

# The Presbyterian SUN

Keeping Our Connection

June/July 2004

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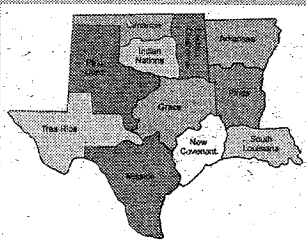
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## Silent Retreat Births

by  
Margaret  
Tabot

## New Music Ministry



Photo by Jeff Breckenridge of Ellis Graphics, Austin, Texas.  
Jennifer Klein singing in April at a fundraiser for a Christian school in Austin.

How is it that a new ministry in music could begin to take shape on a silent retreat? You can get an answer to that question from Jennifer Klein, a former Austin lawyer and a volunteer church musician extraordinaire. In

January 2003, she traveled to Lebh Shomea House of Prayer, a contemplative community in the Texas Rio Grande Valley, for a week-long silent retreat — looking for peace, quiet, answers, the

Continued on page 2.



Synod Moderator Patricia Sara Jean Jackson part of more than a dozen dismission work throughout

## International Partners

At the Synod meeting highlighted international which span the globe signing for the new plan the Sinodo del Noroeste joint mission work and

The 216th  
General Assembly  
Richmond, Virginia  
June 26–July 3, 2004



That all may  
have life  
in fullness

John 10:10b

On the web

[www.pcusa.org/ga216](http://www.pcusa.org/ga216) gives you access to Assembly reports, overtures, news, live streaming, photos, daily worship and more.

PresbyNet offers GA 216 Conversations to discuss activities. GA 216 Live is for live chats and

On your screen

Interpret the General Assembly back home with Continuing the Journey CD. Features audio highlights and interpretive tools. Free to committee and advisory delegates, \$5 for all others. Available after the Assembly. Call 800-524-2612 to order

months with the executive staff and leaders of each presbytery within its bounds to seek strategic plans for campus outreach evangelism and Christian nurture in that area.

- David Evans reported that Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary this academic year hosted the two largest discovery week-end groups (prospective stu-

- Approved 2005 mission budget of \$1.2 million.

#### Communications Division:

- Recommended consolidating and further developing a single relational database to replace the many databases used by synod to create a new hub of networking and resource sharing synod-wide.

## Music Ministry

sense of purpose that her job in the legal profession wasn't offering. And in the silence, or more appropriately, in the music she *couldn't* silence in her head, she discovered a calling.

Jennifer returned home to Austin, convinced about where God was leading her. Within six months, she had sold her house; found a new home for her dog Lily; moved into an apartment and sold her car to reduce expenses; and given up her full-time position at an Austin law firm. Crazy, right?

The answer is a resounding no, if you listen to the fruits of Jennifer's labor since then. She took up the guitar; began composing music; started her business, Eine Kleine Worship Music; and recorded her first CD, *Seasons of Change*. Of course it helps that church music has been Jennifer's passion and avocation for most her life. She's gifted, with a voice smooth as caramel and pure as sunlight, and she lifts it joyfully with the assurance of one who trusts in God's goodness.

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Many of the songs are Jennifer's own prayers — expressing gratitude, seeking guidance, praising. But their melodies are simple and meant to be sung by others. They speak to and for Christians in these times, offering comfort, soothing troubled spirits, energizing, and interpreting the human experience.

As she sings, "It's the ordinary things in our ordinary lives... that display the greatness of our God."

A natural performer, Jennifer has shared her story — punctuated with humor and infused with grace — with audiences in churches around Texas, at Moor Ranch Presbyterian Conference Center, at a Presbyterian Foundation gathering, and elsewhere. And in all things, her sense of God's call guides her: "May my voice, singing out Your truth, bring joy to the hopeless for You."

Web references: [www.lebhshomea.org](http://www.lebhshomea.org)  
[www.jenniferklein.net](http://www.jenniferklein.net)