

MAY 8, 2009

The synod can be found online at www.lakesandprairies.org.

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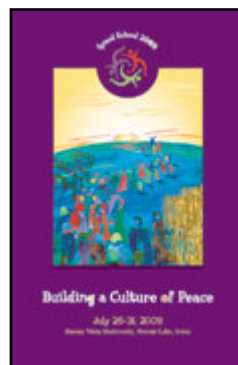
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1. PROSPECT HILL PRESBYTERY MOVES OFFICE: The [Presbytery of Prospect Hill](#) is moving its offices from the Regional Church Center in Storm Lake, Iowa, to office space in Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 110 E. Third Street, Storm Lake. The move will take place Monday and Tuesday, May 18-19. While the presbytery's street address will change, its telephone numbers and postal box number will remain the same, according to Kay Lenhart, presbytery communications. Those able to assist with the move can call 712.732.2097. ([Return to top](#))



2. SYNOD SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS ON WEB SITE: Synod School 2009 registration materials can be found online at the [synod's Web site](#). 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." ([Return to top](#))

3. SYNOD MEETING SUMMARY POSTED ONLINE: The Synod of Lakes and Prairies met April 26-28 and an unofficial [Synod Summary](#) is now online. ([Return to top](#))

4. 2010 COLA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS, ANNOUNCES JOB POSTING: The Committee on Local Arrangements for the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is seeking leaders for a number of its committees and it has also posted a job description for an executive coordinator. The 219th General Assembly runs July 3-10, 2010, in Minneapolis. The executive coordinator will work with the committee and the Office of the General Assembly to help plan, coordinate and report on committee activities. The coordinator is accountable to the Office of the General Assembly but works closely with the local committee. The [complete position](#) description is located online. The [list of volunteer leadership positions](#) is also online. COLA members are Sandy Hawley, co-chair, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area; Manley Olson, co-chair, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area; Donetta Wickstrom, Presbytery of Northern Waters representative; and Rallah or Robbie Madison, Presbytery of Minnesota Valley representatives. ([Return to top](#))



5. EAST IOWA'S 'OUT & ABOUT' FOLLOWS THEMES: "Out & About," the newsletter of the Presbytery of East Iowa, features rotating themes. One week is worship, another is mission, there's Presbyterian neighborhood, and there are more. The April 30 issue of "Out & About" carried a story of a special Easter week service at First Presbyterian Church in Monticello, Iowa. The story noted the worship service

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was a "visual reminder" of God's work in the life of the church since the sanctuary had been destroyed by fire in March 2008. The complete story, "[Worship the Builder,](#)" is found in the newsletter online. In the May 7 edition, which focused on mission, the newsletter reported, "It only took 12 hours for Ed Fisher's life to be turned upside down. It has taken nearly 12 months for him to begin to turn things around. Ed's business, Coralville Bay, located along Highway 6 in Coralville, Iowa, was flooded June 13, 2008." The story continues, "He told God he felt like the prodigal son returning and he prayed that God would show him how to be a good steward of the only thing he had left to offer-himself." The complete story, "[A Real Fish Story,](#)" can be found in the newsletter online. ([Return to top](#))



6. FRANCIS COMES UP WITH A LION: Richard Francis, moderator of the Mission Coordinating Team of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill, noted in a recent presbytery newsletter that he adds a lion (at left) to his

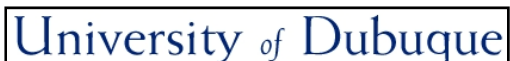
signature to help him remember his place as a pastor. He wrote, "What I heard God saying to me that weekend was, 'I am the head of the Church, not you. You can be the heart.'" [Francis' complete column](#) is online. ([Return to top](#))



7. CLEARWATER FOREST INTRODUCES NEW ADMIN ASSISTANT:

Kimberly Goeser Janes has joined the staff of Presbyterian Clearwater Forest in the newly created position of administrative assistant, according to David Jeremiason, the camp's executive director. She will provide support for the administrative staff and work with Jeremiason in marketing and developing new community partnerships in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

Goeser Janes brings camp experience to the position and recently relocated to the Deerwood, Minn., area after serving as assistant manager of employee relations and negotiations with St. Paul Public Schools. Presbyterian Clearwater Forest is online at www.clearwaterforest.org. ([Return to top](#))



8. UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE GETS \$30

MILLION GIFT: The article by Stacey Becker in the Dubuque, Iowa, Telegraph Herald opened this

way: "The crowd was silent. A few of the people gathered in the University of Dubuque's Mary Chlapaty Hall gasped in shock after Tuesday's announcement. It was far from bad news. 'You can clap,' said UD President Jeffrey Bullock. Only minutes before, he announced the university had accepted a \$30 million gift from philanthropic UD alumnus Joe Chlapaty and his wife, Linda." The complete story can be found at www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=242318. ([Return to top](#))



9. 'BIG TENT' IS ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY:

The "Big Tent" event, a collection of 10 national conferences of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will run in downtown Atlanta June 11-13. The event promises concurrent worship, plenary sessions and meals, and individual workshops and sessions for each of the separate groups. It's all under the "Big Tent." Complete details can be found at www.pcusa.org/bigtent. ([Return to top](#))

10. ALT7 CONFERENCE SCHEDULED AT MONTREAT: The alt7 Conference, designed for clergy under the age of 40, is slated at Montreat (N.C.) Conference Center June 8-11. Conference literature notes that clergy under the age of 40 are younger than the average Presbyterian, adding, " We may be online, energized, underpaid, frustrated, creative,

isolated, prophetic, weary, traditional, misunderstood, innovative, disillusioned, post-modern, hopeful, or all of the above." The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly, is one of the conference leaders. Information and registration materials are available at www.montreat.org/current/2009-alt7-conference. ([Return to top](#))

11. MENNONITE PEACE CENTER OFFERS CONFLICT CLASSES: The Lombard (Ill.) Mennonite Peace Center, a non-profit ministry that encourages the nonviolent transformation of conflict in relationships in homes, workplaces, schools and churches, has slated a variety of workshops this summer and fall. Brochures, including registration materials, for many of the upcoming training events can be downloaded and printed from the center's Web site at www.lmpeacecenter.org. ([Return to top](#))

12. ANNUAL SPIRITUALITY, ARTS INSTITUTE SET AT UNITED: The Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts, an annual program of United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minn., provides a place to expand awareness and knowledge of the intersections of art and religion. Participants are offered an opportunity to explore those intersections in their personal lives and faith communities. Additional information and registration materials can be found at www.unitedseminary.edu/communityprograms/summerinstitute.asp. ([Return to top](#))



13. CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE SET IN BISMARCK: The International Climate Stewardship Solutions Conference, slated June 29-30 in Schafer Hall on the Bismarck (N.D.) State

College campus, will present real world overseas examples of economic development combined with climate stewardship. International leaders will highlight policies and actions that have reduced carbon dioxide emissions and benefited industries and communities. Speakers include Preston Chiaro, chief executive of Rio Tinto's energy product group and past chairman of the World Coal Institute; John Halmans, chief executive and owner of Gulpener Brewery, The Netherlands; and Franzjosef Schafhausen, deputy director general of the German Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Conference details can be found at www.climatestewardshipsolutions.org. ([Return to top](#))

14. TASK FORCE PREPARES TO REVIEW NEWS SERVICE: A six-member task force appointed by General Assembly Council chair Carol Adcock to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Presbyterian News Service will hold its first meeting May 11. The meeting will be by telephone conference call. A face-to-face meeting will be held during the summer. The group, made up of two GAC members and four at-large members, is scheduled to make its report to the September 2009 meeting of the council. The complete story is at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09375. ([Return to top](#))



15. PARSONS JOINS CALL FOR POST-9/11 INTERROGATIONS:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly Stated Clerk Grady Parsons (at left) joined church leaders and human rights activists calling President Obama to create a Commission of Inquiry to review interrogation policies and practices of the United States in the years after Sept. 11, 2001. "The God who made us all, is also the God to whom we are all answerable for how we treat each of God's children," Parsons wrote in his April 23 letter. The letter specifically asks the president "to work with Congress to establish a non-partisan Commission of Inquiry" to conduct the review of Bush Administration interrogation policies and practices. It was delivered to President Obama and U.S. Congressional leaders. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09356. ([Return to top](#))

16. CHURCH'S FARMERS MARKET SUPPORTS HUNGER PROGRAM: The farmers market at First Presbyterian Church in Warren, Pa., offers more than fresh produce and baked goods; it also helps provide hunger relief to people across the country and globe. This year, the farmers market donated \$7,000 to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which fights hunger in the United States and around the world through direct food relief, development assistance, public policy influence, lifestyle integrity and education and interpretation. The complete story is at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09353. ([Return to top](#))



17. PENTECOST OFFERING PLANNED MAY 31: The youngest of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s special offerings, the Pentecost Offering, provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Offering materials are available and can be ordered until the offering is received May 31. The Pentecost Offering offers congregations the opportunity to designate 40 percent of what they receive to help children at

risk in their own communities. Through General Assembly ministries, the Pentecost Offering supports the faith journey of Presbyterian young people, develops a new generation of church leadership, and advocates on a national level for children at risk. Additional information about the offering is available at www.pcusa.org/pentecost/. ([Return to top](#))

18. REGIONAL FOUNDATION REP WRITES: Annette Calderwood Shoemaker, regional vice president for the Western United States for the Presbyterian Foundation, wrote the following letter April 29. She can be reached by email at acs@fdn.pcusa.org.

Friends -

As you are all now aware, the Foundation was forced to close six development offices across the country this month due to the extreme market downturn and continuing volatility. We are saddened by these events and we will miss our colleagues.

I am writing to you today, to let you know that it is the Foundation's intention to continue to serve the entire Church. We realize that resources will need to be reallocated and we are seeking your input and advice as we move through this process. As a start, we have created a two-step process to work through this restructuring and do our best to continue to provide the same level of service and support. Because of the reduced number of development officers, in the short-term we are required to take a more regimented approach to trips and visits and as a result will be establishing a calendar of when your development officer will be in your territory. We are asking for your help and support by letting us know of opportunistic events where we can reach greater numbers of pastors and church leaders at one time.

The second step will involve the implementation of a longer term business strategy. Soon, you will be hearing from Mark Klemm about the timetable. He will also be asking for your help and guidance in this process as we strive to create a structure that effectively and efficiently provides individuals, churches, middle-governing bodies and related entities with donor support and investment management client service.

We thank you in advance for your patience and wisdom as we work through this process. ([Return to top](#))

19. FAITH IN FLUX: PEW FORUM REPORTS ON RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: According to the Web site of the Pew Forum, "Americans change their religious affiliation early and often, and the reasons they give for changing ... differ widely depending on the origin and destination of the convert." The results of a Pew Forum survey, released last week, regarding change in religious affiliation can be found at www.pewforum.org. ([Return to top](#))