presbynciowa.org) or 800.383.3617. (This information *first appeared in the May 20 edition of Weekly E-News, a newsletter of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa*)

**4. MILWAUKEE PRESBYTERY EXPLORES OUTREACH TO SOLDIERS:** For many Presbyterians as well as others in our society, the idea of war can only be responded to with the lyrics from the Edwin Starr hit "War, what is it good for? Absolutely nothing!" But for many others, to embrace only that response is to ignore the difficulties and challenges war creates for those who serve - veterans and their families and friends. In 2005, the Presbytery of Milwaukee's Mission Partnerships Team (MPT) began discussing at what a faithful response to those challenges might be. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08381](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08381).

**5. PRESBYTERIAN COUPLE RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD:** Minnesota has the highest proportion of Korean Americans in the country, according to Martha and Stephen Vickery, co-founders of the Korean Quarterly publication, yet that community mostly "flies under the radar." When the couple, along with a small group from their Presbyterian church in Brooklyn Center, Minn., founded the publication over 10 years ago, they were recognizing the hunger of the Korean American community to find a bridge between their Korean heritage and their lives in America. A large proportion of that community is Korean

born adoptees. The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans recognized the Vickerys with its Leadership Award May 16. The Twin Cities Daily Planet recently published a story about the Vickerys and the award. It can be found at <http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/article/2008/05/12/labor-love-recognized-leadership-korean-american-community.html#>.

**6. NORTH CENTRAL IOWA SUPPORTS MEDICAL MISSION:** With financial assistance from North Central Iowa Presbytery - [www.presbynciowa.org](http://www.presbynciowa.org) - two members of Eden Presbyterian Church in Rudd, Iowa, recently traveled to Nicaragua as part of a medical mission by 14 Fort Dodge-area Christians. Nicole Brandau and Marylynn Aalderks participated in the mission, which provided food for 600 families and medical care for 579 people in Esteli and a number of remote villages in the region. Every child in each village where the medical clinics were held received a Bible story book. The group received a \$1,000 grant toward the purchase of medical supplies from the presbytery's Mission and Ministry Board.

**7. CARROLL COLLEGE BECOMES CARROLL UNIVERSITY IN JULY:** Carroll College, Waukesha, Wis., one of seven Presbyterian colleges and universities within the boundaries of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, will become Carroll University effective July 1. Based on its wide array of academic programs, the school is already classified as a university by several national organizations. Carroll, which was started in 1839 as Prairieville Academy, has more than 3,300 full- and part-time students and more than 60 areas of study. More information about the change can be found at <http://www.cc.edu/newsevents/newsdetail.asp?id=503>.

**8. SYNOD COLLEGES NOTED IN APCU UPDATE:** Several Presbyterian colleges and universities were noted in a recent news update provided by the national office of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities. In addition to Carroll College listed above, others included Coe, Jamestown and Macalester colleges. Coe College launched its largest campaign ever with the largest event in the school's history last December. Nearly 400 people gathered on campus and hundreds more via live satellite broadcast at two dozen places around the country for the unveiling of the \$80 million "Defining Moment" campaign. Coe is online at [www.coe.edu](http://www.coe.edu). Jamestown College offered its first graduate course in education this past semester. Jamestown is at [www.jc.edu](http://www.jc.edu). Macalester College has received \$13.5 million from philanthropist Shelby Moore Cullom Davis to provide scholarship support for international students. The gift, the largest donation for this purpose in the school's history, came through the Davis United World College Scholars Program. Macalester is online at [www.macalester.edu](http://www.macalester.edu).



**9. 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' PAGE ABOUT MYANMAR ONLINE:** A "Frequently Asked Questions" page, answering questions related to the disaster in

Myanmar is now online at <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/faq/myanmarburma.htm>. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance also provided updates this week on its work in both Myanmar and China. Regarding Myanmar and the devastating effects of cyclone Nargis, PDA wrote, "Despite humanitarian access and logistical challenges, more than 100,000 people are receiving clean water, emergency food and non-food items. A recent preliminary worldwide ACT appeal for \$5.1 million hopes to provide up to 1.3 million people with safe water through the rehabilitation of 5,000 water points. Security issues and concerns preclude PDA from naming locations for assistance or specific local organization providing the assistance." Regarding China, PDA noted, "We recently provided \$50,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing funds to our long-term mission partner Amity Foundation to support the needs of survivors of the May 12 China earthquake. Amity is providing 16,000 of the most vulnerable people with food support to sustain them through the immediate shortage. In addition, Amity will distribute 8,000 tarpaulins and quilts to help families protect and shelter themselves from the elements." Additional information regarding responses to both natural disasters can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response-international.htm>.

**10. PC(USA) LEADERS ISSUE STATEMENT ON DISASTERS:** The two top leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have sent a letter to church, praising those who have responded to the disasters that have struck Myanmar, China and the United States and asking all Presbyterians to pray for those who have been affected. The full text of the May 14 letter, written by General Assembly Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick and General Assembly Council Executive Director Linda Bryant Valentine can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08382](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08382).

**11. EAST TENNESSEE PRESBYTERY RUNS AD CAMPAIGN:** East Tennessee Presbytery - [www.presbyteryeasttn.org](http://www.presbyteryeasttn.org) - wants people to know its Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations are alive and well, and so it's proclaiming it from the highways and byways, airwaves and fairways. Television advertising spots and roadside billboards placed by the presbytery herald the news that the doors of PC(USA) churches in the region are open and welcoming everyone to come. The effort is part of an "awareness campaign" that began in December 2007 with television commercials and has been enhanced by the billboards, which first went up in March, said Donna Hoppestad, marketing and advertising consultant for East Tennessee Presbytery and an elder in the PC(USA). A variety of Presbyterian advertising materials can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/hereandnow/>. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08380](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08380).

**12. STIMULUS CHECKS INSPIRE ACTION TO SHARE:** The Young Adult Sunday School Class at Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church - [www.orpc.org](http://www.orpc.org) - in the Salem Presbytery is challenging everyone to make a difference. The class is applying their studies to real world practice by putting their IRS stimulus payments to work. "We were studying Luke 19: 11-27, 'The Parable of the Ten Minas,'" explained Don McIver. "The lesson of the parable is that we are charged with using the gifts we are given, and the more we put our talents and gifts to good use, the more we will receive." The complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08377.htm>.

**13. NCC SEEKS YOUNG ADULT STEWARDS FOR ITS DENVER GATHERING:** The National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. - [www.nccusa.org](http://www.nccusa.org) - is seeking young adults ages 18-30 to serve as stewards for its 2008 General Assembly Nov. 11-13 in Denver. Each year, the NCC and its partner relief and development agency, Church World

Service, gather for worship, legislation, fellowship and ecumenical sharing. More than 250 delegates from the NCC's 36 member churches attend. Stewards must arrive in Denver for orientation on Sunday, Nov. 9, and will depart on Friday, Nov. 14. The complete story can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08400](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08400).