

**FROM: MALAWI PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**RE: TWINNING RENEWAL**

December 2011

To All Congregations in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

Christmas Greetings to all our sisters and brothers in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, from your EOP Malawi Partnership Committee. May this be a joyous holiday for you as we remember the day that God came to earth, to a particular place half a world away, and came in the form of a baby to unite humanity with Him, once and for all time.

The Malawi Partnership Committee is planning a Malawi Renewal Service at the next Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, March 6, in Sapulpa, OK. We hope it will be a real celebration! Every partnered congregation, and churches who want to be newly twinned too, are encouraged to send at least one representative to this service. We have a gift for each partner congregation.

The occasion we're celebrating is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EOP's partnership with the Presbyterian Church in northern Malawi, the Synod of Livingstonia. More specifically, we'll be celebrating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Twinning Agreement between 30 congregations in EOP and churches in Malawi. Through our partnerships, we have exchanged visits, and made many friends.

We have also supported numerous mission projects such as water wells, scholarships, supplying teachers, roof repairs, building construction, orphanages, and more. This past summer we sent two science professors to teach at the University of Livingstonia during a summer session. We have also supported the University of Livingstonia Seminary in Mzuzu in northern Malawi by sending money for scholarship, teaching materials and professors. Rev. Debbie Chase from EOP is a PCUSA mission co-worker and full-time professor of theology at the seminary.

But the global perspective the Malawians have given us is even more valuable. They have taught us what it means to be a committed Christian in an impoverished country, relying on a God who they know is in control, is all powerful, and all loving. Their joy in worship, indeed their lives of worship, and what they have to teach us about their faith in God is priceless.

Now it is time to make a commitment to "TWIN" with a partner church in Malawi or to renew your commitment with your existing partner. The goal is that each EOP church will have a congregation or prayer house they can come to know over the next five years. Please contact Jeanie Kvach, Moderator of the Malawi Partnership Committee, to affirm your partnership renewal (or to start a new partnership). Contact me by email ([Tpsarch@aol.com](mailto:Tpsarch@aol.com)) or call (918-902-4458).

In the past, congregations volunteered to budget \$500 a year to this effort. Of course, in smaller congregations this may be a stretch, but we encourage you to give what you can. The main goal is to move all congregation members to look outside our own church walls, outside our own communities even, to see God at work in the world, and then to invite our members to become a part of this mission.

Again, may God continue to richly bless your congregation as you seek to discern your mission outreach in the world!

Blessings,

Jeanie Kvach, Moderator, on behalf of

Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, Malawi Partnership Committee.