



# Keeping in Touch

An e-newsletter for ministry partners in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

## JANUARY 11, 2010

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>.

### News around the synod

- 1. Synod meeting opens Sunday**
- 2. Twin Cities Area endorses Jin S. Kim for moderator**
- 3. COM/CPM leadership conference set Jan. 26-28**
- 4. Kwanzaa, UM collaborate to fight prostitution**
- 5. Winter Pastors' School opens at Hastings Feb. 1**
- 6. COLA picks communion ware for GA's opening worship**
- 7. Okoboji plans family winter getaway**
- 8. 29 from Northern Waters go to Texas, Eau Claire member**

**1. 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. Orientation meetings are planned for first-time commissioners and youth advisory delegates from 4 to 5 p.m. opening day. Synod Executive Phil Brown, in his memo to commissioners, wrote, "As we enter this New Year, I encourage each of us to consider the glimpse we have had of the Babe in Bethlehem. And so for the meeting of the synod assembly ... our time together in 2010 will call on us to seek a fresh glimpse for ourselves." The complete text of Brown's memo is on the [synod's website](#). ([Return to top](#))



**2. TWIN CITIES AREA ENDORSES JIN KIM FOR MODERATOR:** The Rev. Jin S. Kim (left), founding pastor of [Church of All Nations](#) in Minneapolis, was unanimously endorsed

June 9 by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area to stand for moderator of the upcoming 219th General Assembly. The Assembly will be held July 3-10 in Minneapolis. Kim joins Elder Cynthia Bolbach of National Capital Presbytery (see story below) as candidates for the top elected post in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The winner will succeed the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow of San Francisco, moderator of the 218th General Assembly. Kim, 41, was born in Korea and came to the United States with his family in 1975, grew up in a multi-ethnic environment in Columbia, S.C. and Atlanta. He holds degrees from Georgia Tech, Princeton Theological Seminary and Columbia Theological Seminary. Kim wrote about the moderator position on [his blog](#). The complete story can be found at Presbyterian [News Service](#). ([Return to top](#))

**3. COM/CPM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SLATED IN JANUARY:** Joseph Small, director of theology worship and education ministries for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be the keynote speaker for the

- blogs**
- [9.](#) Carroll University students make civil rights trip**
  - [10.](#) Iowa church helps warm students**
  - [11.](#) First-person account of mission misconception**
  - [12.](#) Rural Ministry Conference set at Wartburg Seminary**
  - [13.](#) IRMS slates annual meeting Jan. 20**

**News around the PC(USA)**

- [14.](#) Bolbach endorsed for moderator by National Capital**
- [15.](#) PNS reveals 2 overtures that will be tracked through GA**
- [16.](#) Presbyterian Writers schedule conference in April**

**And just 1 more**

- [17.](#) Moderator cites reasons for looking forward to GA**

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](#))

**NORTHSIDE**

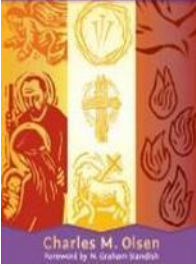


**4. KWANZAA, UM COLLABORATE TO FIGHT PROSTITUTION:** As a result of the high rate of prostitution in the community, Kwanzaa Community Church and researcher Lauren Martin of the University of Minnesota are collaborating to improve the lives of those engaged in trading sex on Minneapolis' north side.

Together, they have developed the Northside Women's Space, whose aim is to provide women in prostitution a space to connect with one another, based on the values of empowerment, respect, dignity, integrity, community and hope. An open house is slated at the Northside Women's Space, 2100 Emerson Ave. N., Minneapolis, Thursday, Jan. 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The complete story can be found on Presbyterian Neighbor News at "[Kwanzaa](#)." ([Return to top](#))

## The Wisdom of the Seasons

How the Church Year Helps Us Understand Our Congregational Stories



**5. WINTER PASTORS' SCHOOL SET AT HASTINGS FEB. 1-4:** The [2010 Winter Pastors' School](#), with the theme "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. ( [Return to top](#))

## 6. COLA OPENING

Committee on Assembly of 3-10 in ware for of [Stockholm](#)



## PICKS COMMUNION WARE FOR GA'S WORSHIP:

The executive committee of the Local Arrangements for the 219th General the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), slated July Minneapolis, has selected the communion opening worship Sunday, July 4. Diane Millner [Pottery](#) of Stockholm, Wis., a potter who has

created hand-thrown functional stoneware for more than 25 years, was named artist of the communion ware. She will produce 450 chalices and 225 patens (plates) which will be available for purchase as collector's items after being used to serve communion to the estimated 8,000 attendees at opening worship. According to the Rev. Paula Sanders, executive coordinator for the Committee on Local Arrangements, the committee chose this artist and her pottery based on her style which illustrates the General Assembly theme, "Rivers of Living Water." (See photo of plate.) ( [Return to top](#))

**7. OKOBOJI PLANS FAMILY WINTER GETAWAY:** Presbyterian Camp on Lake Okoboji, Milford, Iowa, plans to host a "[Family Winter Getaway](#)" Friday through Sunday, Feb. 19-21. Describing it as a "great mini vacation package for families of all configurations," the "getaway" offers ice fishing, snow tubing or skiing during the day, and evenings of planned gathering times. The camp will be led by the Rev. Richard and Valerie King and family. Richard is head of staff at First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown, Iowa. Additional information and registration materials can be obtained by writing [info@presbycamp.org](mailto:info@presbycamp.org). ( [Return to top](#))



## 8. 29 FROM NORTHERN WATERS GO TO TEXAS, EAU CLAIRE MEMBER BLOGS:

Twenty-nine people from the Presbytery of Northern Waters, including six members of First Presbyterian Church in Eau Claire, Wis., are volunteering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Port Neches, Texas, this week. The Eau Claire group (at left) has created a [blog](#) that will be updated with reports and pictures. On Saturday Alex Tandberg wrote, "I don't really know what to write about. ... Anyway, what I've really learned today is that the people I'm here with are the nicest around. It's good to know that I have people who will watch my back." ( [Return to top](#))

**9. CARROLL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MAKE CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP:** The Rev. Bill Humphreys, chaplain at [Carroll University](#), Waukesha, Wis., along with about a dozen students and staff at the university, made a "civil rights pilgrimage" through the south Jan. 4-13. On Jan. 4 Humphreys wrote, "I get what feels like an extension on the holiday break as I head out this evening with about a dozen students and staff from Carroll, to join with a few more than that from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, Wis., for a Civil Rights (bus) Pilgrimage." The trip included stops in Atlanta; Montgomery, Selma and Birmingham, Ala.; and Memphis, Tenn. Carroll University is one of seven Presbyterian

related institutions of higher education in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. ( [Return to top](#) )



last fall, asking if any child needed outerwear for the season, the response indicated a substantial need. Nelson presented a "moment for mission" at Monroe Presbyterian Sunday, Dec. 6, making the congregation aware of the need in his school. (At left: Caps,



**10. IOWA CHURCH HELPS WARM STUDENTS:** Through an interesting set of twists and turns, the congregation of Monroe Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Iowa, learned that six in 10 students at Mitchellville (Iowa) Elementary School receive free and reduced-price lunches. When Mitchellville Elementary Principal Joe Nelson sent out a notice in school last fall, asking if any child needed outerwear for the season, the response indicated a substantial need. Nelson presented a "moment for mission" at Monroe Presbyterian Sunday, Dec. 6, making the congregation aware of the need in his school. (At left: Caps, mittens and other clothing donated to Mitchellville Elementary.) The complete story can be found on Presbyterian Neighbor News at "[Monroe-Mitchellville.](#)" ( [Return to top](#) )

**11. FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT OF MISSION**

**MISCONCEPTION:** The van rolled slowly through the flooded out neighborhood with its side door opened. A volunteer armed with a megaphone called out, "Free meals, ice cold water at the Petro-N-Provisions." My brother, Bob, had gathered us together that summer day in June 2008 to gut the family homestead (at left) in southwest Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Growing up, we did not attend church. I married into a church family but Bob's church experience had soured him. His definition of church mission was, "do-gooders running off

to far-off places to waste money just to feel good about themselves." The complete story is on Presbyterian Neighbor News at " [Mission Misconception.](#)" ( [Return to top](#) )

**12. RURAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE SLATED AT WARTBURG SEMINARY:** The 29th annual [Rural Ministry Conference](#), sponsored by the Center for Theology & Land at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, is scheduled Sunday through Tuesday, March 7-9, at the seminary. This year's theme is "Nurturing Generosity." Promotional materials describe the conference as a place "where leaders in rural communities and congregations gather to gain insight and inspiration, to network and neighbor that our ministries might be empowered." Online registration is available. ( [Return to top](#) )



**13. IRMS SCHEDULES ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 20:** [Iowa Religious Media Services](#), one of three ecumenical media centers supported by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, will conduct its annual meeting Wednesday, Jan. 20, with the theme "Reframe: Defining the New Normal." The media center, a source for more than 8,700 DVD, VHS, audio and book titles, plus other resources, is describing "Reframe" as an opportunity for its users to state the needs of their denomination. ( [Return to top](#) )



**14. BOLBACH ENDORSED FOR MODERATOR BY NATIONAL**

**CAPITAL:** National Capital Presbytery has unanimously endorsed the first candidate to stand for moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The assembly will be held July 3-10 in Minneapolis. Elder Cynthia Bolbach, 61, (left) is a lawyer and member of First Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Va. "I feel called to stand for Moderator to help our church, proud inheritor of the Reformed tradition, discern how best to proclaim the timeless Gospel message to a 21st century world that is multicultural and religiously pluralistic," Bolbach said in a presbytery press release. She has leadership experience in many levels of the church. Bolbach served as co-moderator of the GA Form of Government Task Force. The task force first reported to the 218th GA in 2008

and will report to this year's Assembly when its proposal was referred back for more study and refinement. The complete story can be found at "[Bolbach](#)." ([Return to top](#))

**15. PNS REVEALS 2 OVERTURES THAT WILL BE TRACKED THROUGH GA:** Seven months from today, on July 11, the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will have concluded in Minneapolis. But, in a sense, the commissioners' work in Minneapolis will simply have been prologue to the work ahead of them in their home presbyteries. Part of this work will include presenting the overtures passed at the assembly that require presbyteries' approval for potential ratification. On Nov. 5 the Presbyterian News Service announced [Project Overture](#). The plan: to follow, through a series of articles, an overture from conception to the floor of the 219th General Assembly. The complete story can be found at "[Two Overtures](#)." ([Return to top](#))

**16. 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 Scaritt-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 is [available online](#). 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](#))



**17. MODERATOR CITES REASONS FOR LOOKING FORWARD TO GA:** Looking back through the blog of the Rev. Bruce Rayes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), one finds his "top-five reasons" for looking forward to this summer's General Assembly. He begins, "Over the past few weeks I have met with both the Committee on Local Arrangements in Minneapolis and the meeting arrangements staff of the Office of the General Assembly. And while those do not sound like thrilling meetings, I must say, the sweet aroma of our bi-annual gathering is beginning to fill the air. Sure ... it is just one giant presby geek-fest and one could argue that it is one more way that we can pretend that we are more influential than we really are or used to be ... but, gosh darn-it, I do loves me some General Assembly." The rest of this entry can be found at the [moderator's blog](#). ([Return to top](#))



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