



### EASTERN KOREAN PRESBYTERY'S TOP STONE CHURCH 2009 WALTON AWARD RECIPIENT

Top Stone Presbyterian Church (Englewood, NJ, Eastern Korean Presbytery) has been selected as a 2009 recipient of the PC(USA) the Sam & Helen R. Walton Award for New Church Development. The Walton fund was established by the late Walmart CEO Sam and his wife Helen to encourage the Presbyterian Church (USA) in its commitment to new church development with the desire to support and assist with site purchase, hoping that de-



fraying initial capital costs, relieving some of the financial burden from a newly forming congregation.

The award includes a check for \$50,000. The church's Session will report the award's use to the Mission Program Grants Office; information about the grant and the congregation will be shared with the public media as well.

Shown here from left to right are Rev. Bong Kee Huh, Rev. David Yi (Pastor), and Elder Robert Lee.

### ELDER ERNEST KIMMEL HONORED BY NEW BRUNSWICK PRESBYTERY; LOWELL KNAUSS BEGINS AS INTERIM EXECUTIVE



On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Presbytery of New Brunswick surprised retiring Stated Clerk Ernie Kimmel with a dinner gathering of nearly one hundred persons happy to give accolades for his many years of service as

Clerk, and his work the last two years as Acting Head of Staff.

The celebration included representation from the Synod of the Northeast, Princeton Theological Seminary, Presbytery of Monmouth, Presbytery of New York City, Presbytery of New Brunswick ministers, elders and staff, as well as friends and family of Elder Kimmel.

Gratitude was expressed to Ernie for all his work, loyalty, patience and kind deliberate demeanor. Mr. Kimmel's official last day as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Brunswick was June 30, 2009. He is succeeded in the office by the Rev. Dr. D. Paul LaMontagne.

The Rev. Dr. Lowell Knauss began as Interim Executive Presbyter on July 30<sup>th</sup>, coming from the Presbytery of Homestead, Synod of the



Lakes and Prairies, where he served as Interim Executive Presbyter. Prior to his executive service, Lowell served congregations in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, and as chaplain in hospital and correctional facilities. Welcome Lowell.

### "HOPE IN HARD TIMES" 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL RACIAL ETHNIC CONVOCATION OCTOBER 2-3, 2009 AT STONY POINT CONFERENCE CENTER



The 33rd Annual Racial Ethnic Convocation will be held October 2-3, 2009, at the Stony Point Conference Center with registration beginning at 3:00pm. The theme, "Hope in Hard Times," is something keynoter Elder Corbett Wheeler knows about. From the Presbytery of Inland-Northwest, this Native American of the Nez Perce tribe, Moderator of the Joint Session of Elders of six congregations, saw the remains of the historic North Fork Presbyterian Church of Ahsahka, ID, to which he is liaison, engulfed by fire on Christmas Eve last year. The church was without insurance. Wheeler is a member of the PC(USA) Native American Consulting Committee. He is heartened when people are brought together to help one another, or cross boundaries of race and culture and learn to appreciate each other's gifts. [Click here](#) to download a flyer and registration form for the Racial-Ethnic Convocation. [Click here](#) to read more about the keynote speakers.

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## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

Here are some Theological Education Sunday tips for presbyteries from Elizabeth McDowell, the Theological Education Representative for our synod: 1) Look for and order the new bulletin insert and TEF envelopes that are free from Louisville upon

request. 2) Churches that do not budget for TEF can still take a special offering for it. 3) Have an elder speak briefly about why it is important to have seminary educated clergy. Lay testimonials can be powerful. 4) Put September 20 on your church calendar to

celebrate the value of theological education and the eleven Presbyterian theological seminaries. Liz can be reached by phone at 315-827-4860 or [email](mailto:).

### MADAGASCAR CONNECTIONS: FAITHFULNESS IN DIFFICULT TIMES; WOMEN TOGETHER IN LOUISVILLE: "ONE OF GOD'S WONDERS"

Ten years ago the Synod of the Northeast forged an International Mission Partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM), but hardly did we know where God would lead us. In March 2009, we became a support system for a church under harassment, even to the point of persecution, after an illegitimate insurgent government forced the country's constitutional president, himself the vice-president of the FJKM, out of office.

In late March, our Synod worked with the PC(USA) and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, to bring the president of the church, Lala Rasendrasasina, and his family, to the United States for their safety.

President Lala returned to Madagascar in June, accompanied by a Presbyterian mission worker, to lead the FJKM National Council meeting. He soon will return again to Madagascar, along with his wife and son, in spite of the risks, to do God's work there. "So many things need to be accomplished for the kingdom of God in Madagascar and they are

waiting for me," says President Lala. "We believe that the Lord will lead us in his mysterious way that is different from ours."

The Synod continues to advocate for constitutional democracy and to support the FJKM in whatever ways that are open, but the custodial account for the Madagascar Partnership is running low. Peacemaking funds given by Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery have been very welcome. Additional gifts will be deeply appreciated. Checks marked for the FJKM Partnership may be sent to the Synod Office, 5811 Heritage Landing Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057.

While she was in the United States, the synod invited President Lala's spouse Zoe to attend the Presbyterian Women's (PW) Gathering, July 11-15 in Louisville. Women from many walks of life and many parts of the world told powerful stories, had fun together, and expressed a commitment to healing the world during the four day triennial, *God Will Do Wonders Among You*, this summer.

While at the PW gathering, Zoe attended all of the sessions and enjoyed seeing her coun-



trywoman Ivaline Lalanirina Ramahefarivo plus several others who had come as global partners from around the world.

Women of the Synod of the Northeast were well represented at the Gathering, filling a large room to enjoy lunch and conversation and to be welcomed by Sandy Grillo, moderator of the PW of the Synod of the Northeast.

(We thank Madagascar Partnership co-chair Lida Dawson Price, and the Rev. Cathy Surgenor, who accompanied Zoe on behalf of the Partnership Task Force, for their insights in the article above. - Clint McCoy)

### "OUT OF AFRICA" JOINT EVENT DESIGNED BY HUNGER ACTION ENABLERS OF THE PRESBYTERIES OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND MONMOUTH

For the 60 folks who gathered at Allentown Presbyterian Church on May 31, 2009, *Out of Africa* meant Mission and Advocacy with our brothers and sisters from Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi and Uganda.

Preacher Alexa Smith from the *Joining Hands, Presbyterian Hunger Program* set the tone for the day, describing the importance of why Presbyterians have been going to Africa for over 100 years. As John 3:16 reveals, "because God so loved the world," God uses people like us to partner with countries in various ways. We are called to go, listen and learn about God's love in Africa, and how to hold accountable those who use the rich resource countries for America's gain.

Doug Welch, associate Director of Mission Partners and Programs and Africa Area Coordinator for the World Mission Ministry of PC(USA) focused on the importance of partnership. Stephen and Liz Heinzl-Nelson gave an overview of how they worked with a group of concerned people in Malawi, surfacing concerns through small group meetings.



Sarah Pray, *Publish What You Pay*, and Alexa Smith encouraged participants take action on critical legislation that will be introduced in the Congress soon. "Transparency will help reduce the risks for anti-corruption activists, who are now being jailed and harassed for seeking fiscal accountability from their own governments. It may also reduce violence by improving the lives of the most poor, which creates a better climate for business."

For the full article, go to [www.synodne.org](http://www.synodne.org).

Rev. Phyllis Zoon, *Hunger Action Enabler and Stewardship of Creation Enabler ~ Monmouth Presbytery*