

DECEMBER 7, 2009

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

News around the synod

- [1. South Dakota churches have close mission opportunities](#)
- [2. Bump receives Giles Outstanding Homesteader Award](#)
- [3. Iowa Christian ed director writes about chance to preach](#)
- [4. Church can be 'where everybody knows your name'](#)
- [5. Homestead installs Wyatt as executive](#)
- [6. Reformed, reforming - nurturing Presbyterian identity](#)
- [7. Parsons to visit Milwaukee Presbytery in February](#)
- [8. Tri-County Ministry slates 'Seminary on the Prairie'](#)

News around the PC(USA)

- [9. At Christmas, stated clerk writes of permanent lodging](#)
- [10. Faith community calls for immigration reform](#)
- [11. Moderators Conference](#)

1. SOUTH DAKOTA CHURCHES HAVE CLOSE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

With the recent focus on mission during World Mission Challenge, the members of Olive Presbyterian Church in Platte, S.D., want to spread the word that mission opportunities are closer than most people might think. "People think you have to travel 3,000 miles to do mission work, but we have it right here, just 150 miles west of us," said pastor the Rev. Dale Sallans. For just over a year, the members of Olive Presbyterian, in concert with nine other Platte area churches of various denominations, have been working to build a relationship with the residents of the small community of Wanblee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The complete story can be found at "[South Dakota](#)." ([Return to top](#))

2. BUMP RECEIVES GILES OUTSTANDING HOMESTEADER AWARD:



The Rev. Ronald L. Bump (at left), honorably retired member of Homestead Presbytery, received the Giles Outstanding Homesteader Award Nov. 19 when the presbytery met at Calvin Crest Camp Conference and Retreat Center in Fremont, Neb. His nomination noted, "He has always lived his life to the highest standards. He has carried these standards with him in all his work with the church and the presbytery. He is a loving caring person who

calms the toughest waters. ... He did these things due to the way he approaches all things ... with the high standard of following procedures and strong compassion for people's feelings." The Giles Outstanding Homesteader Award is named in honor of the late Rev. Robert Giles, who was the stated clerk of the presbytery from 1985 to 1998. Award recipients receive a certificate and a donation of \$100 to the mission of their choice. Bump's biography and text of his nomination can be found at "[Giles Homesteader Award](#)." (*Information drawn from the Dec. 1 issue of The Homesteader, a weekly publication of Homestead Presbytery.*) ([Return to top](#))



3. IOWA CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR WRITES ABOUT CHANCE TO PREACH:

Have you ever thought about what it's like to be a pastor? This opportunity came as a complete surprise to me when my pastor suggested that I preach the sermon on a Sunday he was going to be out of town. (At left is Kristine Shultis, the author of the story.) The rest of the story can be found at "[Pastor](#)." ([Return to top](#))

4. CHURCH CAN BE 'WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME:'

"Be glad there's one place in the world where everybody knows your name."

**focuses
on technology,
social media**

**12. Pax Christi
invites messages
to Bethlehem**

**13. Seattle team
develops
evangelism
resources**

And just 1 more

**14. More Americans
see GOP
as friendlier
to religion
than Dems**

You probably recognize those lyrics from the theme song written for the television series, "Cheers." However, wouldn't it be wonderful if the visitors walking through the doors on Sundays had the same thing to say about the church? Often, a greeter's job is thought of as simply saying good morning, but members of the hospitality team at Echo Hill Presbyterian Church, Marion, Iowa, are exploring ways to make a first-time visitor feel uniquely special. (Above right, a greeter at Echo Hill Presbyterian.) The complete story can be found at "[Echo Hill.](#)" ([Return to top](#))



5. HOMESTEAD INSTALLS WYATT AS EXECUTIVE: Homestead Presbytery installed the Rev. Richard "Doc" Wyatt as its executive presbyter Nov. 19 when the presbytery met at Calvin Crest Camp Conference and Retreat Center in Fremont, Neb. (At left, Wyatt opens gifts.) Wyatt serves as the chief administrative and executive officer for the 56 Presbyterian churches in eastern Nebraska, and as pastor to the pastors. The presbytery has approximately 9,600 members and 88 clergy. Wyatt previously held similar positions in the New England and Rocky Mountain regions. Wyatt said, "I am looking forward to joining their vibrant

ministry and working to strengthen their witness in each community." The Rev. James Crelin, pastor of Eastridge Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, Neb., and chair of the committee that called Wyatt, said, "We were impressed by Dr. Wyatt's combination of experience in New England with rural communities as well as large cities. He has a passion for evangelism that is contagious." A more complete biography of Wyatt can be found at "[Installation.](#)" (Information drawn from the Dec. 1 issue of *The Homesteader*, a weekly publication of Homestead Presbytery.) ([Return to top](#))

6. REFORMED, REFORMING - NURTURING PRESBYTERIAN IDENTITY: With the goal of providing a high quality training and support experience for pastors and commissioned lay pastors serving churches on the Great Plains, a workshop for those serving congregations in the reformed/Presbyterian tradition is slated April 18-19 at the Maryvale Spiritual Life Center in Valley City, N.D. The cost of the workshop, "Reformed and Reforming: Nurturing a Presbyterian Identity in Our Congregations," is only \$60 and includes a Sunday evening meal, overnight lodging and all Monday meals. Registrants will also receive a copy of Donald McKim's book, "Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers." Those who would like to register should contact Laurie Elhard, communication coordinator in the [Presbytery of the Northern Plains](#), at 701.772.0783 or at pnppoffice@gmail.com. (Information drawn from the December issue of *Light of the Northern Plains*, a publication of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.) ([Return to top](#))



7. PARSONS TO VISIT MILWAUKEE PRESBYTERY IN FEBRUARY:

The Rev. Gradye Parsons (at left), stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be in [Milwaukee Presbytery](#) Feb. 9-11. Parsons speaks of "Dangerous Elders" in a presentation at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3302 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee, Wis., Tuesday, Feb. 9, and will take part in a light supper and discussion at the Gail and David Henderson farm Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. Those who would like to attend the supper and discussion event, which is limited to 15 people, must contact Chris Halverson in the presbytery office at 414.475.4211. Additional events will be scheduled, according to the Dec. 4

issue of Friday Notes, the newsletter of the presbytery. ([Return to top](#))



8. TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY SLATES 'SEMINARY ON THE PRAIRIE:'

The Rev. Steve Minnema, interima executive presbyter of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains, will be one of the presenters at Tri-County Ministry's "Seminary on the Prairie" Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 30-31, at Red Willow Bible Camp, rural Binford, N.D. Formed in 1992, Tri-County Ministry is an ecumenical parish made up of one Presbyterian and eight Lutheran congregations. The cooperative ministry of these

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations has broadened the opportunities of its members to serve the communities of the

congregations and beyond in the name of Jesus Christ. Additional information about "[Seminary on the Prairie](#)" can be found online. (*Information drawn from the December issue of Light of the Northern Plains, a publication of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.*) ([Return to top](#))

9. AT CHRISTMAS, STATED CLERK WRITES OF PERMANENT LODGING: The Rev. Gradye Parsons, stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), writes about permanent lodging in his monthly column. He began, " The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories, was established in 1860. It faithfully serves the town of Bethlehem with a variety of important ministries. In recent years, the congregation has been able to expand its mission with a larger building dedicated to education and community activities. An ancient cave was discovered while the site for the new building was being excavated. The congregation decided to leave the cave intact to show what a cave stable might have looked like when Joseph and Mary arrived over 2000 years ago." The rest of his column can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091048.htm>. ([Return to top](#))

10. FAITH COMMUNITY CALLS FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM: With the holiday season in full swing, faith leaders across the United States have come together to campaign for immigration reform, focusing on keeping families together. The "Home for the Holidays" campaign is a "major escalation of the faith community's efforts to press Congress to pass immigration reform that keeps families together," said Katie Paris, program and communications director for Faith in Public Life. Faith in Public Life works to advance faith in the public square as a positive and unifying force. It hosted the Nov. 16 conference call launching "Home for the Holidays." Participating in the call were Catholic, Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Jewish faith leaders. The complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091040.htm>. ([Return to top](#))

11. MODERATORS CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA: The 2009 Moderators Conference of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) focused on technology and how it can be used in churches and presbyteries. The theme of the conference, held in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 20-22, was "Blessings and Burdens: Where Technology and Church Life Converge." The church often asks itself how to reach young adults. To better reach any group of people, it's important to understand the culture in which they live. The complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091022.htm>. ([Return to top](#))

12. PAX CHRISTI INVITES MESSAGES TO BETHLEHEM: Belgium-based Pax Christi International is urging people of faith to send on-line Christmas greetings of solidarity and encouragement to the isolated Christian community in Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth. "For the 10th consecutive year, Christmas celebrations will take place in a difficult climate for people in the Holy Land," said Pax Christi's Fr. Paul Lansu. "As we prepare to celebrate Advent and Christmas in the security of our homes and communities, let us not forget to pray for justice, peace and security for Palestine and Israel." The complete story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091044.htm>. ([Return to top](#))

13. SEATTLE TEAM DEVELOPS EVANGELISM RESOURCES: The Evangelism Ministry Team of Seattle Presbytery has developed a packet of evangelism resources entitled "Sharing Your Faith 101." "When most of a person's time is spent with other Christians, or helping out in the world around us on the Lord's behalf, it's not difficult to fall into bad habits concerning verbally sharing the Gospel. In addition, many people are afraid to share their faith because they feel inadequate to do so gracefully and effectively," the team writes in introducing the new resource. "[Sharing Your Faith 101](#)" is designed to encourage and equip people so that they can confidently tell others about the great love God has for them and for all people. It can be used in a variety of ways by congregations or by individuals. ([Return to top](#))



14. MORE AMERICANS SEE GOP AS FRIENDLIER TO RELIGION THAN DEMS: More Americans view the Republican Party as friendly toward religion (48%) than rate the Democratic Party that way (29%). President Barack Obama's administration, however, is seen as friendly toward religion by more people (37%) than is the Democratic Party as a whole. And all three get higher ratings for friendliness toward religion than the news media (14%), scientists (12%) or Hollywood (11%). The complete story can be found at [Pew Research](#). ([Return to top](#))