

The Homesteader



A Publication of Homestead Presbytery

November 12, 2013 Issue

Dear Kris

[Homesteader Print Version](#)

Please share this with other members of your congregation - You are welcome to use it as a Sunday bulletin insert, forward as an email, print copies OR include all or part of it in your own church newsletter.

Noted Children's Author Discovers the True Meaning of Christmas Presbyterian Writer Publishes Collection for the Holidays *By Jeanne Giles, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln*

I met Katherine Paterson and her writing in 1984; the introduction came from my 5th and 6th grade students in Falls City, NE where I taught Language Arts in the grade school my daughters attended. When "new-to-me" authors came up in discussions, I would pick a few to sample and share with my girls, who of course had "fed" some of their favorites to me. Patterson won the American Library Association's Newberry Award for "the most distinguished contribution to children's literature" in 1978 with *Bridge to Terabithia* and in 1981 for *Jacob Have I Loved*. Primarily an author for young adults, Paterson often tackles themes considered to be adult, such as death and jealousy. Her characters face dire circumstances but handle their difficulties by prevailing over them. The Newberry Medal committee noted that "Paterson's unflinching yet redemptive treatment of tragedy and loss helped pave the way for ever more realistic writing for young people".

A Stubborn Sweetness and Other Stories for the Christmas Season



Katherine and her husband John, a retired PCUSA pastor, live in Barre, Vermont. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Katherine wrote a new story every year featuring real-life people who found or rekindled their hope, courage and faith in unexpected ways. John introduced the tales during their Christmas Eve services in three different parishes. *A Stubborn Sweetness and Other Stories for the Christmas Season*, published August, 2013, is a modern day collection of those stories.

The book is a rendition of how small town people discover the lost meaning of the Christmas spirit hiding in the darkness of everyday life. The stories were written over a period of more than forty years, and all but one, have been previously published. Paterson notes that nearly every year since the first stories were used, she would have requests from friends and congregational members to read or tell one of the stories. She readily grants permission to read or tell the stories, cautioning that if the tales are copied in electronic or printed form, permission must be granted by the publisher. She gives the original publisher for each story

Advent Devotional

Don't forget advent is just around the corner!

[Channing-Bete](#) has some great Advent calendars for kids and families.

All Youth Invited to Summer Missions

Camp four work days (5-6 hours ea) and a Sabbath/Free Day at the end of the week. Work sites/projects are lined up with help from the Y's Volunteer Coordinator.

Where: Estes Park, CO.
YMCA Camp of The Rockies

When: June 2-8, 2014

[More Info](#)

Related Links

[Mission Yearbook of Prayer](#)
[View daily online for free](#)

[FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org](#)

[Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)

[Synod of Lakes & Prairies](#)

[More About Homestead](#)

[Presbytery](#)

[Statistics/Info](#)

The scoop on [Per Capita](#)

in her introduction.

This book, an ideal gift for the Christmas season, is currently on sale from publisher Westminster John Knox Press. The only difficult part of using the stories is deciding if you want a personal story from Joseph, the Star Lady, Angels, or a practical one about earning merit badges, broken windows, or sibling relationships. I still haven't picked a favorite and change my mind every time I try. These three have all been first once: "Star Lady", tells about a 65-year-old widow who encounters an evangelical child from her home congregation; "In the Desert, a Highway", where three characters: the college president, night watchman, and a literature teacher were serving hard labor sentences at a Communist Red Guard camp; "Merit Badges", the story of a Girl Scout and a nursing home resident who asked, "Let me be a merit badge, please. I don't think I'm up to being a good deed for the day".

Four of Paterson's books published between 1975 and 1980, won two Newberry Medals, and two other national awards. Just last year, 2013, she earned the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal from the American Library Association. Her background is not the reason for this book review. In 1997-98 I worked with Paterson and former Presbyterian Survey editor Vic Jameson on the special committee to choose the Presbyterian Writers Guild's author of the year. Katherine Paterson is not only a writer for young adults, she writes regularly in other venues, including material for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Her concern for readers of all ages became clear as we sifted through the nominations. In fact in 2000 she was named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress in recognition of her 'body' of writings.

Like us on Facebook 

[Homestead Presbytery](#)
[I Love My Presbyterian Church](#)

[Calvin Crest Camp &
Conference Center](#)

Sharing God's Mission-The following story provides a firsthand account of how your congregation's generosity is helping to make a difference both within your presbytery and in Presbyterian ministries across the United States and around the world. As you work on your budgets this fall, please consider a gift to the shared mission of the church through your presbytery.

Supporting new African worshipping communities

As Africans immigrate to the United States, many seek worshipping communities that have a touch of home. With the unprecedented growth among African communities comes a host of challenges. Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries is providing essential resources to help these congregations and new worshipping communities thrive.

One beneficiary is Stephen Yaw Nkansah, pastor of 700-plus-member Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Woodbridge, Virginia. The church's building is so packed that Sunday school classes don't always have enough places for children to sit. Nkansah has reached out to the larger church for help finding similar congregations and for assistance with his blossoming ministry. Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries is providing essential support for Nkansah's congregation and many others across the nation as they grow into and with the larger PC(USA) family.



Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, an African worshipping community in Woodbridge, Virginia, is growing so quickly that Sunday school classes are filled to overflowing.

Let us give thanks...
A service of gratitude for all faiths

Sunday, November 24, 2013 2:00 p.m.
All faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Hosted by: Congregation B'nai Jeshurun The South Street Temple 20th & South Streets, Lincoln



Will include an Interfaith Choir,
if interested contact Brian P foltner,
musidir@fpclincoln.org.
The choir will meet and rehearse
beforehand at 1:00.

Tell us what's going on in the life of your congregation or ministry -
Church news, event promotion, mission articles and photos are all welcome!

Please submit articles to Jessica at hpooffice@homesteadpres.org
or mail to 8300 East Pointe Rd. Lincoln, NE 68506

Contact Information

Congregational Resource Coordinator, Kris Peterson
Homestead Presbytery office, Jessica Kottmeyer

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to krisp@homesteadpres.org by hpooffice@homesteadpres.org |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Homestead Presbytery | 8300 East Pointe Rd. | Lincoln | NE | 68506