

# 2011 THANKSGIVING OFFERING

MINUTE FOR MISSION: REBECCA HANEY

There is a line in a famous children's movie that goes like this: "They come, they eat, they leave!" (*A Bug's Life*, 1998) Before I went to seminary, I began experiencing this giant discontentment with church as usual. I didn't want to come to church, get fed, and leave unchanged, only to repeat the process the following Sunday. Instead, along with my husband, I felt called to Rochester, Minnesota to start a new congregation for the Disciples of Christ that would empower people to make a tangible difference in their sphere of influence. PTS has provided me with tools to better interpret Scripture, practice leadership, understand my surrounding culture, empower people for service, and provide a positive pastoral presence.

As I have had the opportunity to use what I have learned "in the classroom," I have witnessed lives being changed. People in our new congregation are engaging their local communities to help the local food bank, provide housing for those in need of a temporary living situation, and raise funds for those around the world desperately in need of clean water. As I have sought to empower others to begin to change their world, I have experienced the deep joy of watching them meet Jesus, catch the vision, and serving their community. In each of these situations, I call on what I am learning at PTS so that we as a faith community can better honor the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:10: "Your kingdom come, your will be done *on earth* as it is in heaven."