

About this newsletter

The PCN E-Newsletter is for members of the [Presbyterian Communicators' Network](#) (PCN). Each issue contains news and information for members, as well as information that PCN members are encouraged to use in newsletters, on Web sites or otherwise share within their organizations as appropriate. Please do not reply to this email. If you have story ideas for the newsletter, [email Susan Lindsey](mailto:susan.lindsey@pcn.org) or call (888) 728-7228 x5060.



December 2009: [Share Our Good News](#) | [Read the Stated Clerk's seasonal churchwide letter](#) | [Get a free trial subscription](#) | [Register for RCCongress 2010](#) | [Proclaim the Good News of God's Peace](#) | [Step Out in Faith](#) | [Order the Children's Mission Yearbook and download Christmas Joy Offering resources](#) | [Serve small rural or urban congregations](#) | [Celebrate Gifts of Women Sunday](#) | [Register for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference](#) | [Prepare for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany](#) | [Meet Mission-minded Presbyterians at the Crossroads](#)

Share Our Good News

If you believe - as I do - that communications is truly a ministry, then it is particularly important during Advent for us to seek ways to share the compelling news and stories of our church and its work. I encourage you to regularly republish or adapt articles and information from this newsletter in your publications or on your Web sites.



In addition, urge your readers to check out the [subscription page](#) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This "one-stop" site makes it easy to sign up to receive any of more than 30 newsletters and notices. You can sign up to receive news from the Presbyterian News Service, the daily lectionary, Mission Yearbook entries, or newsletters on world mission, hunger, peacemaking, seminaries, and a range of other topics.

Finally, consider giving Christmas gifts this year of [subscriptions](#) to *Presbyterians Today*, the flagship publication of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). For a limited time, special resources are included with each new subscription.

On another note, I would like to welcome to the Presbyterian Communicators' Network the members of the Middle Governing Body Financial Network. I know you will find a wealth of resources and connections through the network. My presentation from our recent meeting has been uploaded to the [PCN Web site](#) under the "[Conferences](#)" heading. Other presentations will also be uploaded shortly. I wish you and your families a very joyous Christmas and a new year filled with stories of mission and ministry throughout the church!

Blessings,

Karen L. Schmidt



Read the Stated Clerk's seasonal churchwide letter

Grady 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. [Read more.](#)

Get a free trial subscription to The Presbyterian Leader

The Presbyterian Publishing Company, in partnership with the Office of Middle Governing Body Relations (a joint office of the General Assembly Mission Council and the Office of the General Assembly), has announced it will provide free trial subscriptions (a \$99 value) to the [Presbyterian Leader](#) online resource center for all moderators and middle governing body staff. Urge your presbytery or synod staff to take advantage of this great opportunity. The Presbyterian Leader offers downloadable studies, essays on church leadership, and other great resources. [See complete details.](#)

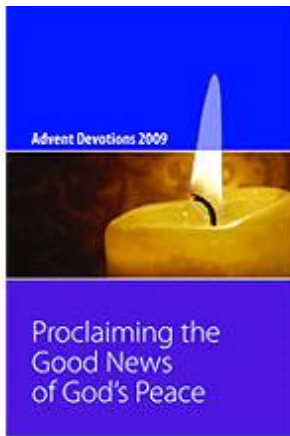
Early bird deadline looms for RCCongress - register now



[Sign up now](#) for the Religion Communication Congress to be held in Chicago April 7-10, 2010. This international, multi-faith communicators' event happens only once each decade! The 2010 RCCongress features a wonderful line-up of acclaimed [speakers and leaders](#), including *Tuesdays with Morrie* author Mitch Albom and National Public Radio correspondent Barbara Bradley Hagerty. The [schedule](#) is filled with dozens of [workshops](#) and sessions on a wide range of topics, including the Internet, social media, photography, radio, advertising, copyright law, marketing, video, and media training. The Presbyterian Communicators' Network is hosting an affiliated luncheon during the RCCongress. Watch for more details.

In the meantime, [register](#) before Jan. 15 to take advantage of the early registration fee (\$375) which includes the opening and closing banquets and entertainment, admission to all general sessions, your choice of workshops and roundtable discussions, all program materials, and access to state-of-the-art exhibits.

Help us publicize RCCongress 2010 through your newsletters and Web sites. [See more information and promotion resources online.](#)



Compassion, Peace and Justice: Proclaim the Good News of God's Peace

Peacemakers from across the United States and around God's world contributed to [Proclaiming the Good News of God's Peace](#), the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program's daily devotional booklet for Advent 2009. The writers reflect on God's gift of peace and explore ways to live as peacemakers following Jesus. Use *Proclaiming the Good News of God's Peace* in your personal devotions. Share copies with family and friends including those who are homebound, in nursing homes, serving in the military or away at school. [Read daily devotions from Proclaiming the Good News of God's Peace online](#) on the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program's blog.

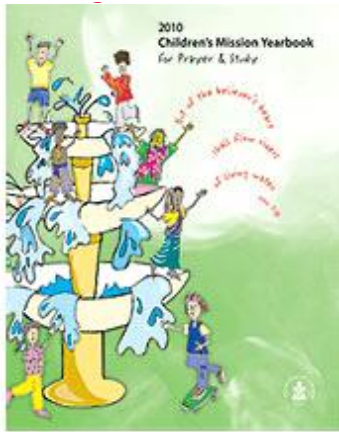
Evangelism & Church Growth: Step out in faith



[Stepping Out in Faith](#), a new resource from [Small Church & Community Ministry](#), tells the stories of nine small congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who have been on a journey of transformation, moving into a new reality and way of being the Kingdom of God in their communities. Told from the perspective of both congregation and pastor, this resource provides spiritual discernment especially for leaders of small churches and presbyteries addressing changing demographics, pastoral leadership and church building issues. [Order now](#).

And consider using two other resource books in this series by Diana A. Stephen, [Spiritual Vitality through Cooperative Ministry](#) and [New Times New Call](#).

Mission Interpretation: Order the *Children's Mission Yearbook* and download Christmas Joy Offering resources



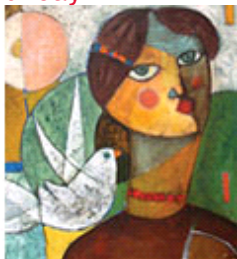
It's time to order the 2010 *Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study*, a great resource written for third through sixth graders. Kids will learn about discipleship and following Jesus Christ, good stewardship, and the mission work of the PC(USA) through mission stories, Scripture, games, puzzles, recipes, crafts, and activities. To learn more, check out the [Mission Yearbook Web site](#). Order the *Children's Mission Yearbook* [online](#) or call Presbyterian Distribution Service at (800) 524-2612 and ask for item #978-1-57153-098-1. The books are \$8.95 each or \$6.00 each for 10 or more, plus shipping. And check out the [Christmas Joy Offering Web site](#) for a downloadable video, information and resource materials for this special offering. A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the ways that the whole church joins in grateful generosity this time of year in ways that provide care for our faithful church leaders and support for a new generation of racial ethnic education.

Office of Vocation: Serve small rural or urban congregations



[For Such a Time as This](#) is an innovative new pastoral residency program designed to serve underserved congregations and develop missional pastors by pairing small rural or urban congregations with recent seminary graduates in a two-year pastoral residency relationship. The [Office of Vocation](#) is currently receiving inquiries from presbyteries seeking to serve as potential residency site partners. Interested presbyteries with a significant number of “hard to call” churches are encouraged to [read important information](#) online, contact the Office of Vocation by [e-mail](#), or call the Rev. Marcia Clark Myers at (888) 728-7228, x5753.

Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women: Celebrate Gifts of Women Sunday



[Planning](#) and [promotional](#) materials for Celebrate the Gifts of Women are [now available](#) for free download or purchase from Presbyterian Distribution Service. Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday honors women who contribute their gifts to the church and community, and lifts up issues of women's

rights. March 7, 2010, the day before International Women’s Day, is [Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday](#). This year’s theme is “Women Keeping the Message Alive.” Your congregation or women’s groups may, however, use this resource on any date that you choose to celebrate women.



Stewardship: Register for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference

More than ever before, leaders need resources that will help them teach, preach, and practice successful stewardship. Join us in Indianapolis, March 15-17, at the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference as we learn how to make this essential ministry come alive in our congregations and presbyteries. [Visit the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference Web site](#) for more details, or to download a full schedule and conference registration form.

Theology Worship & Education: Prepare for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany



Find everything you need to plan for this Advent season – both in your congregation and at home:

- [Music and worship resources](#)
- [Resources to help plan festivities](#)
- [Calendars and devotions](#)
- [Fresh and dynamic educational ministry](#)
- [Alternative giving](#)
- Resources and ideas to help [nurture your spirit](#) and center you in the true significance of this special season.

World Mission: Meet Mission-minded Presbyterians at the Crossroads



[Mission Crossroads](#), “a Web-based wisdom community for Presbyterians passionate about mission,” is growing in membership and content. “More than 750 people have joined since we launched the site last April,” says Lis Valle, Presbyterian World Mission’s associate director for Equipping the Church for Mission Involvement. “It’s a place to share ideas about mission, coordinate efforts, and form groups around particular interests.”

The site also contains links to online resources, and information about books and other print publications. Mission trip leaders, mission committee chairs and network members, mission personnel, World Mission staff, and members and leaders of various Presbyterian-related mission groups are among those who have joined Mission Crossroads. [Read more.](#)

