

**12 to 21**  
Getting  
to know  
**YOUth**



**Justine Vanessa George, age 17, is a senior at Menaul School, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related secondary school in Albuquerque, N.M. She is a member of Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque.**

**I believe in** Christ, and people being equal.

**My prayer is** anything on my mind.

**One thing that makes me happy is** people I love.

**I want to be** a psychologist.

**The person I most admire is** my grandmother, Salome George.

**My hope for the church is** to get more people involved.

**I don't understand** why people judge others.

**The Bible is** extremely interesting, confusing.

**God is** amazing, and #1 in my life.

**If I ruled the world I would** make everyone equal.

**For fun I like to** hang out with friends, do photography.

**Spotlight on YOUth** Are you a Presbyterian between the ages of 12 and 21? To be featured in *Presbyterians Today* go to [www.pcusa.org/today](http://www.pcusa.org/today) and click on "Spotlight on YOUth."

**Brandy, the worship dog**

**Animal-loving congregation opens its doors to furry friends**

**E**ach Sunday morning a friendly Australian Shepherd dog named Brandy greets worshipers as they gather at Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Neb. Brandy walks quietly among the pews, offering friendly sniffs and nudges and gobbling up treats.

"She is an accepted part of the church family," says Chaz Ruark, interim executive presbyter for Missouri River Valley Presbytery. "She brings a smile to many a face in the crowd, especially the



BECKY KILLION

children and the young at heart.

Brandy first came to church three years ago, as an eight-week old puppy. Her owner, elder Lee Shell, brought Brandy with him when he was helping remodel the sanctuary.

"When the time came to dedicate the sanctuary," says pastor Becky Killion, "I insisted that Brandy be at church that Sunday, because she had been so much a part of the remodeling. So many worshipers enjoyed having

**Mixed marriage**

**Presby-Lutheran co-pastors surmount many challenges**

**F**or Phil and Julie GebbenGreen, the most challenging aspect of co-pastoring Edgcombe Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn., has been finding babysitters for their three children when they are both working. This is a bigger difficulty, they say, than the fact that they are ordained in two different denominations—Phil in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Julie in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The two attended different seminaries in Berkeley, Calif., but met in a shared Greek class. Their position as temporary supply co-pastors of the Edgcombe congregation is possible because four Protestant denominations, including the PC(USA) and the ELCA, have agreed to be in full communion with one another, recognizing the ordination of ministers in each denomination.

Besides finding babysitters, the

GebbenGreens face other challenges—and opportunities.

"Communication can be tricky," Julie says. "We have to be very intentional about keeping the other informed about the things we are doing."

The pastors say the church community benefits from having both masculine and feminine leadership. And being at one



TOM CONLON

**PARENTS IN THE PULPIT: Phil and Julie GebbenGreen say finding child care is harder than keeping up with two denominations.**