

# The Wider Circle



Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / April 2009 Vol. 5, Issue 4



*Equipping pastors and congregations with the tools to carry on God's awesome love.*

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- Summer Camp Schedule
- Synod School Teachers
- Prayers and Concerns

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GA Moderator & Stated Clerk's Letter	1
Ministry 2.0 Event in Kansas City	2
Events Calendar	3
PCUSA Update	4
PNS News Index	5
Synod Update	6
Synod School Teachers	6
Congregational Connection	7
Summer Camp Schedule	7
Volunteer & Employment Opportunities	8
Joining Hands	8
Cool Congregations Workshop, April 18	9
Personnel Committees Training Workshops	10
Phresh Workers for Christ Weekend in May	10
Presbytery Happenings	11
Prayers and Concerns	11
Land Leads to Water— Please Help!	12

## Church Wide Letters from Bruce & Gradye

*Here are the April 8 "monthly" church wide letters from both Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow and Rev. Gradye Parsons. Please feel free to pass them along, reflect on your own blogs and/or clip for use in newsletters and other church communications.*

**A monthly column for the church-at-large by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the General Assembly of the PC (USA)**



### A LIFE THE CHURCH IS COMPELLED TO LIVE

As I write this, we are in the midst of Holy Week and the walk toward the cross.

Every year as we enter this time, the church is pushed again to think about the realities and expressions of our beliefs in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The covenant made at the last supper, his death on the cross, and his resurrection into new life compel us to live in the world in a way that is worthy of the forgiveness given by God.

Not an easy task, for sure. Our transformation in Christ and its compelling nature is such a complex event in our lives, but yet so simple. The graciousness of our God and God's love simply permeate our souls so that joy and hope can be our only response. Yet, at the same time, we live in God's created world filled with a wondrous and often frustrating complexity, which sometimes makes it seem easier to give into the chaos around us.

Now, one could argue that the world is always in some kind of turmoil. But it seems that in today's climate of economic turmoil, violence, war, and anxiety, being able to live this walk from promise to despair to hope is a life the church is compelled to live.

As the world faces death and despair in both body and spirit, will we be the hands and hearts of Christ to live, breathe, and share the hope that Christ brings? I have no doubt we will, for if we take seriously the gracious nature of God, we have no other choice but to live that new life for the world, as Christ

has been the new life for each of us.

**A monthly column for the church-at-large by the Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC (USA)**



### GREAT LOSS, GREAT HARVEST

It is my good fortune to teach an adult Sunday school class once a month. A couple of weeks ago, we were discussing Ezekiel 36. I shared an essay by Carlyle Marney entitled, "Years of the Locust" (from *Beggars in Velvet*, Abingdon Press, 1960). The essay draws a parallel between the seasons of discontent and the account of the swarm of locusts in the Old Testament.

Marney relays an insight he received from a friend who witnessed firsthand how locusts swarm in Africa. When the locusts come, they eat every living plant down to the roots. The

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Author Judy Cannato is *Spirituality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* Speaker

HIAWATHA – Jewish theologian Rabbi Abraham Heschel said that the only appropriate response to an encounter with the Holy is one of “radical amazement.” The discoveries of modern science over the last century provide us with new images for reflection. As this new telling of the Universe Story seeps into our awareness, it challenges the way we think and respond to the life around us.

Writer and retreat director Judy Cannato speaks on the connectedness of all creation during a *Spirituality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* conference April 17 and 18 at St. Ludmila Catholic Church, 211 21<sup>st</sup> Ave., S.W. in Cedar Rapids. Sponsored by Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, Cannato will give two talks:

- Friday, April 17, from 7-9 p.m.: An Invitation to Radical Amazement. Cost is \$20.
- Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Creating a Field of Compassion: A Hopeful Response to the Challenge of Our Times. Cost is \$50 and includes lunch.

Tickets are available at Prairiewoods in Cedar Rapids at: 319-395-6700. Discounts are available.

## GA Moderator & Stated Clerk's Letter continued from page 1

farmers and their hired hands will drive the cattle and horses out into the fields in an attempt to crush the locusts before they can lay their eggs. However, despite their efforts, the farmers will yield no harvest that year.

In small or large ways, my hunch is that we all have experienced our own “swarm of locusts,” many of us more recently than not. We have contributed to our 401(k)s for years, only to see them decline to nothing. We have given a great chunk of our

lives to companies, only to receive pink slips in the end. We have faithfully paid our mortgages, only to find the value of our homes slide to basement levels. At times, it seems our best intentions – including our spiritual work – melt before the heat of our ambitions and selfishness.

But Marney offers a hopeful note in his essay. His friend reports that the year following the devastation by the locusts is a time for bountiful crops. The crushed locusts become a rich fertilizer for the soil.

It is using wisely a season of great loss that eventually yields great results.

Sisters and brothers, our Lenten journey will soon end and we will celebrate anew the great resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord will once again hear “Alleluia!” from our congregations. May we use wisely our losses in this season of the locusts and allow the Spirit to build a treasure for us that neither thief nor moth can touch.

## Unpack the online possibilities at **ministry2.0**

On May 30, Kansas City will play host to *Ministry 2.0* – a hands-on workshop and live event designed for church leaders and volunteers interested in enhancing their ministry using the latest in Web technology. Conceived by a team of Web evangelists with a heart for the local church, *Ministry 2.0* is a grassroots effort allowing believers of all backgrounds to come together to celebrate Christ, while sharing and learning from one another.

Many of the country's leading web evangelists will be sharing how they are making disciples using the

power of the Web. Event topics will include: user-centered Web design; foundations of visual design; marketing your church online and how to measure success; crafting digital media messages, and how to tap the power of the latest social media tools like Twitter and Facebook. From hands-on workshops for beginners to the seasoned Web evangelists, *Ministry 2.0* is the event for anyone interested in using the Web to strengthen their local ministry. If you are seeking a path to grow your ministry, *Ministry 2.0* is the event for you.

*Ministry 2.0* will be held on **Saturday, May 30** at **Indian Creek Community Church** in Olathe, Kansas. Learn how you can unpack the possibilities at [www.ministry2.org/kansascity](http://www.ministry2.org/kansascity).

A discount on event registration is being offered to churches in your area. To redeem this discount, simply use this code when checking out: **COUP0530**.

For more information, contact Ministry 2.0 event coordinator Matt Carlisle, [matt@ministry2.org](mailto:matt@ministry2.org) or 866-728-1883, ext. 102.

## Events Calendar

### APRIL 2009

**April 16** – Lunch & Learn Series, *Web Site Writing and Optimization*, Presbytery Office, Noon-1 p.m.

**April 16** – Khadamat Sundayia, 4 p.m., **Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**

**April 18** – *Church Personnel Committee Training Workshop*, **First Presbyterian Church, Newton**,

9 a.m.-Noon. All congregations are invited to attend regional training workshop being offered by the Presbytery of Des Moines Personnel Committee. The Rev. Bob Burnett, committee moderator, is encouraging all church volunteers who serve on either the personnel committee or as session elders to attend this important training in April and May, from 9 a.m. to Noon. To make your reservation, call **Office Manager Betty Dyer**, 515-276-4991 or [pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org), so we can have enough materials for everyone.

**April 21** – Iowa EP/GP Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Presbytery Office

**April 23** – Coordinating Council, 4 p.m., Calvin Community, Des Moines

**April 24** – *Compañeros' Annual Fundraising Dinner*, St. Boniface, Waukee.

**April 25** – *PW Spring Gathering*, **Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**. Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Mission Matters Co-

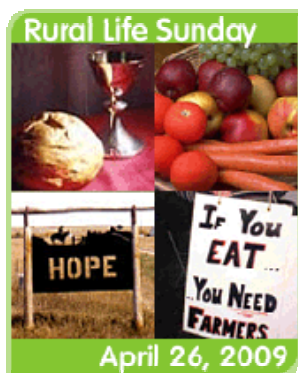
ordinator Marilyn Stone is keynote speaker. Tours of the church and CROSS Ministries will take place during the Noon break.

**The Rev. Linda O'Connell** will be installed as PW Moderator.

**April 25** – *Church Personnel Committee Training Work-*

*shop*, **First Presbyterian Church, Creston**, 9 a.m.-Noon. All church volunteers who serve on either the personnel committee or as session elders are encouraged to attend this important training. RSVP at the Presbytery Office, 515-276-4991 or [pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org).

**April 26-28** – Synod Meeting - The Synod of Lakes and Prairies will open its spring meeting Sunday, April 26, at the Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn. The meeting will run through Tuesday, April 28.



**April 27** – **PUP Task Force**, 3 p.m., Presbytery Office

**April 30** – The Southwest Regional Partnership (SWRP) will be working on Bedford's new building starting at 5 p.m. with supper served at 6:30 p.m. **The United Christian-Presbyterian Church** invites as many as possible to come early to work and eat. The SWRP meeting will begin after supper.

### MAY 2009

**May 1-3** – *Phresh Workers for Christ – Weekend*, for youth and youth leaders. Mission work at the Jericho Hills Camp, Lucas, Ia., 7 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday night through Sunday afternoon.

**May 2** – Social Ministries Task Force, 9 a.m. at the Presbytery Office

**May 2** – *Church Personnel Committee Training Workshop*, **Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Indianola**, 9 a.m.-Noon. All church volunteers who serve on either the personnel committee or as session elders are encouraged to attend this important training. RSVP at the Presbytery Office, 515-276-4991 or [pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org).

**May 2** – Joining Hands for Egypt Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Presbytery Office

**May 2** – PCD and CCD Joint Meeting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., **First United Presbyterian Church, Winterset**

**May 5** – *Compañeros*, 6:30 p.m. at **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**

**May 7** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m. at **Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**

**May 7-9** – Presbyterian World Mission Advocate training to help Presbytery mission interpreters in their work

**May 9-15** – *Bike to Work Week* in Iowa. Register free online at [www.bikeiowa.com](http://www.bikeiowa.com).

**May 10** – *Bike to Worship Day*. Register free online at [www.bikeiowa.com](http://www.bikeiowa.com).

**May 13** – Older Adult Ministry Task Force, 1 p.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale.

**May 19** – Presbytery Stated Meeting at **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**, registration begins at 1 p.m.

**May 21** – Lunch & Learn Series, *Evaluating your Churches Communications Efforts*, Presbytery Office, Noon-1 p.m.

**May 25** – **Memorial Day Holiday**, Presbytery Office is closed

### JUNE 2009

**June 2** – CCD, 2 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**

**June 2** – *Compañeros*, 6:30 p.m. at **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**



## Attend Face-to-Face at the Big Tent, June 11-13

*Face-to-Face* is an opportunity for churches and church entities seeking a church professional – and church professionals seeking a call – to meet and attend to the leading of the Holy Spirit, as everyone considers whether there is a potential for a call to minister together.

This is for Pastor Nominating Committees, Search Committees, Presbytery and Synod leaders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament, candidates, and Christian educators. It is not necessary to register for *Big Tent* to participate in *Face-to-Face*, but [registration for Face to Face is required](#). In order to register, an individual must have a Personal Information Form (PIF) with Church Leadership Connection (CLC), while a position being represented at *Face-to-Face* must have a Church Information Form (CIF) with CLC. For more information see the Leadership Connection.

## PCUSA Update

### BRUCE BLOGS BAY AREA

LOUISVILLE — When it comes to being in tune with social media, Bruce Reyes-Chow is on top of things.

The moderator of the 218th General Assembly is active on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). [Mission Bay Community Church](#), where he is pastor, has an engaging Web site, complete with a [group blog](#). Reyes-Chow also has several blogs of his own — one for [general posts](#), one for [moderator-related posts](#) and a [new one](#) through the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper.

The latter, which Reyes-Chow started posting to on March 26, is part [City Brights](#), a group blogging initiative on the Chronicle's Web Site. The 21 bloggers are "public figures, the recognized experts in their fields (from science to the arts) and the local notables that make the Bay Area what it is," according to the Web site. They encompass a wide variety of careers, including a talk show host, a ballet master and a political comedian.

Reyes-Chow is the only participant blogging as a pastor — and that's what drew him to the project.

"I just couldn't resist because the mainstream religious voice is nowhere to be found in San Francisco media," he said, adding that

although he acknowledges his role as moderator in the biography that goes with his blog, he is writing as himself and is not speaking on behalf of the PC(U.S.A.).

Reyes-Chow hopes to put forth a decidedly Christian voice that doesn't identify with extremist positions. And that's important in a town like San Francisco, where Christians and the LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender) community have often clashed.

"The diversity of spiritual traditions that we have here is just amazing," he said. "We have to figure out a way for the Christian voice to express itself in San Francisco. How do you be Christian in a place that has some negative stereotypes about what it means to be Christian?"

To read the complete article, go to: [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09301.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09301.htm).

### COGA APPROVES REVISIONS TO 2009-2010 BUDGETS

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) approved adjustments of \$400,000 in 2009 and \$800,000 in 2010 to the budgets for the [Office of the General Assembly](#) (OGA) at its meeting March 24-25.

The decision to revise the budgets was prompted by the effects of the current global economic crisis, which has resulted in an approximately \$1 million loss to the reserves

for OGA through the Presbyterian Foundation.

General Assembly policy calls for OGA to maintain 30% of its income in reserves. The dramatic drop in investment income leaves reserves right at that percentage.

The steps taken by COGA include a 2% reduction in all OGA department expenses for the current year, a \$96,000 cut in ecumenical grants and 2010 salary freezes and a voluntary separation package for OGA staff.

Employees will have a 45-day window to accept the package, beginning today.

The measures taken by COGA will meet the reductions necessary to balance the 2009 budget. Work continues on balancing the 2010 budget.

"These are difficult decisions to make," said General Assembly Stated Clerk the Rev. Gradye Parsons. "I am grateful to staff members for offering so many ideas to save costs, while continuing every day to do good work for the church." COGA members delved into a number of other agenda items over the course of their two-day meeting.

To read more on this, go to: [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09264](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09264)

## News Index for March 9–April 1

- [WCC 'living letters' team to visit Israel and Palestine](#)
- [College news](#)
- [Correction](#)
- [Hard work and faith](#): San Juan Island church readies 150th anniversary celebration
- [Presbyterian Women active in U.N. status of women conference](#)
- [Relationships and reconciliation](#): Charlotte, NC, church does hard work 'worth doing'
- [Membership named to Belhar Confession panel](#)
- [Ratification of Amendment B is trailing](#)
- [PDA volunteer village near New Orleans closes](#)
- [Bios on members of Belhar committee released](#)
- [Notes about people](#)
- [Creature comforts](#): Louisiana congregation, complete with stuffed animals, welcomes volunteers to PDA village in Houma
- [Seminary news](#)
- [GA special committee to study civil union and Christian marriage to begin work](#)
- [Called to take a risk](#): Tentmaking minister stakes everything on church's future growth
- [Presbyterian Foundation reports 2008 mission contribution of \\$78 million](#)
- [Christian Reformed Church committee recommends adoption of the Belhar Confession](#)
- [Registration discount for Calvin Jubilee ends this month](#)
- [Pillows talk](#): Sunday School project provides comfort and transforms a church
- [Monday mornings with a mission](#): Olive Tree village gears up volunteers for a week in the Gulf
- [Ratification of Amendment B is still trailing](#)
- ['Check it with God'](#): Youth, adults explore God's call at inaugural 'Pathways' event
- [Eye of the hurricane](#): Renowned theologians discuss 'new ways of being church'
- [Turning things around](#): Project Homecoming helps rebuild homes in New Orleans
- [Committee on the Office of the General Assembly will hold its spring meeting in Louisville](#)
- ['The ties that bind us in Christ'](#): Minister's experience on the Educator Certification Council evokes 'the communion of saints'
- [Hope restored](#): Presbyterian Community Outreach rebuilds homes, restores faith
- [Orlando churches join to tackle homeless problem](#)
- [Comments sought on CCT membership status](#)
- [Homecoming](#): Contributing groups dedicate a rebuilt New Orleans house
- [\[OGA\] Committee on the Office of the General Assembly will hold its spring meeting in Louisville](#)
- [\[OGA\] GA special committee on Heidelberg Catechism is set to hold its first meeting](#)
- [\[GAC\] Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) General Assembly Council meets in Louisville](#)
- [\[GAC\] PC\(USA\) General Assembly Council leaders outline 2009 budget strategy](#)
- [GAC meets this week](#): Main business will be addressing \$9.9 million budget shortfall
- [Just because](#): Tampa Bay Presbytery's REACH Initiative leads churches 'outside ourselves'
- [\[GAC\] PC\(USA\) General Assembly Council Executive Committee recommends revised mission budget to General Assembly Council](#)
- [GAC staff leaders propose plan to meet \\$9.92 million budget shortfall](#)
- [Notes about people](#)
- [Ecumenical Advocacy Days focuses on climate change](#): 100 Presbyterians join 700 in Washington for education, advocacy
- ['The thing that unites all of us'](#): Seminarians get first-hand look at the connectional church
- [Massive flooding threatens Northern Plains](#)
- [Fast forward](#): Monthly fast deepens Maryland church's anti-hunger effort, discipleship
- [\[GAC\] The General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) approves revised 2009 mission budget](#)
- [Synod court rescinds San Francisco Presbytery vote on open lesbian's readiness for examination for ordination](#)
- [Waters continue to rise in the Red River Valley](#)
- [GAC closes \\$9.92 million 2009 mission budget gap](#)
- [Ghost Ranch could become separate corporation](#)
- [Look for God's new life forms amid today's chaos](#)
- [Ecumenical Advocacy Days focuses on "Enough for All Creation"](#)
- [Sheldon Jackson College to stop receiving Christmas Joy Offering funds](#)
- [Move on towards a nuclear weapon-free world, churches tell NATO](#)
- [COGA approves revisions to 2009-2010 budgets](#)
- [Lots of Hope](#): Presbyterian pastor preaches on despite ALS
- [PPC's 2008 sales exceed previous year's](#)
- [PC\(USA\)-related artisans group in Peru honored](#)

Synod School 2009



A place where you . . .

learn something new

experience hospitality  
and gracestretch your mind  
and your faithleave spiritually and  
personally renewedJuly 26–31, 2009  
Buena Vista University  
Storm Lake, Iowa

• • • • •

Discover Synod School!  
Go to [www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html) or phone  
1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.Building a  
Culture of Peace

## Input is Needed for Synod School Class

Centerville's First Presbyterian Church Pastor **Suzanne Gorhau**, needs your help for the Synod School class she is teaching this summer called *Creative Worship for Traditional Churches*.

She's gotten many of her best creative worship ideas from other pastors and worship leaders. If you've done something creative in worship, she would love to share it with the class.

Send your ideas to Suzanne at [frugalwoman@msn.com](mailto:frugalwoman@msn.com) or 641-216-3771.

## Synod of Lakes and Prairies Update

### GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

The Moderator of the PC (USA), The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, will be



hosted by [First Presbyterian Church](#) in Mount Pleasant, Ia., on September 26-27, 2009. The Presbytery of East Iowa is co-sponsoring this official

visit. The Rev. Reyes-Chow will be speaking on issues close to the heart of Presbyterians, e.g., Why is it important that we be Presbyterian and part of this worshipping community? What changes are ahead of us? He is also recommending a book to be read prior to his visit, [The Great Emergence](#).

Thank you Mt. Pleasant for extending an invitation to our Moderator. Let's demonstrate renowned Iowa hospitality by showing up in great numbers to meet Rev. Reyes-Chow and engage in conversation. To read more about our Moderator, go online to: [www.pcusa.org/gamoderator/](http://www.pcusa.org/gamoderator/).

## 2009 Synod School Speakers from the Des Moines Presbytery

This summer's Worship Leaders have ties to our Presbytery as well and are the **Rev. Burns and Lorraine Stanfield**. Burns is pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church in South Boston, and Lorraine, a physician in Boston, are regular Synod School participants. They, along with another couple from the Boston area will be leading the daily evening worship times. Other class leaders from our Presbytery include:

- **Kim Coulter** (Des Moines, Westminster) ..... *What are Web 1.0 and 2.0? The Computer Revolution and How to Keep Up with the Kids*
- **KayLynn Coulter** (Des Moines, Westminster) .... Senior High Youth Assistant
- **Rev. Mark Davis** (Clive, Heartland) ..... Senior High Youth Coordinator and *Intersection of Science and Religion*
- **Carol Ferrell** (Clive, Heartland) ..... Synod School Committee and Dean
- **Jennifer Giles** (Clive, Heartland) ..... *Basketweaving 101*
- **Rev. Suzanne Gorhau** (Centerville, First) ..... *Creative Worship for Traditional Churches*
- **Jim Hoffman** (Clive, Heartland) ..... *Achieving Personal Success*
- **Christine Hoffman** (Clive, Heartland) ..... Elementary Co-Coordinator
- **Rev. Shamaine Chambers King** ..... Senior High Youth Faculty (Windsor Heights, Windsor)
- **Dennis Klein** (Clive, Heartland) ..... *Intersection of Science and Religion*
- **Sara Lamb** (Winterset, First) ..... Junior High Coordinator
- **Martie Larsen, CLP** (Clive, Heartland) ..... Senior High Youth Faculty
- **Kathy Mahler** (Clive, Heartland) ..... *Hope on the Mountain*
- **Rev. Tim Maxa** (Sharpsburg & Lenox, United) ... *Ultimate Sports*
- **Derrick Ogden** (Clive, Heartland) ..... *Introduction to Figure Drawing*
- **Jodi Stanfield** (Des Moines) ..... *Yoga: Vacation Style*
- **Mac Stanfield** (Des Moines) ..... *One Nation Under (insert your deity here): Separation of Church and State in American History and Law*
- **Rev. Ken Stuber** (Des Moines, First) ..... *The Darkness and the Light*
- **Scott Valentine** (Clive, Heartland) ..... Senior High Youth Faculty
- **Anna Williams** (Clive, Heartland) ..... Senior High Youth Faculty

# Congregational Connection

## FEATURE ARTICLE IN THE DES MOINES REGISTER

**Ted Coppock, (DM, Westminster)** and a volunteer on the Social Ministries Task Force and the Personnel committees of the Presbytery was recently interviewed by Rehka Basu from the *Des Moines Register*. The article appears in the Wednesday, April 15 issue and [online](#).

## SUMMER CAMP MATERIALS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Through June, July and August our **Des Moines Presbytery's Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force** is offering various ecumenical camp ministries programs for Christians of all ages and church affiliations. The promotional Camp Brochure, Registration and Scholarship forms are online at: [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/resources.htm](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/resources.htm).

If the dates below don't fit your schedule, consider opportunities from one of the

two Presbyterian Camps in Iowa:

- Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji [www.presbycamp.org](http://www.presbycamp.org)
- Camp Wyoming [www.campwyoming.net/](http://www.campwyoming.net/)

## SEDER MEAL PROVED A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

God sent Moses to Pharaoh with the message, "Let my people go" from their bondage in Egypt. Then, God sent the plagues on Egypt, but when Pharaoh still refused to let the people go, God sent the angel of death to kill the firstborn of every family in Egypt. (Except death "passed over" the houses of the Hebrews, sparing their children.) That was the event that allowed the Hebrews to escape Pharaoh, and ever since they have celebrated Passover. It was this Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples on the night he was arrested, the Last Supper. On Maundy

Thursday over 100 members of the congregations comprising the **Two Rivers Regional Partnership** came to **First Presbyterian in Des Moines** to share in a "teaching" version of a Passover Seder meal, concluding with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

There was matzah, and matzah ball soup, baitzah, charoset, maror, and karpas. "Rabbi" **David Madsen** recited the Haggadah. A place was reserved for Elijah at each table. The dinner was prepared by Chef Tad DeFoe of **Highland Park Church**. Though it was a learning experience, truly God had been worshipped.



## Apply Now for SUMMIT

**SUMMIT (SUMmer MISSION Team)** is a summer internship through **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, for college-age young adults who want to work in the community and the church to make a difference in the world. SUMMIT provides participants with the opportunity to give of themselves, share their experiences with fellow team members, and gain valuable internship experience.

SUMMIT begins in late May or early June and concludes in early/mid-August. Team members work 20-25 hours per week for 10 weeks in the community in a mission setting, serve in the church, and complete group mission projects. Each team member receives a \$2,000 scholarship for participating in SUMMIT.

Applications are available in the church office, or online. A limited number of spots are available. Contact **Lynda Albaugh** at: 515-274-1534 or [lalbaugh@westpres.org](mailto:lalbaugh@westpres.org).

## Des Moines Presbytery 2009 Summer Camp Opportunities

S.P.L.A.T. 1 – Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola (ages 6-9)	\$180	June 3–5
S.P.L.A.T. 2 – Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola (ages 6-9)	\$180	June 7–9
People With a Disability Camp at Camp Hantesa, Boone (all ages)	\$285	June 21–27
Summer Friends Camp – Camp Hantesa, Boone & Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola (completed 2-3 grades)	\$180	July 22–25
Summer Fun Camp – Camp Hantesa, Boone & Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola (completed 4-8 grades)	\$310	July 19–25
Youth Leaders – Camp Hantesa, Boone & Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola (completed 9-12 grades and/or adults)	\$225	July 19–25
Summer Retreat – Camp Hantesa, Boone & Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola (completed 6-12 grades)	\$55	July 24-25
Synod School – Buena Vista University, Storm Lake (children accompanied by adults and/or families)	\$325+	July 26–31
S.P.L.A.T. 10 – Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola (ages 6-9)	\$180	August 2–4
S.P.L.A.T. 11 – Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola (ages 6-9)	\$180	August 9–11



## Come to Open House for New Memory Unit at Calvin Community

All are invited to attend an open house on Sunday, April 19, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Calvin Community for the new Memory Unit. The Memory Unit is a 14-room Assisted Living Memory Care Unit. It will provide a special place to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other related memory disorders. This new unit features secured doors and an enclosed garden.

No reservations needed. No program of dedication. Contact persons are: Director of Assisted Living **Kathy Shriner** at 515-633-2510 and Assisted Living Care Plan Coordinator **Melissa Schnucker (Clive, Heartland)** at 515-633-2657 or [econurse@aol.com](mailto:econurse@aol.com).

## Volunteer & Employment Opportunities

### Summer Youth Leaders, Presbytery of Des Moines, Urbandale, Ia.

*Summer Friends Camp*, sponsored by the **Presbytery of Des Moines Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force**, is looking for youth leaders the week of July 19-25, 2009 at the annual Boone/Indianola camp. These helper positions are volunteer youth leaders who've completed 9th- through 12th-grade and above. Camp registration is required and cost to attend camp is reduced because of the leader responsibilities. Applications and registration forms are online at: [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org).

### Secretary – First Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, Ia.

Part-time secretary is needed with computer knowledge to take worship attendance, produce weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. Call the church office at 515-262-5679 to talk with **Pastor Ken Stuber**. Or send resume with cover letter to 3100 Easton Blvd., Des Moines, IA 50317-3126.

### Communications Director – Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines, Ia.

Part-time communications director is needed approximately 25 hours of work per week. Responsibilities include developing and implementing a comprehensive

communications strategy for Plymouth UCC. This position consults with staff members, ministers, and boards to enhance their work with internal and external audiences and coordinates all communications of the church's overall messages. Bachelor's degree in communications or equivalent experience is required. Knowledge of technology with a strong written and oral communications skills is needed. A Christian background is desired. To apply, contact **Jennifer Hines**, Plymouth Church Director of Administration at 515-255-3149, ext. 19 or [jhines@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:jhines@plymouthchurch.com).

## Educate Yourself about Joining Hands

Members of Des Moines Presbytery tend to think EGYPT when Joining Hands is mentioned, but there are several Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) involved with several countries in this effort. Cameroon in West Africa is united with the Presbytery of Chicago and the Twin Cities. Christi Boyd, serving in Cameroon with her husband, Jeff, is the companionship facilitator for the network that has been developed there. She has facilitated a national network of mainstream churches, non-profit organizations and

grassroots groups to develop programs that include cooperative grain banks in northern Cameroon, a micro-credit organization for small business loans, and an program that is addressing issues of economic justice and environmental degradation involving oil, gas and mining companies. There are fascinating stories from all Joining Hands countries about people net-

working to provide relief from situations that impoverish life. Please go on line to [www.pcusa.org/joininghands](http://www.pcusa.org/joininghands) to find what is happening through these networks. **Editor's Note:** Our Presbytery's Joining Hands Web site has recently been updated with links to the *Education for All* campaign that our Presbytery is participating in. Go to: [www.desmoineswithegypt.org](http://www.desmoineswithegypt.org) to learn more or watch *The*



## Cool Congregations hold Interfaith Workshop

Approximately 200 congregations in Iowa are currently involved in working to reduce their carbon footprints. If you care about global warming, too, your congregation can be part of this exciting movement. Or maybe your congregation already has a group working toward the same goal. In the spirit of faith partnerships, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ and **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** are offering an interfaith workshop on Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Faith leaders and church members are invited to one of two workshops:

- **Cool Congregations\***  
Learn how to organize a meaningful new dimension to your stewardship program in which interested congregants make a faith-

based pledge to reduce their global warming emissions by taking energy efficient actions, often saving money in the process! Participants will calculate their carbon footprint, find ways to reduce it, and learn how to organize a “Cool Congregations” stewardship program in their congregation.

- **Green Team Networking**

At the same time, a networking workshop for congregations that have already sent people to a Cool Congregations workshop will be offered to establish a green team to address the problems of global warming. The intent of this session is to share our experiences, successes, and concerns and band together to present programs to our congregations and to the public.

The two groups will converge for the last part of the morning to enjoy a presentation, exhibits, and fellowship.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines. To register, go to <http://plymouthgreen.org>. For questions contact Registrar Lisa Kamphuis at [likamphuis@aol.com](mailto:likamphuis@aol.com) or call the Plymouth church office at 515-255-3149.

\*“Cool Congregations” is a program of the new Iowa Interfaith Power and Light, [www.iowaip.org](http://www.iowaip.org), which is one of 25 state initiatives whose goal is to educate faith communities about global warming and encourage them to take steps to solve the problem, both in their institutional buildings and in member households.

## Flooding Update

### NORTHERN PLAINS PRESBYTERY FLOODING TOLL

As of right now, they are still looking for volunteers in the Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn., area. Both cities are using one call center to organize at 701-476-4000. The call center will let groups know where they need to report. **The second crest of the Red River is projected to happen between April 18-22, 2009.** Contact the Des Moines Presbytery office if you are planning a work

team for we have PDA t-shirts and flood buckets available for use.

### MORE FLOOD RECOVERY IN CEDAR RAPIDS

There were 16 folks from **Southwest Regional Partnership** who worked in Cedar Rapids for at least one day during spring break. They stayed at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and ate their lunches at Central Presbyterian Church. They worked on four houses doing various tasks such as drywalling, tex-

turing, water-proofing, flooring, painting, pouring cement, staining and putting up trim, installing windows, and a variety of smaller tasks.

### GRANTS AVAILABLE TO DISASTER VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKERS

DoSomething.org has disaster grants available to youth working in disaster preparedness or emergency response. The grants are \$500 and will be given out each week this year. Find more information at: [www.dosomething.org/grants/disaster](http://www.dosomething.org/grants/disaster).



## Did the 2008 floods hit your Church?

The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance is looking for information on religious places damaged by the 2008 floods to help The Partners for Sacred Places, a company based out of Pennsylvania, [www.sacredplaces.org/](http://www.sacredplaces.org/).

This organization goes into communities after a disaster (offices set up in New Orleans and Galveston) to help fix up and rebuild churches and religious places. This is an important step in a communities recovery efforts and they are wanting to set up an office in Iowa, but we're missing an important detail – we're needing addresses and contacts for religious places that were damaged. The data compiled will be shared with the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), and with the Partners for Sacred Places so local churches are aware of the benefits that the Partners for Sacred Places can provide.

Send information on any damaged religious places along with a contact for that church to **Don Hampton (Indianola, Trinity United)** at 515-961-6808 or [dbhampton@att.net](mailto:dbhampton@att.net).

## Presbytery Youth Leaders are on Facebook!

*Have you discovered Facebook?*

*Over 40 members of the Des Moines Presbytery have! Facebook is a free site for staying in touch with friends and for networking with others who share common interests. A group now exists on Facebook for friends and members of the Presbytery of Des Moines and interested in Youth Ministry. The group is called "Presbyterian Youth Workers in Iowa". If you're not on Facebook, this might give you enough of a reason to join. If you have questions about how to use [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), ask a teen in your church or contact the groups organizer and our POINT Person Sara Lamb, 515-462-3261, or [yndsara@q.com](mailto:yndsara@q.com). **Note:** Communications Director Kim Coulter is leading a Synod School class this summer on using online social networks, contact her at 515-276-4991, or [pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org).*

## Personnel Committee Training Workshops

All congregations are invited to attend regional training workshop being offered by the Presbytery of Des Moines Personnel Committee. The **Rev. Bob Burnett**, committee moderator, is encouraging all church volunteers who serve on either the personnel committee or as session elders to attend this important

training in April and May, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Dates and locations are as follows:

**April 18** First Presbyterian Church in Newton


**April 25** First Presbyterian Church in Creston

**May 2** Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola

To make your reservation, call **Presbytery Office Manager Betty Dyer** at 515-276-4991 or e-mail her at:

[pbbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org)

so we can have enough materials for everyone.



**Psalms 90:17**

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands.*

Mark your calendars now for a Special Mission Project Weekend, on Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3 at Jericho Hill Christian Camp in Lucas, Iowa! It will be an awesome getaway weekend for mission work like building tables and a mini-golf course. And you'll be with your retreat friends to share in the joy of helping others!

Registration information is available now online at: [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/mission.htm](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/mission.htm).

Contact Coordinator Bonnie Nesler, (Hartford, Community United) for all the details! We need an early registration count by April 10 in order to arrange for the construction projects at the camp. Contact Bonnie at: (home) 515-889-0147 or (church) 515-889-3426 or [hfd548@msn.com](mailto:hfd548@msn.com).

**To Do List:**

- **ASAP:** Let Bonnie Nesler know how many will come by April 10. The number of volunteers/kids will determine what projects will be done.
- **Start packing:** Bring old clothes to work in and one set of nice clothes for church worship at the First Presbyterian Church in Lucas.

May 1-3


**Jericho Hills Camp**

900 Knotts First Street  
Lucas, IA 50151  
[www.freshworks.com/derichohills](http://www.freshworks.com/derichohills)

**Work Weekend**  
**Start time is:**  
**7 PM, Friday to 4 PM, Sunday**

Presbytery of Des Moines  
2400 - 86th Street, Suite 20  
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306

Phone: 515-276-4991  
Fax: 515-276-7596  
E-mail:  
[pbbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org)  
Web site:  
[www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org)



## Presbytery Happenings

### ORDER YOUR PLANNING CALENDARS TODAY!

It's time to order PC(USA)'s 2009-2010 Planning Calendars. To order yours, call or e-mail **Presbytery Office Manager Betty Dyer** at 515-276-4991 or [pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org). **Deadline to participate in this bulk order is May 1, 2009.** The calendars can be picked up at the May 19 Presbytery Stated Meeting at the

### Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

Also, the *Presbytery of Des Moines Directory* will be available at the May meeting.

### NEW INQUIRERS BEGIN

A member of the United Trinity Parish in LeRoy and Humeston, **Diane Olson Schroeder**, hearing the call of the Lord, has accepted appointment as Lay Speaker in the Corydon UMC Parish beginning June 2009. She

will attend licensing school this summer in Dubuque and then enroll in St. Paul Theological Seminary (Kansas City) in the Fall. God's blessings to you during your schooling.

Also, **Chad Schwickerath**, a member of the Ankeny Presbyterian Church has been approved by the Session to be an inquirer in our Presbytery of Des Moines. Welcome aboard Chad!

## Prayers and Concerns

### Professional Care and Development Moderator

**Leland Smith (Newton, First)** reported that his son Doug Smith, a biker, was hit by a truck pulling an anhydrous tank Saturday, April 11. David is recovering at Methodist Hospital with a fractured skull and a broken pelvis.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines Parish Associate the Rev. Bill and Dr. Tracy Ekhardt** are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Miles Stephen. They also have three children (Asher, Indigo, Liam) who welcome brother Miles!

Prayers are needed for family and friends in El Salvador of a young boy, Gabriel, who passed away March 30 from leukemia. The **honorably retired Rev. Bob Cook** is helping counsel the family through this tragic time.

Earlier in March, our Presbytery's **Missionary Co-work to El Salvador Kathy Mahler** requested prayers for a young boy in Berlin. Cecilia's son, Marvin, is now doing much better after the pickup truck accident. Thanks to everyone for their prayers.

The **First United Presbyterian Church in Atlantic** reported that Beth Troy, daughter of the **Rev. Don & Emily Seeger**, will be ordained Sunday, April 19, by the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. It will be a family affair: her mom, **Emily**, made 10 stoles for the participants; her dad, **Don**, will be preaching; her aunt, Emily's sister, will have a prayer; and her sister, Mary, will also be participating. Beth is a member of the Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Ky., that burned in January. The ordination will take place in the Catholic church where the

congregation has been worshipping. The priest of that congregation will also have a part in the service – ecumenical all the way!

**Margaret Welsh (Clive, Heartland)** is recovering from knee surgery she had in March. Margaret is a leader in the Presbyterian Women's group both at the Presbytery and national levels.

The **First Presbyterian Church in Grimes' Pastor Lynn Williams** reported that his son, Mike, has finished his studies and passed his Ordination Exams to join the United Church of Christ in Delaware. He was ordained Sunday, March 15.

The honorably retired **Rev. John Beran** was in Zibawe, Africa for most of January through March.

The honorably retired **Rev. Dale O'Connell** is recovering from rotator cuff surgery he had in February.

## Mark your Calendars for Congregational Leadership Workshop

On Sunday afternoon, October 18, and all day Monday, October 19, 2009, church leaders are invited to attend this conference at



a Des Moines location to be determined.

Presenter is: **The Rev.**

**Dr. Peter Steinke**, a Lutheran pastor from Austin, Texas. He has served as a parish pastor for 15 years; a therapist for clergy for 14 years; and as an internationally known church consultant for 10 years. He is the author of the best selling books:

- *How Your Church Family Works*
- *Healthy Congregations*
- *Congregational Leadership in anxious Times: Being Calm and Courageous No Matter What*

Viewing churches as living, breathing, organisms, Dr. Steinke evaluates the health of a congregation using the family systems theory.

The Des Moines Presbytery's **Professional Care and Development Committee** is sponsoring the event. Cost is to be determined.

Presbytery of Des Moines

Phone: 515-276-4991

Fax: 515-276-7596

E-mail: [pbcommunication@](mailto:pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org)

[presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://presbyteryofdesmoines.org)

Editor: Kim Coulter

General Presbyter:

Rev. Philip W. Barrett

Office Manager: Betty Dyer

Coordinator of Sudanese Ministries:

Rev. Goanar J. Chol

Hunger Action Enabler:

Nancy Lister-Settle

Mission Co-Worker to El Salvador:

Kathy Mahler

Mission Co-Worker to Egypt:

Denise England

The Wider Circle *is published monthly by the Presbytery of Des Moines, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). To learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines, contact the office or go online to [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org). Copy deadline is the last day of the month. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word or compatible format; digital images and photos are both acceptable.*

## Land Leads to Water – You Can Help!

San Lorenzo, a tiny canton on the mountainside of Berlin, El Salvador, is in need of help to raise funds to purchase land.

The community of 60 families is trying to bring water into their community. Today, members of the community must walk long distances to a nearby river in order to collect their daily usage of water for cooking, drinking, cleaning, and laundry. This job usually falls to the young daughters in the family – sometimes this job makes it impossible for these girls to attend school due to the 2-hour round-trip journey several times a day. Imagine,

not being able to go to your faucet in order to get a drink of water.

Purchasing this plot of land will enable the community to place a water storage tank which will ultimately deliver water to each home, allowing them to stop their daily journey in search of water.



This community is not partnered with a sister-parish from Iowa and with its limited financial resources needs help in order to make their dream come true. The cost of purchasing the land is \$1,200. If you or someone you know wishes to help financially, you can send a check payable to the Presbytery of Des Moines. Please mark the memo line with "San Lorenzo".

If you have questions, contact Compañeros Moderator Joe Pirtle at 515-250-5857 or at [jpirtle13@hotmail.com](mailto:jpirtle13@hotmail.com). Together we can make a difference!

**PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**  
2400 - 86th Street, Suite 20  
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org)