

May 2021

# Northern Lights

## Special points of interest:

- Staff Letters
- PNW Stated Meeting Summary
- Mission Spotlight
- Clearwater Forest
- Earth Care Churches
- Prayer Rotation

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## Letter From Richard Blood

Dear Presbytery of Northern Waters Friends,  
It's been a busy four months. Settling in to the office. Two work trips to Clearwater Forest. Two Presbytery meetings. Restarting the Northern Lights. Lots of Council, Committee and Commission meetings. Hundreds of phone calls. Figuring out all the countless things Jay did so well. Beginning to connect with our PC(USA) mid-councils. Reading and re-reading our Manual of Operations. And bringing 14 1/2 years in Pioneer Parish to a close at the same time.

As of June 30, I'll officially be retired from the Parish. With COVID restrictions lifting and our churches finally reopening, I'll be free to travel around Northern Waters on Sundays. I would like to be "on the road" about two Sundays a month, and I look forward to filling pulpits, bringing greetings from Presbytery, getting to know you all better, and especially hearing the stories of what your congregation is doing in mission within your home community and beyond.

It is my conviction that mission has to lead in the life of the church, and the future of our denomination depends on reclaiming a vision of service, making an obvious difference in the communities around us. I believe we can inspire and challenge each other with the creative work we are all doing already. And in many cases, we can work together more effectively.

So please, if you need pulpit supply in the coming months, call or email. I'll be doing this as part of my job as General Presbyter, so we can charge mileage to the Presbytery. Toward the borders of Northern Waters, I'll likely drive over Saturday evening and stay in your neighborhood. And please, send newsletter articles to the office featuring your congregation's ministry!

Grace and Peace,  
Richard Blood

## Letter from Ken Ribe

Greetings,

For the past 3 years I have had the privilege to serve as Presbyter for Pastoral Care for the Presbytery of Northern Waters. The position was designed to provide support for all of our pastors/CRE's in the presbytery. My goal was to visit each pastor/CRE in their ministry setting two times a year.

Our Presbytery covers a lot of territory, and seeing your towns/churches and places of ministry has been a highlight of my ministry. Every community is different, from the far northwest to the far southeast—just seeing the geography from one end to the other has been interesting in and of itself. But it also gives me a sense of what your communities are like. Meeting for lunch or coffee to talk about your ministry and community has helped me better understand the ministry challenges as well as the joys you all deal with in your particular situation.

During the pandemic, I had to readjust my plans, so I've tried to contact everyone via text, emails or phone calls, on a regular basis, and more recently Zoom meetings on Thursday afternoons at 1:00.



Rev. Richard Blood and his daughter

## 2021 PNW Prayer Rotation

(June-Nov.)

6/6- St. Croix Presbyterian Church of Gordon, WI - CRE Leslie Anderson  
6/13- Community Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, MN - Rev. Jason Schiller; CRE Mary Schidler  
6/20- New Hope Presbyterian Church of Hannibal, WI - CRE Beverly Thompson  
6/27--First Presbyterian Church of Hibbing, MN - CRE Katie Larson  
7/4-- First Presbyterian Church of Hurley, WI - Rev. Donald Nickolson, Stated Supply  
7/11--- CRE Jack Fashbaugh  
7/18- Congregation of the Good Shepherd of Keewatin, MN – Rev. Aaron LeRoy Lofgren, Pastor  
7/25- Community Presbyterian Church of Lac du Flambeau, WI -  
8/1- First Presbyterian Church of Lake Nebagamon, WI - CRE Leslie Anderson  
8/8- Community Church of Manitowish Waters, WI - Rev. Chips Paulson, Pastor  
8/15-- Calvary Presbyterian Church of McGrath, MN and Wahkon Presbyterian Church of Wahkon, MN – Rev. Bill Chadwick, Interim Pastor  
8/22— Round Lake Presbyterian Church of McGregor, MN - Rev. Arlin Talley, Moderator

## Presbytery Meeting Highlights

The Presbytery of Northern held it's Annual Stated on Thursday, May 6th, 2021, via Zoom Video Conference. Hopefully, with pandemic restrictions lifting, this was our last fully online Presbytery meeting this year. We plan to livestream future Presbytery meetings whenever possible, and will continue to do many of our committee meetings via Zoom, but the current plan is to hold an in-person overnight October meeting at Clearwater Forest as in past years.

Moderator Dorothy Duquette called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:00 am. There were 53 people in attendance. The docket was approved as presented with no additions or changes. Stated Clerk Brad Carloss presented the standing rules for this (Zoom) meeting.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda as written was made, seconded, and approved.

Rev Chris McCurdy reported for Council that Rev Dorothy Duquette would be stepping in as Chair of Council as Chris is transferring to another Presbytery in June. The Council has been having ongoing discussion around the topic of virtual communion, seeking practical and faithful answers about if and how we continue the practice past this current pandemic crisis.

Barry Boyer, HR, reported for Overtures and Bylaws and led a second reading of a motion that would replace the role of an attorney on Trustees with the person serving as General Presbyter. We have not had an attorney on Trustees for years, and Trustees can consult with an attorney at any time. The motion carried with the 2/3rds vote required.

Paul Rigstad, RE, reported for Finance and Budget. Monthly reports were included in the docket packet. Paul called our attention to a report from Matthew Arneson in Philips on progress made thanks to the Presbytery's \$50,000 investment in their new building. Finance and Budget has not met, as they are waiting on a report from our auditors. A motion was made to contribute \$25,000 to the Clearwater Forest Capital Campaign, \$17,000 coming from the Camp Galilee Fund and \$8000 from the Operating Fund which would usually have gone for scholarships. This leaves \$75,000 in the CGF to support ongoing camping scholarships. The motion carried.

Rev Jeremiah Knabe reported for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry that their focus has been on our Commissioned Ruling Elder program, and that we are currently using the Academy, a program of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Synod School, to train our CREs.

Arlin Talley, HR, reported for the Program Strategy Committee. PSC has exercised its Manual of Operations authority to award a \$3000 grant from the Church Development Fund in support of a ministry of United Presbyterian Church in Rice Lake called the Gap. There are other grants under consideration, and a process is being developed to help congregations understand and apply for grants from the CDF. Jim Dunning did a helpful presentation on Earth Care Congregations which has been posted on our Presbytery website for future reference.

## Presbytery Meeting Highlights Continued

Gary Cross, RE, and Jim Deters, TE, reported for the Committee on Ministry. Congratulations are in order to the Grand Rapids church for working through the interim and search process in the middle of the pandemic, and calling Jason Schiller as their new pastor. Welcome Jason! We are continuing to work at strengthening our pulpit supply roster, and you are asked to let the office know about anyone you are aware of who may be willing and qualified to serve in this way. With COVID restrictions lifting, COM will be working to make sure pastoral staff agreements are up-to-date. Agreements must be approved by COM and filed with the Presbytery Office.

Gary Cross, RE, Cindy Martinson, RE, and Leslie Anderson, CRE, reported for the Carlton-Wrenshall Commission. The merger is complete, and congratulations are in order for everyone who worked so hard and so well together in forming the new River's Edge Church! It was moved seconded and carried to dissolve the Administrative Commission with our thanks.

Rev Lawrence Lee reported for the Ironwood Commission. Our Ironwood building will be given to Faith Lighthouse Ministries as a gift, and the balance of the \$46,000 remaining in Ironwood's checkbook will be transferred to the Presbytery after any outstanding bills are paid. It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer the property as recommended by the Commission.

Stated Clerk Brad Carlross reported for the Duluth First Commission. The Commission has met almost weekly to discuss the needs of First Presbyterian. A new session has been elected and is working toward a financially responsible plan for the life and mission of the congregation. The congregation has voted to sell their existing parking ramp to Essentia Health for \$400,000, with plans for the city of Duluth to build a parking lot on the site. The sale price is based on a professional appraisal of the property, plus the value of contracts Essentia already has with Duluth First. Negotiations are still in progress. After significant debate, it was decided to withhold right to sell the property until it is approved at a regular or called meeting of Presbytery. (A special meeting has since been called for June 17, at 1:00pm.)

Rev Richard Blood spoke in recognition of Chris McCurdy's ministry at Rice Lake, and to the entire Presbytery. Chris has left the PNW for a new call in Ohio, and will be very much missed. Many Presbyters shared their appreciation for Chris' leadership, humor, and willingness to speak out about the direction he believes the PC(USA) should be moving. Chris was presented with a walnut tie clip hand-made by our Administrative Assistant, Amanda Keppers.

Paul Rigstad, RE, shared a slideshow of the construction work being done at Clearwater Forest this year. PNW sent two work crews this spring to help remodel/complete 4 bathrooms.

Rev Brett Foote requested that Overtures and Bylaws have a discussion about requirements for the sale of real property in the future, with clarification on the roles of Administrative Commissions and the Presbytery in the process. A motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Continued on Page 6

## 2021 PNW Prayer Rotation

(June-Nov.)

8/29- Trinity Episcopal/  
Presbyterian Church of Park  
Rapids, MN  
9/ 5- First Presbyterian  
Church of Phillips, WI - Rev.  
Matthew Arneson, Pastor  
9/12- United Presbyterian  
Church of Rice Lake, WI  
9/19- United Protestant  
Church of Silver Bay, MN -  
Rev. Paul Scaringi, Pastor  
9/26- Country Peace  
Presbyterian Church of  
Superior, WI - CRE Leslie  
Anderson  
10/3- Peace & Global Witness  
Offering - Presbyterian  
Mission Agency and Synod,  
Presbytery, and  
Congregational peace and  
mission efforts  
10/10- United Presbyterian  
Church of Superior, WI - Rev.  
Brett Foote, Pastor  
10/17- First Presbyterian  
Church of Tamarack, MN -  
Rev. Rick Mann, Pastor  
10/24- St. James Presbyterian  
Church of Tower, MN - Rev.  
Douglas Workman, Pastor  
10/31- United Church of Two  
Harbors, MN - Paula  
Gaboury, Pastor  
11/7- Hope Community  
Presbyterian Church of  
Virginia, MN - Rev. Kate  
Stangl, Pastor  
11/14- First United  
Presbyterian Church of  
Willow River, MN  
11/21- First Presbyterian  
Church of Winter, WI

## Presbyterians for Earth Care Resources

Provided by Jim Dunning

The following websites and enclosed attachments provide a background into the Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) program and the Presbytery Earth Care Program that is our topic today. The website in item #1 is the home website for the PEC program. It provides access to the entire program. The website in item #2 is a brochure that describes the PEC program. Item #3 describes the purpose of setting up Presbytery Earth Care teams and the tool kit and resources to accomplish Greening Your Presbytery. Item #4 is a word attachment to your meeting packet that can be copied to provide the Earth Care Tool Kit. Item #5 is the website that relates to setting up Earth Care teams in individual churches. Item #6 is a brochure that shows the relationship of the PEC program to other programs within the PC(USA).

(The full packet provided for the presentation can be found at the PNW website:

<http://www.northernwaters.net/forms--documents.html>)

1. Presbyterians for Earth Care Website: Contains a variety of resources

<https://presbyearthcare.org/>

2. Presbyterians for Earth Care Brochure: Describes the Earth Care program

<https://presbyearthcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PEC-brochure-2017.pdf>

3. Presbytery Earth Care Program: The website below contains the Presbytery Earth Care Tool Kit

<https://presbyearthcare.org/presbytery-earth-care-program/>

4. Presbytery for Earth Care Tool Kit: Provided as an attachment or found in the above website

5. Green Your Church Web page:

<https://presbyearthcare.org/church-earth-care-teams/>

6. Who's Who in Environmental Work and the PC(USA): Provided as an attachment.

### Green your Church

How to Start and Sustain an Earth Care Team at your Church

1. Form a Congregational Earth Care Team
2. Meet as a Congregational Earth Care Team
3. Schedule Activities and Events
4. Evaluate your efforts
5. Publicize your accomplishments



Congratulations to Bayfield Presbyterian Church for being a recognized Earth Care Church for over 10 years!

Congratulations to First Presbyterian Church of Eau Claire for also being a recognized Earth Care Church and for providing such an amazing representative to speak at our Stated Meeting to help other churches transition!

Thank you to all the other churches making an effort to go green!

**Clearwater Forest**

# Masterpiece

Keynote Speaker: Tina Haroldson

Paintings and scripture combine to illustrate the truth of Ephesians 2:10. "You are God's workmanship, the masterpiece of the master artist." Whether Picasso is your favorite artist, or you are more a fan of Rembrandt, you'll enjoy learning a little bit about how art is valued. The parallels between art and life are drawn together as scripture unveils God's greatest work.

## Workshops

Beauty in Ashes, But First... Breakfast!, Book Talk, Alcohol Inks, Plastic Alternatives & Healing Touch

Clearwater Chrysalis 2021 Summer Women's Retreat

August 12 - 15, 2021 Optional Gardening & Quilting Day August 11, 2021

<https://lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/the-academy/>

The Academy is a series of classes designed for those who want to grow in their faith and knowledge; grow as a leader; serve God in new ways and opportunities; engage in meaningful continuing education; and learn from the best of teachers. The Academy develops well equipped, thoughtful individuals to better serve the congregations and councils in a variety of ways. Many use this training on their journey toward becoming Commissioned Pastors, others for their own enrichment. Completion of the 11 courses fulfills the educational requirements to become a CP/ CRE in the participating presbyteries.

The Academy developed out of conversations between the presbyteries of Minnesota Valleys, North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, where each presbytery had its own training for Commissioned Ruling Elders. Presbytery leaders determined that if they worked together, they could not only address the growing needs for Commissioned Pastors but also recruit nationally known instructors to enhance the program. A task force of the visioning group developed a curriculum of 11 classes that would meet the educational expectations of each participating presbytery.

Sponsoring presbyteries: Minnesota Valleys, North Central Iowa, Northern Waters and Prospect Hill.

Become a sponsoring presbytery to enhance and enrich the learning opportunities! For more information, contact Deb DeMeester, Director of Leadership Development, at [ddemeester@lakesandprairies.org](mailto:ddemeester@lakesandprairies.org).

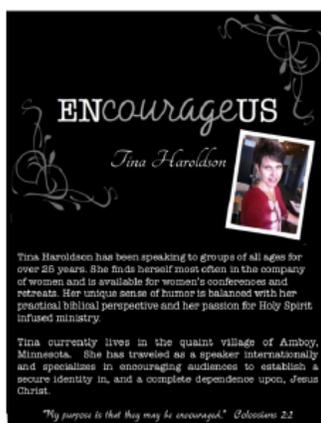


**Our Mission**

Clearwater Chrysalis is a Christian based faith-building program of Clearwater Forest. We welcome adult women of all beliefs. Our vision is to nourish and support the body, mind and spirit in community with other women.

**Fees, Registration, General Info**

Fees for Chrysalis cover three nights of housing, all meals, speaker presentations, most workshops and more. Cost: summer cabin - \$215, lodge double room - \$290, single lodge room - \$390. A \$75 deposit is required. All fees paid, minus the \$75 deposit, are refundable if a cancellation of registration occurs at least 10 days prior to the event. **\*The first 5 First timers who register are eligible for a discount.\***



**ENCOURAGEUS**  
Tina Haroldson

Tina Haroldson has been speaking to groups of all ages for over 25 years. She finds herself most often in the company of women and is available for women's conferences and retreats. Her unique sense of humor is balanced with her grounded biblical perspective and her passion for Holy Spirit infused ministry.

Tina currently lives in the quaint village of Amboy, Minnesota. She has traveled as a speaker internationally and specializes in encouraging audiences to establish a secure identity in, and a complete dependence upon, Jesus Christ.

*"My purpose is that they may be encouraged." Colossians 2:2*

**Registration will be open soon!**  
**Register Online**

[www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org)

Or call the camp office at (218) 678-2325 to register. You will receive registration confirmation and additional information via email. **Register by July 28, 2021.**

**Scholarship funds** are available through the Chrysalis Steering Committee. Contact the camp office at (218) 678-2325.

**Featuring**

**Exercise Options:** Hula Hooping, Water Exercise, Chair Exercise

**Free Time Options:** Tie-dye, kayaks, high ropes, nature walk, relaxing hammocks

**Entertainment:** Singing Performance by Mary Hall - "Carole King Wrote That"

**Housing** for Summer Chrysalis is available in Leaning Tree and Eagle Lodges and the Summer Cabins.

Clearwater Forest is a regional program, retreat and conference center of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This beautiful setting near Brainerd, Minnesota, covers more than 1,000 acres of forest and includes 3 1/2 miles of lakefront, 10 miles of wooded trails, and majestic stone buildings. 16595 Crooked Lake Road, Deerwood, MN 56444



**Save the Date!**  
**Winter Chrysalis Feb. 18 - 20, 2022**



The Synod highlights and prioritizes

the need for restorative action as part of becoming an anti-racist organization. Working with others in the PC(USA), options for restorative actions are becoming reality.

<https://restorativeactions.org/learn-more/>

Recommended reading list:

- [Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance](#) by Edgar Villanueva (Oakland: Berrett-Koehler, 2018)
- [From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century](#) by William A. Darity and A. Kirsten Mullen (Chapel Hill: Univ of NC Press, 2020)
- [The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together](#) by Heather McGhee, One World, 2021
- [Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery](#) by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2019)
- [Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation](#) by Jennifer Harvey (Prophetic Christianity Series) 2nd Edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020)
- [The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#) by Richard Rothstein (New York: Liveright Publishing, 2017)

## Presbytery Meeting Highlights Continued

Rev Jason Schiller led our closing worship with a reading and meditation from Acts 10.

Moderator Dorothy Duquette closed the meeting with prayer at 12:40 pm.



Our next regular meeting of Presbytery is tentatively scheduled for October 8 and 9 at Clearwater Forest.

RB

## Letter from Ken Ribe Continued from page 1

I look forward to being able to travel again to see you all in person. I have found those visits rewarding for me, as I have gotten to know each one of our pastors and CRE's personally.

I want to be there for you all, and to listen to your cares and concerns, your joys and struggles as well. Feel free to contact me at any time if you just need to "bend an ear" to talk about anything that may concern you or your congregation.

I am also one of five members of the presbytery who are completing "Coach Training" classes sponsored by the Synod. I hope that that training will enable me to ask questions to help you explore your vision for ministry in your particular setting and to deal with the challenges that each congregation faces.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the presbytery in this way, and look forward to continuing this ministry.

Grace and Peace,

Ken Ribe  
Presbyter for Pastoral Care,  
Pastorkenribe47@gmail.com  
763-412-9752

## Mission Spotlight: *Crafting Just Community Through Art*

A local Lutheran pastor, Rev. Bridget Jones and I were sitting down over a beer as we discussed what area in our city, Superior, needed our community's support. We batted around a few different ideas but after discussing the proximity of the ministry to Rev. Jones church and the heart they have for their neighbors as well as United's passion for the wellbeing of our community and desire to see all our neighbors flourish we settled on reaching out to Harbor House Crisis Shelters to ask them how we could partner together.

Harbor House is a local ministry focused on providing temporary crisis shelter to those in need, particularly marginalized folks and those experiencing domestic violence, as well as long term sustainable transitional housing for some of those same people. It's not just housing though, it's a holistic approach to meeting people where they are. Chelsea, the Director, let us know of a cooperative effort between the University of Wisconsin Superior Art Therapy Students and Harbor House's residents that was ending this summer. Their program facilitated art pen pals where residents and students would create art and send it back and forth with letters getting to know each other. She asked us if we had any interest in continuing this program. We did, but the Holy Spirit inspired us to take this further. After discerning alongside our Mission Committee at United, God placed on our hearts not just an idea to create new art pen pals, but to create art pen pals and with that as the basis, to create community and relationships that would last while supporting Harbor House's mission in the community as well as our respective faith communities. We desired to build bridges in our community. We will do this through the weekly art pen pals, cookouts between the artists from our congregations and Harbor House, culminating with a ticketed gala on August 14, from 5-8 at United Presbyterian where art that has been created will be on display and open to be bid upon. There will be food, drinks, and a great opportunity to support the community.

We are envisioning what this community might look like beyond this summer as well with an ongoing partnership with the University students, Harbor House residents, and our two churches. Weekly art nights? Intergenerational relationships? Faith and life experiences that are shared in brush strokes and black out poetry? Probably all of it! A grant from the Church Development Fund of the Presbytery made this incredible ecumenical Spirit led dream of God happen. It is mission, it is community development, it is church that is taking place in a new and special way in Superior and we are thankful to the Presbytery for believing in it!

Rev. Brett Foote  
**Superior United Presbyterian Church**  
**bfoote.upc@gmail.com**



### Harbor House Needs:

- Garbage Bags (13 gallon)
- Women's Hygiene Product
- Bath Towels/Wash Cloths
- Kitchen Wash Cloths
- Antiperspirant Men/Women
- Non-Perishable Food
- Dish Soap/Dish Washer Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Spices
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Twin Sheets
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Brushes/Combs
- Blankets
- Paper Towels
- Diapers/All Sizes
- Pillows/Pillow Cases
- Toilet Bowl Cleaners
- Socks
- Wound Care Products
- Laundry Soap/Bleach
- *Dryer Sheets!*



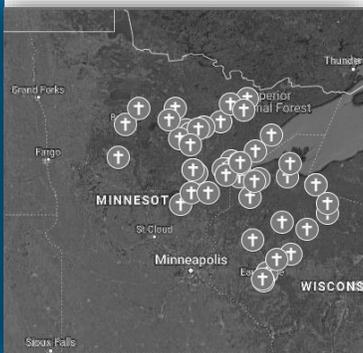
## THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN WATERS

5203 East Second St  
Superior, WI 54880

Phone: 715-394-6265  
Email: [office@northernwaters.net](mailto:office@northernwaters.net)

WEBSITE

[www.northernw.com](http://www.northernw.com)



## Invitation to Share News

Our plan is to send out Northern Lights on a quarterly basis. The next issue would be after our October Presbytery Meeting. We'd really like to feature the events and mission projects your congregation is most proud of, as a way of planting ideas and encouraging us all. Please send us notes, articles, and needs that we can share. Want to brag? Send it. Have prayer requests? Send them. Celebrating the life and accomplishments of a congregation member? Someone you're really grateful for? Let us celebrate with you! We'll remind you from time to time, but start thinking and setting aside news now. It'll help keep us better connected!

## Synod News

Spring is always a time of new beginnings, and along with blossoming flowers, greening trees and new challenges as we meet to worship together again after the pandemic restrictions, comes a new presbytery-wide newsletter. What a great opportunity to share some synod news with everyone.

Hi, my name is Sue Goodin. I and my husband, Bob, are retired PCUSA pastors in this presbytery. I am also your synod commissioner, your voice in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

What's a synod some might ask. And I might have stumbled over the answer before becoming a commissioner. I had some memories from childhood, but really discovered the reality after being elected to represent you. In our connectional church system, a synod is a church body made up of a group of presbyteries partnering together. It bridges the gap between presbyteries and General Assembly, the chief governing body of the PCUSA.

And that's about what I knew until I became a commissioner. To my surprise (and delight), I discovered the synod is involved in many activities and programs that benefit its partner presbyteries. I'd like to highlight two of those programs.

One is. Synod School. Some of you will recognize it; some of you have been there and could tell its story better than I can. And so I'll make this short. It's a time for folks to gather during last week of July to share a wide variety of experiences, classes from ballroom dancing to Bible study, worship in many styles, recreation and quiet time. Many families have enjoyed it as a time of family vacation. There are brochures available, at your church office or contact the presbytery.

The other program I want to highlight is The Academy. A new program, The Academy was born out of the frustration partner presbyteries were experiencing in providing effective training for potential CREs. However, it's also a wonderful resource for those of you already serving churches or as chaplains. As a member of the presbytery's Committee on Preparation, it's come to our attention that many CREs are experiencing a need for continuing education. The Academy is probably the best resource I know for that education. There are two classes offered during Synod School and others throughout the year. Participants can take what they need without enrolling in an extended program. Instructors are usually seminary professors or other experts in a specific field. Brochures are available at the presbytery office. Just ask Amanda.

Thanks for letting me share news about two of the great programs you and others in partner presbyteries are doing to strengthen the mission of the church through our synod.

Until next time, peace.

**Sue**