

• **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS—DECEMBER 2008** •

Greetings from your colleagues in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! We count ourselves as your partners in ministry as we live our vocation as a college of the Church. With excitement, we have celebrated the arrival of Jack R. Ohle, the 16th President of Gustavus Adolphus College. President Ohle brings a deep understanding of what it means to be a college of the Church, and a vision for developing Gustavus in the 21st century. Building upon the new strategic plan for the College, President Ohle has begun Commission Gustavus 150, a major forward thinking initiative to focus energy upon the integration of the strategic plan and to broadly engage the College's constituency to chart together the College's future leading to the Sesquicentennial celebration in 2011–12. Commission Gustavus 150 consists of eight task forces: Academic Programs and New Initiatives; Interdisciplinary Programs; Student Life; Community Engagement; Diversity; Faith; Stewardship; and Facilities and Finances.

We are proud of our relationship with the Lutheran Church and continue to provide countless resources to our Gustavus Association of Congregations, which has grown to nearly 540 member congregations! This Association is important to the life of the College, being the place where official governing boards of the College are elected each April. Our confirmation retreats program continues to be the most-requested of our resources for congregations. Last year this program brought more than 1,400 church youth to Gustavus for retreats, which is an increase of 23% in the past two years. As a resource for the Church, we offer an ever-expanding menu of resources available to congregations. In addition to youth and adult retreat programs, faculty members and student musicians are involved in our Partners program, bringing presentations to various churches for adult/youth forums and worship special music. Other resources include pulpit supply, scholarships, clergy continuing education, and more. This fall we successfully launched at Gustavus the Exploring Religious Questions Series, a Christian education program and in-depth study offering in partnership with Gustavus religion faculty for the congregations and broader Christian community.

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDARS

AND JOIN US AT GUSTAVUS FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Trinity Institute Conference — JANUARY 21–23, 2009** “Radical Abundance: a theology of sustainability,” webcast live from the Trinity Institute, New York. With the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, we invite you to join us as we explore sustainability through the lens of liberation theology, and the vision of Christians working together toward social justice.
- **Gustavus Association of Congregations 2009 Convention — APRIL 25, 2009**
Theme for the day is *Hear the Word—Live the Word* with Dr. Terry Fretheim bringing the keynote address “Implications of a Relational God,” and Rev. Terry Morehouse giving the homily during the morning worship. **NEW: A Youth Day** is planned separately on this day, and we hope congregations will bring 2 to 4 student leaders for this festive and special leadership development event.
- **MAYDAY! Peace Conference — APRIL 29, 2009** 20 years after the Tiananmen Square massacre
- **Annual Nobel Conference® — OCTOBER 6–7, 2009** “H₂O Uncertain Resource ”
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel — DECEMBER 4–6, 2009**

For more information about these events and the resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations (507-933-7001) or consult the Gustavus website: www.gustavus.edu. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Grady St. Dennis
Director of Church Relations

Office of Church Relations

800 West College Avenue • St. Peter, MN 56082-1498 • www.gustavus.edu
Telephone: (507) 933-7001 • Fax: (507) 933-6337 • E-mail: church-relations@gustavus.edu