

## DECEMBER 21, 2009

The synod can be found online at [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org). Also check out the Presbyterian Neighborhood at <http://lakesprairies.pnnews.org>.

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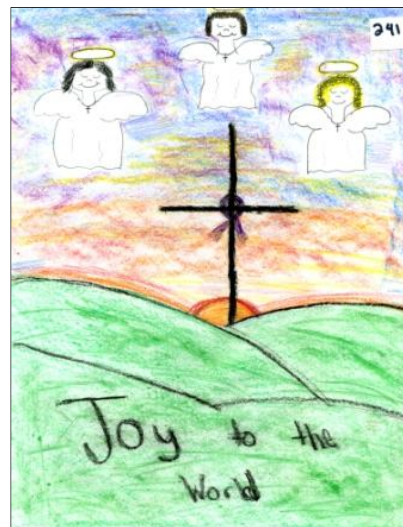
**1. SYNOD CHRISTMAS HOURS:** The Synod of Lakes and Prairies office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, through Sunday, Jan. 3. The office will open again Monday, Jan. 4. ( [Return to top](#) )

**2. SYNOD SLATES JANUARY MEETING:** The Synod of Lakes and Prairies will hold its annual meeting Sunday evening through Tuesday morning, Jan. 17-19, at Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, Farmington, Minn. Synod commissioners recently received the first notice and call to meeting, and were asked to return registration forms by Wednesday, Dec. 23. Orientation meetings are planned for first-time commissioners and youth advisory delegates from 4 to 5 p.m. opening day. ( [Return to top](#) )



### 3. 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING GAINS MOMENTUM:

Planning for the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is gaining momentum, according to Paula Sanders, executive coordinator for the Committee on Local Arrangements. General Assembly meets July 3-10, 2010, at the Minneapolis Convention Center and attendance is expected to be around 8,000. The presbyteries of Northern Waters and Minnesota Valleys are joining with the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area as hosts. To plan and carry out such an event will require many willing workers. More complete information about local plans for General Assembly and volunteer opportunities can be found on the website of the [Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area](#). ( [Return to top](#) )



### 4. MINNESOTA VALLEYS YOUTH IS ONE OF BEST IN ART CONTEST:

The artwork of Maddie Stegenga, 11, of First Presbyterian Church in Luverne, Minn., placed third in the 11- to 14-year-old category of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Christmas Joy Offering Children's [Art Contest](#). Stegenga's artwork is at left. Winners were

announced last week. The contest, in which children up to age 14 were invited to submit art representing their own visions of the Christmas story, attracted more than 250 submissions from scores of churches across the country. ( [Return to top](#) )

**5. COM/CPM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SLATED IN JANUARY:** Joseph Small, director of Theology

**News of conferences, workshops**

- [13.](#) Presbyterian writers plan annual conference in April**
- [14.](#) PTS sets Multicultural Ministry Institute**
- [15.](#) Princeton slates session on 'Latino Paradigm'**

**News around the PC(USA)**

- [16.](#) Orlando church launches innovative program on TV, Internet**
- [17.](#) PC(USA) clerk issues seasonal churchwide letter**
- [18.](#) Presbyterians back carbon emission agreement**

**And just 2 more**

- [19.](#) Methodist minister writes of transitions**
- [20.](#) WJK schedules 'Halos and Avatars'**

Worship and Education Ministries for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be the keynote speaker for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies 2010 COM/CPM Leadership Conference slated Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 26-28, at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minn. The theme for this year's conference is "Finding Joy in Our Vocations." Small, who has served in his position with the General Assembly Mission Council since 2007, holds degrees from Brown University, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary and Louisville Theological Seminary. He has served on the staff of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and as pastor of churches in Towson, Md., Westerville, Ohio, and Rochester, N.Y. The conference's plenary presentations include "Authoritative Interpretation and Scruples," by Diana Barber, the synod's associate executive for leadership development, and "Leadership for a Multicultural Church," by Jin S. Kim, pastor of Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights, Minn. Conference registration can be completed by contacting COM or CPM moderators of individual presbyteries, or by contacting Barber at 800.328.1880, ext. 207, or by email at [dbarber@lakesandprairies.org](mailto:dbarber@lakesandprairies.org). ([Return to top](#))



**6. SPACE STILL AVAILABLE AT CLEARWATER FOREST SNOW CAMP:** There is still room at the Snow Camp Retreat at [Presbyterian Clearwater Forest](#), Deerwood, Minn., scheduled Friday evening, Jan. 22, through Sunday morning,

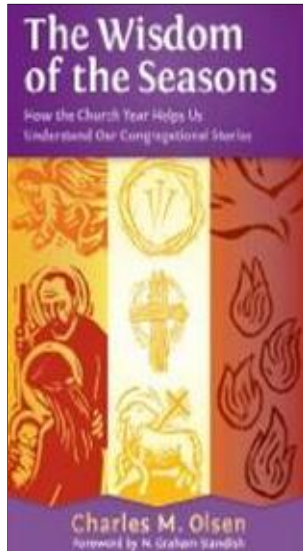
Jan. 24. Snow Camp is designed for junior and senior high campers, and their adult chaperones. Activities include broom ball (maybe on the lake that recently froze), sleds, snowshoes, skis, plus warm fires, good food, cozy lodges and camp friends and staff. Youth experience a Christian community in a retreat setting, learn more about faith in God through Jesus Christ and have fun. More information can be obtained by contacting Andy Kennaly, program director, at [andy@clearwaterforest.org](mailto:andy@clearwaterforest.org), or by calling 218.678.2325. ([Return to top](#))

**7. LUKENS ADVENT SERMON POSTED ON SYNOD SITE:** The Rev. Michael Lukens, stated clerk of Winnebago Presbytery, was named in October as the C. Fred Jenkins Constitutional Services Award winner. The award is presented annually to an individual who has given "wise, prudent and vigilant support to the constitution and polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)." The award, which will be presented at the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis in July, is given in memory of C. Fred Jenkins, who served as the associate stated clerk of the denomination from 1990 until his death in 2001. Lukens [acknowledged recognition](#) from the presbytery when it met in November. He also presented an [Advent sermon](#), "The Jail-break Advent," at the meeting. In the sermon Lukens said, "The Commission asked me to join with a group of Presbyterian ministers and other clergy to participate in the voter registration effort for blacks in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in the early spring of 1963. ... Actually, it was not all that bad at first. A large cell for all of us together, just benches, pipe bunks up one side wall, a sink with cold water and a small adjacent bathroom." ([Return to top](#))

**8. ARABELLA MEADOWS-ROGERS DIES IN NEW YORK:** The Rev. Arabella Meadows-Rogers died from the effects of pancreatic cancer at 4:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, the Presbyterian News Service reported. Her husband, Rob, and her sister, Louisa, were by her bedside. According to long-time friend, the Rev. Laura Jervis, Rob and Louisa both report that Meadows-Rogers' death was peaceful and merciful and that her faith was steadfast to



the end, the story stated. (In the photo at left are Arabella and Rob Meadows-Rogers.) The complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091086.htm>. Meadows-Rogers retired this summer as executive presbyter for the Presbytery of New York City. From 1992 to 1997 she pastored a congregation in the Presbytery of Northern Plains and became the presbytery's executive in 1997. She returned to New York City as presbytery executive in 2003. A longer story about her career can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09698.htm>. Notes of sympathy and support can be sent to her husband Robert (Rob) Meadows-Rogers at 70 Haven Avenue, Apt 2C, New York, New York 10032-2609. ([Return to top](#))



**9. WINTER PASTORS' SCHOOL SET AT HASTINGS FEB. 1-4:** The [2010 Winter Pastors' School](#), with the title "When Church Stories Become Songs," runs Feb. 1-4 at Hastings (Neb.) College. The school will take participants into the stories of their congregations, mining them for wisdom in relation to the seasons of the church year. Practical applications of this year's school include preaching from the lectionary in the seasons, personal reflection on faith stories, spiritual development of church boards and leadership teams, communal story formation, and congregational understanding and developing of their own stories. Winter Pastors' School begins with the first presentation at 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1, and ends with communion worship service at 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4. Registration is preferred by Monday, Jan. 4. ([Return to top](#))

**10. SOUTH DAKOTA MODERATOR WRITES OF NEED TO COMMUNICATE:** Melita DeJong, moderator of the Presbytery of South Dakota, wrote in the most recent edition of the presbytery's newsletter, *The Plain Song*, about the need to make use of communication tools. She noted in her essay, "We can do nothing about the miles, but we can do something about the communications and reaching out to one another. We have an excellent newsletter, *The Plain Song*, which, if utilized correctly, would be one excellent way of letting our light show. This can happen only if we take the time to toot our horn and tell the others in the presbytery what we as a congregation, as a church, as a presbytery are doing. The presbytery council is also in the process of establishing a new and improved website that will contain information from the presbytery committees and news of coming and past events. The camping committee is re-establishing its website as a means of reaching out to the children, youth and adults. We are on the path to good communication, but we need your help. Send us news that we can share. Share your blessings, your triumphs, your difficulties; we care." ([Return to top](#))

**11. OLIVE OIL SALES HELPS FUND PALESTINIAN HOSPITAL:** Import Peace, a Presbyterian group committed to helping Palestinians by selling their fair trade products, is extending the healing power of olive oil. While Import Peace's high-quality, organic olive oil isn't marketed to U.S. consumers for its medicinal properties, their purchase of a substance used as a salve since biblical times is bringing health care to Palestinians. The Brainerd, Minn.-based organization recently gave \$4,000 to St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus, a key health care provider in the Occupied Territories. This year, St. Luke's began performing neurosurgery and is the only advanced neurosurgery center serving the West Bank and Gaza. Its emergency room treats 400 patients monthly and its two delivery rooms accommodate 120 births each month. The complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091080.htm>. ([Return to top](#))

**12. A SHORT TOUR OF SYNOD'S PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOLS:** A quick tour of the websites of the seven Presbyterian-affiliated colleges and universities across the Synod of Lakes and Prairies discovered the following information. (It's a counter-clockwise trip from Hastings, Neb., to Jamestown, N.D.)

**HASTINGS (Neb.) COLLEGE:** Hastings College graduate and Lincoln Journal Star's Husker Extra writer Brian Rosenthal teamed up with Hastings College associate professor of communication arts Kathryn Stofer and Nebraska Wesleyan journalism professor James Schaffer to write and publish "[Sports Journalism: An Introduction to Reporting and](#)

[Writing.](#) Rosenthal has taught several sports writing courses for Hastings College and admits the idea for the book came from necessity.

**BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY, STORM LAKE, Iowa:** Three Buena Vista University students have been selected for an [expanded January internship](#) that is the capstone of a program launched last year in partnership with Buena Vista Regional Medical Center for pre-med students who have an interest in practicing rural medicine. In 2010, the January internship program will have three additional partners, the hospitals at Pocahontas, Sac City and Humboldt.

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE (Iowa):** The University of Dubuque has designed a program, [The LIFE Advantage](#) in its Learning Institute for Fulfillment and Engagement, for adult learners who are at least 23 years of age and who have three or more years of work experience. The accelerated bachelor's degree program has been developed to enable students to balance studies, career and family life. The program's flexible format allows students to begin classes at a time of their choosing.

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY:** The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, the only Presbyterian seminary attached to a Presbyterian-affiliated college or university, has scheduled its spring ["Exploring a Call to Ministry Conference"](#) Wednesday through Friday, March 17-19. During this conference participants have the opportunity to meet with faculty and students, attend classes and worship, see the campus and explore many aspects of the seminary's community life.

**COE COLLEGE, CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa:** Coe College and St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids have received \$4.65 million to construct a shared steam heating plant to substitute for Alliant Energy's flood-damaged Sixth Street Generating Station. The Sixth Street Station was damaged during the flood of 2008. The grant was announced by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and the assistance comes from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. The complete story can be found on page 5 in the [Coe Courier](#).

**CARROLL UNIVERSITY, WAUKESHA, Wis.:** Two Carroll University faculty members, Sara Deprey and Ed Maher, both clinical associate professors of physical therapy, have been awarded a one-year grant by the Alvin and Marion Birnschein Foundation to support the Carroll University Wellness Clinic for Persons with Chronic Health Conditions. The [Alvin and Marion Birnschein Foundation](#) provides support for promising investigators with innovative ideas that will have an impact on society.

**MACALESTER COLLEGE, ST. PAUL, Minn.:** Two Macalester College faculty members have published a new book that looks at the "opt-out phenomenon" of contemporary working women. Titled "Glass Ceilings and 100-Hour Couples: What the Opt-Out Phenomenon Can Teach Us about Work and Family," the book is available through [The University of George Press](#). Authors are Karine Moe, professor of economics and editor of "Women, Family, and Work: Writings on the Economics of Gender," and Dianna Shandy, associate professor of anthropology and author of "Nuer-American Passages: Globalizing Sudanese Migration."

**JAMESTOWN (N.D.) COLLEGE:** Jamestown College has received a \$75,000 grant from the [F.I.S.H. Foundation](#) to expand the nursing department's work in Chogoria, Kenya, and to expand student participation in future trips to Chogoria. Nursing department faculty and senior nursing students traveled to Chogoria in 2007 and 2009. The delegations worked in the general hospital, the pediatric and maternity wards and traveled to outlying villages to care for patients with HIV/AIDS and malaria. The department will continue to send faculty and students to Chogoria each year. The "F.I.S.H. Foundation has given us the resources to plan and begin a service program that has the potential to significantly impact the people of the Chogoria region," said Jacqueline Mangnall, nursing department chair. ([Return to top](#))

### **13. PRESBYTERIAN WRITERS SCHEDULE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN APRIL:**

Following up on its highly successful 2009 event, the Presbyterian Writers Guild has announced that the Presbyterian Writers Conference for 2010 will be Wednesday through Thursday, April 28-29, at the [Scarritt-Bennett Center](#) in Nashville, Tenn. The conference, which is aimed at helping writers produce marketable articles or books, develop a freelance career, and "impact the world with their words," will again feature the renowned Presbyterian author, Cecil Murphey. Registration information will be available later this fall. The [Presbyterian Writers Guild](#) is a support network of and for Presbyterians who write as a form of Christian ministry. Any Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) writer may belong to the Guild. ([Return to top](#))

**14. PTS SETS MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY INSTITUTE:** The Erdman Center, Princeton Theological Seminary's Center of Continuing Education, in collaboration with The Hispanic Leadership Program, has slated the Institute for Multicultural Ministry Monday through Wednesday, Jan. 11-13. The Rev. Jin S. Kim, pastor of [Church of All Nations](#) in Columbia Heights, Minn., will be one of the institute's leaders. Promotional material for the institute

states, "In a post-modern, post-ideological, post-denominational, multicultural age often marked by uprootedness and loss of meaning, how do we 'do church' in a way that testifies to the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ? In an individualistic culture that tends toward alienation and isolation, how do we lead our congregations to become high-risk, low-anxiety churches, to lead God's people to confess who they are, to experience healing in intimate community, and to be a witness to the liberating power of the Spirit?" Details are available at the [Institute for Multicultural Ministry](#). ([Return to top](#))

**15. PRINCETON SLATES SESSION ON 'LATINO PARADIGM:'** The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Princeton Theological Seminary are sponsoring three days of workshops and plenaries to provide theological reflection and ministry models and templates of Hispanic ministries in the United States. The workshop, "[Embracing the Latino Paradigm](#) : Challenges and Opportunities for Effective Ministries in the PC(USA)," is focused on helping church bodies better understand and serve the diversity of Hispanic/Latino/a ministry in the United States. The session runs Friday through Sunday, Feb. 5-7. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, professor of world Christianity at Columbia Theological Seminary, will be the plenary speaker. ([Return to top](#))

**16. ORLANDO CHURCH LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE PROGRAM ON TV, INTERNET:** God-seekers scouring the television listings or surfing the Internet in hopes of finding peace, comfort, guidance or divine inspiration through Jesus Christ can now find him by visiting The Well. Inspired by a group of individuals from First Presbyterian Church of Orlando, Fla., who were not pleased with what they saw on television and the Internet, The Well is a Gospel-centered, nationally-televised program that gives viewers an alternative to watching what some organizers perceived as the standard "25 minutes of preaching followed by a call for donations." The television program works in conjunction with its own website and pages on popular social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. The complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091081.htm>. ([Return to top](#))



**17. PC(USA) CLERK ISSUES SEASONAL CHURCHWIDE LETTER:** Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, has written a letter to "brothers and sisters across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)" with his [reflections for the Advent and Christmas seasons](#). ([Return to top](#))

**18. PRESBYTERIANS BACK CARBON EMISSION AGREEMENT:** A strong majority of Presbyterians supports U.S. participation in international agreements to lower carbon emissions, such as the one negotiators tried to develop in Copenhagen, Denmark. They agree with proponents of the Copenhagen process that carbon emissions cause global warming. Seven in 10 elders and other church members (69 percent) "strongly support" or "somewhat support" U.S. participation in carbon emission-cutting agreements. Even more ministers support participation: 80 percent of pastors and 89 percent of specialized clergy engaged in ministries other than pastoring a congregation. The complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091064.htm>. ([Return to top](#))

**19. METHODIST MINISTER WRITES OF TRANSITIONS:** The Rev. Sally Howell Johnson, minister of worship and spiritual formation at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church in Minneapolis, wrote about transitions in the most recent edition of *Thin Places*, a publication described as an ecumenical sampler of events and resources for spiritual growth, with a particular interest in the contemplative spiritual journey. *Thin Places* is published by the Spiritual Growth Community of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis. In Johnson's essay, "[The Light Within](#)," she wrote, "He told this story not only for the students, but for the parents who sat there as well. Especially for those of us sending their last child off to college, the life we have known is now a thing of the past. Like so many at the convocation, I have now returned home to a life that is unfamiliar, and yet to be discovered. I am in a time of great transition. ... " ([Return to top](#))

**20. WJK SCHEDULES 'HALOS AND AVATARS:'** A collection of essays scheduled for release next month by Westminster John Knox Press, "[Halos and Avatars: Playing Video Games with God](#)," takes a look at the "theological implications of the second lives and virtual worlds we inhabit in popular video games," according to a press release issued last week. The book features contributors like ESPN's Matt Kitchen, who explores sports and the nature of play in "Madden NFL;" and Rand Miller, noted game designer and cocreator of "Myst" and "Riven." Other contributors address topics such as video games as the new storytelling medium; the theological implications of violent or apocalyptic video games like "Halo 3," "Grand Theft Auto IV" and "Resident Evil;" the impact of social networks on our spiritual lives; and medical ethics and theology in controversial games such as "BioShock." Leonard Sweet, professor of evangelism at Drew University and visiting distinguished professor at George Fox University, wrote, "Parents, every gamer, every pastor needs to get this book ASAP. Your ability to connect to a digital culture depends on it." ([Return to top](#))