



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

Of Special Interest

Egypt Delegation Needed

Call for Congregation CE Awards

Banners of Love Available

Contents

Delegation to Egypt	1
Phil's Corner	1
Events Calendar	2
Call for CE Awards	3
Centering Prayer Classes	3
Congregation Connect	4
Prayer Concerns	4
Employment Opportunities	4
Banner Projects	5
Vocation Sunday	5
PC(USA) Update	6
Presbytery Happenings	6
Sudanese Update	7
National PUP Report	7
Hymn Contest	7
DMARC Brunch	8

Egypt Delegation Members Needed

The Presbytery of Des Moines' Joining Hands Against Hunger coordinating team is organizing a delegation to Egypt. The Nov. 3-13, 2005 trip will be timed with the 150th anniversary celebration of the Presbyterian Church (Coptic Evangelical Church) in Egypt.

The delegation will visit

many of the partnership organizations that work with the poor and hungry in Egypt – from Alexandria to Cairo to Minya and El Fashn in Upper Egypt – all are powerful witnesses for neighbors helping neighbors.

Please pass the word to others in your circle! Cost is approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000. Financial

assistance is available. Commitments for the trip must be made by Aug. 15 (in order to get reservations made for travel as well as arrangements in Egypt).

If you have questions, contact Hunger Action Enabler Nancy Lister-Settle, at 515-992-3639 or neitherthecat@aol.com.

Phil's Corner



While it seems to be winding down all too quickly, there is still some summer left before fall activities appear and our schedules change once again. In the meantime, we still seek to find some time away for rest and refreshment. One of the problems with getting away is that we can miss something important while we're gone. Do we miss times with other folks in our church families, especially worship?

In his recent note to the congregation in its newsletter, Dennis Morey, the Pastor of the Oskaloosa Church, talks about this very thing. "When God's Spirit is among us those 'ordinary' Sundays disappear. Something wonderful is planned for each worship service. Of course the pastor, and the organist, and the special music all have a plan, but it is God's plan for worship that makes it meaningful to our hearts. It is because of God's presence that we leave eager to serve God's kingdom and learn more about knowing God. When

God is present, we don't want to miss."

Dennis goes on to remind us of what our *Directory for Worship* says: "In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world." (W-1.1001)

Continued on page 3



For more than twenty years the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program has been helping the church grow in its witness and commitment to peacemaking. A variety of resources, events and programs have been developed to assist churches responding to the gospel calling to "Seek peace and pursue it." For more information go to: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering/resources.htm>.

Events Calendar

2005

Aug. 17 – Presbytery Meeting Packet Deadline

Aug. 8-14 – 2005 *Multicultural Church Institute*, sponsored by Ghost Ranch in Albiqiu, N.M., the Office of Evangelism and Racial/Cultural Diversity, and the Office of Racial Justice and Advocacy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). To register, visit www.ghostranch.org or call 505-685-4333.

Aug. 20 – Presbytery Meeting, Mount Ayr Baptist/Presbyterian Church

Aug. 26-27 – *Receiving Permission: An Asset Based Approach to Congregational Stewardship* at Westminster Woods, Lexington, Neb. David McCreath is the facilitator and the event is sponsored by the Presbytery of Central Nebraska.

Sept. 9-10 – *Islam in America: Finding Common Ground*, Drake University Campus, hosted by Iowa Sister States and Drake University's Center for Global Citizenship. Speakers: Dr. Aminah McCloud, Dr. Jane Smith, and Dr. Scott Alexander. Registration deadline is Aug. 25. Cost is \$20, includes lunch on Saturday. For more info go

to <http://www.iowasisterstates.org/>.

Sept. 17 – Two Rivers Fall Bus Trip, 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Contact Tom or Marcella Phillips

Sept. 22-25 – *Regional 2005 APA Conference*, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Oct. 1-8 – *Pastor Familiarization Tour to Jordan*. Organized by Arthur W. Murphy, a member of National Capital Presbytery.

Oct. 3-6 – *The Seven Percent Event: Come Together*, Biennial Conference for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are under the age of 40, San Francisco, Calif. Go to: www.pcusa.org/youngadult/sevenpercent/sevenpercent.htm-2003.

Oct. 3-Nov. 14 – Fall Online Courses begin, provided by the Center for Theology and Land. Topics include: Seen and Heard - Foundations for Youth and Family Ministry; Understanding Loss and Grief; Discovering Hope - Best Practices for Building Vitality in Rural Congregations.

Oct. 6 – Coordinating Council Meeting, Des Moines

Oct. 13 – *Congregational Revitalization and Worship*, featuring Ed Varnum at the Rickman Center, Jefferson City, Mo. Go to: www.msr-crm.org.

Oct. 20-22 – *From Everywhere to Everyone: The New Global Mission*, a mission conference for Presbyterians at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Ga. www.globalmissionconference2005.com

Oct. 23 – Conversation with Dr. Jane Smith, Professor of Islamic Studies and Co-Director of the Duncan Black Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations of Hartford Theological Seminary, held at the Old Brick Church in Iowa City.

Nov. 4-6 – The Tentmakers Conference at St. Mary of the Lake Conference Center at Mundelein, Illinois.

Nov. 5-7 – *A Flame in our Hearts, A Fire in our Bones* - A celebration of Women's Ordination and Leadership in the PC(USA), Chicago.

Nov. 8 – Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Corning

Congregational Call for CE Awards

Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education each year awards congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for outstanding programs in early childhood education, excellence in Christian education, effective youth ministry and outreach and social concern.

These four congregation awards are presented at the annual Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference (APCE). Since 1991, 55 churches in 24 states have received the awards. Each award carried a \$1,000 contribution to assist the congregations in their ministries.

Churches wishing to apply for one of the Union-PSCE Congregation Awards, call April Swofford for an application at 804-254-8047 or 800-299-2990, ext. 747; or aswofford@union-psce.edu. The deadline for the 2006 awards is Nov. 1, 2005.

Phil's Corner continued

This is what we understand is to happen in worship. We know God promises to be present. When we recognize and respond to this presence, something wonderful happens. Does this happen in your congregation? Do you not want to miss worship? Such feelings speak volumes about your relationship with

God and your church family.

I hope that your times away are restful and renewing. I hope that you miss being away from your congregation and other folks with whom you regularly connect. And I hope that renewal and transformation occur in ways that bring a new

excitement into your lives. When it does, don't forget to share this good news with someone else. It's too good to keep a secret!

I look forward to times of renewal and transformation as we all seek to serve God together.

Peace, Phil

Classes Offered on Centering Prayer

In our culture, most of us are uncomfortable with silence. Yet, Father Thomas Keating tells us that "Silence is God's first language — everything else is a poor translation."

A Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop, designed to present this unique method of silent prayer, will be held Saturday, Aug. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Presenter Connie Lee Whalen, was commissioned and trained by the

Contemplative Outreach organization, founded by Keating in 1984 to help persons of faith to establish an on-going contemplative prayer practice.

The workshop is sponsored by the Spiritual Journey Service Team of the Des Moines Steering Committee of Contemplative Outreach and will be held in the Parish Hall at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1020 – 24th Street, West Des

Moines. Cost is \$25.00. Bring a sack lunch.

Also, six follow-up sessions will be held to reinforce the practice: Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., Aug. 31 – Oct. 5.

To register, contact St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Des Moines at 515-225-2020 or sttimsepis@msn.com **before August 20.**





One Door, Many Opportunities

Need a youth director, music director, administrative assistant, other non-installed staff or volunteers?

Search for and post both volunteer and paid positions, local and international, through the PC (U.S.A.) One Door webpage:

[http://onedoor.pcusa.org/\(mohxedfg1pc2j5450skiusb1\)/user/pages/index.aspx](http://onedoor.pcusa.org/(mohxedfg1pc2j5450skiusb1)/user/pages/index.aspx)

Congregational Connection

Presbytery congregations having a reason to celebrate:

- The **Newton First Presbyterian Church** will celebrate its 150th anniversary in August.
- **Barbara Tooker Todd**, of **Hartford Community United Presbyterian Church**, has taken a

position as interim pastor at New Horizon Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs. She and her husband, **Roger Todd**, who recently retired from **Guthrie Center Presbyteryan Church** will reside in Council Bluffs.

- Welcome to **Rev. Kirsten Klepfer** who was called

July 24 as pastor at the **First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell**.

- Welcome to **Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy** who was called Aug. 7 as associate pastor at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Rev. Ken MacLeod, former Des Moines Presbytery

pastor, passed away, Sunday, July 10. Ken served the Knoxville Church from October 1971, to December 1997. Condolences can be

sent to Ken's wife, Ruth, and their two children Philip and Cheryl at: 128 North 6th Avenue, Sheldon, Iowa 51201

Employment Opportunities

Part-time Youth Director – If interested, contact Rev. Lynn Williams, First Presbyterian Church, Grimes, Iowa, grimespres@hotmail.com or 515-986-3720.

Part-time Choir Director – For a job description, contact Nicole at 515-965-3818 or Joyce at joycerash@hotmail.com, Union Park Presbyterian, Des Moines, Iowa.

Pastor – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Clarinda, Iowa.

Racial/Ethnic Scholarships Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Choir Accompanist and Part-time Nursery Care Coordinator

If interested one of these two positions, contact Rev. Duane Miller, Ankeny Presbyterian Church, Ankeny, Iowa, 515-964-0264.

Part-time Choir Director – If interested, contact Don Seeger, First United Presbyterian Church, Atlantic, Iowa, atpcusa@metc.net or 712-243-2195.

Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Development – Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy

Nominees for three Board of Trustees – Presbyterian Foundation

AmeriCorps volunteers – Habitat for Humanity of Iowa

Associate Executive Presbyter – Presbytery of New Brunswick

For more information about these positions, contact the Presbytery of Des Moines office.

Chariton Shares Good News with Banners

Are your sanctuary walls bare... and boring? Would you like to add color to your worship space... and share the Good News at the same time? Then, the *Good News Banner* women at **First Presbyterian Church in Chariton** would like to offer you their services.

The banner ministry was started in 2005, and they have already made banners for a few churches in the presbytery. Now they would like to expand the ministry!

If you are interested in having banners in your

sanctuary, fellowship hall, or classroom, please call **Sue Baer** at 641-774-2656 or the **Rev. Denise Group** at 641-774-2436, and let them know what you need. Banners are made for all occasions, including the liturgical year.



For Presbyterians, vocation means using the talents we have been given to serve others as preachers, teachers, healers, helpers, practitioners and performers.

Christian Vocation Sunday, Sept. 4, 2005, is the day we celebrate these gifts and their use in serving God's people.

Download free online the bulletin insert at

<http://www.pcusa.org/>

[prep4min/pdf/Christian](http://www.pcusa.org/prep4min/pdf/Christian)

[vocation.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/vocation.pdf). *It is taken from*

This Call's For You – a Christian Vocation Workbook; 206 pages of great ideas for all ages.

Order the book at The

Presbyterian Marketplace,

[www.pcusa.org/marketplace,](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace)

item # 23293001.



Banners of love made by the Good News Banner women of the Chariton First Presbyterian Church.

National Banner Project for Ordained Women

A patchwork of Presbyterian women's history is being celebrated this year and next, and one PC(USA) pastor is using her quilting skills to stitch it all together. The Rev. Susan Barnes, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Baker City, Ore., is making a quilted banner to mark the 2005-2006 PC(USA) anniversaries of women's first ordinations - as deacons in 1906, as elders in 1930

and as ministers of Word and Sacrament in 1956. Barnes was inspired to do something to celebrate the 100th, 75th and 50th anniversaries after attending a conference of the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen. Barnes plans to combine thousands of donated 2-by-2-inch fabric squares into a banner to take to

the General Assembly in summer 2006. She is asking each PC(USA) church to send her two fabric squares - for their first woman elder and first woman deacon - and asking every PC(USA) clergywoman to send a square. The squares should be sent before Dec. 31 to Susan Barnes, 3430 9th Dr., Baker City, Ore., 97814.

BOP Medical Dues to Stay the Same

The Board of Pensions of the PC(USA), has voted not to increase Medical Plan dues for participating church workers in 2006. Due to adjustments made in recent years and better-than-expected claims results for 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, next year will be the first since 2001 in which churches have not faced a dues increase. To learn more about the medical plan, the Federal drug benefit and the seminary debt program go to:

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2005/05381.htm>.

PC(USA) Update

PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

William J. Carl III has been named President of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Carl has served as the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas, since 1983. He succeeds Sam Calian, who retired.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS REMINDER

▪ **First**, a reminder that canceled checks cannot be used to substantiate individual cash contributions of \$250 or more. The church must provide a written receipt that, among other things,

indicates whether or not the donor received goods or services for the contribution, and if so, what the value of the goods or services was. If none were received, an indication of only having received "intangible religious benefits" should be noted.

- **Second**, the value of personal services is not deductible as a charitable contribution. For example, if people go on a mission project, the value of their labor is not tax deductible, but unreimbursed travel

expenses such as meals, housing and transportation involved in participating in the project are deductible.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN PRESBYTERIAN SERVICE CENTER

This center is an outreach of the Hugh O'Neill Memorial Presbyterian Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ministry to people over 60-years-old, many homeless, is the focus of the Center. If you are interested in the project and may be providing some financial assistance, contact the presbytery office for more information.

Presbytery Happenings

MARY LOU BRILES, PARK AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN DES MOINES, recently received scholarship assistance for attending Synod School. This assistance was sponsored by the Two Rivers Regional Partnership budget, which gets its funding from the Presbytery of Des Moines. Mary Lou wrote to us: "Thank you so much for the \$25 scholarship to Synod School. This is my first time and I am excited to study, worship and be in fellowship with many Presbyterians." Another example of your General Mission dollars at work.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN OTTUMWA, is holding a Mission Fair, Aug. 28 at 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fair will promote mission work available for churches in the presbytery. Service is at 9:30 a.m. with a brunch following at 11 a.m. For more information contact **Rev. Sue Babovec** at 641-682-2300 or fpcottum@lisco.com.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LEROY, is looking to purchase pews in good condition. If you are remodeling or have pews for sale, call **Amanda Wetterling** at 641-877-4641.

THE PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES OFFICE

is giving away the following items free:

- Brown, metal office desk with a typewriter return
- Typewriter chair
- Gray, metal 4-drawer filing cabinet
- A set (27 Volumes) of *Resources for Christian Counseling* Edited by Gary R. Collins
- *Seasons of the Spirit: Pentecost 2*, Congregational Life resources for Christian Education programs

Contact Office Manager Jennifer Hines, 515-276-4991 or pbymdesmoines@qwest.net

Sudanese Ministries Update

Sudanese in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) were delighted to witness the ordination of their first Sudanese ever to be Ordained as Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Rev. Danyal Joseph

Bilad was ordained Aug. 6, in Sioux Falls, S.D. The South Dakota Presbytery has been working through its commission led by the

Rev. Jennifer Swear, Moderator of the Commission for Sudanese Churches and Fellowships in PC(USA). Rev. Goanar Chol, Coordinator of Sudanese Ministries for our presbytery is a corresponding member of the commission.

This is very exciting for the PC(USA), which has been working very hard to welcome and include

Sudanese in the church.

As the Coordinator of Sudanese Ministries in the Presbytery of Des Moines, I am encouraging members of our presbytery to join South Dakota in welcoming Rev. Bilad and to celebrate his success. (It was our presbytery that started the Sudanese Ministry in the Midwest.)

*God Bless you all –
Rev. Goanar Chol,*



Christmas in July?

The presbytery office is looking for a church to host our annual Christmas luncheon in December. The Presbytery will pay the host church to provide the meal, so this would be a great fundraiser for your congregation! We would need a facility that can hold up to 100 people and a group of volunteers to cook and serve the lunch. If your congregation is interested please contact Office Manager, Jennifer Hines, at 515-276-4991 or

pbydesmoines@qwest.net

to make arrangements.

PC(USA) Task Force Releases Drafts of PUP Report

On July 19, the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church (TTF) released the outline of its final report and draft texts of three of its four sections. Notably missing was the fourth and concluding section - the TTF's recommendations. They will be released

during the group's Aug. 24-25 meeting, when the 20-member group will approve the final version of its report, which is to be presented to next summer's 217th General Assembly in Birmingham, AL. The TTF was authorized by the 2001 General Assembly "to lead

the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in spiritual discernment of our Christian identity in and for the 21st century." Specifically, the group was instructed to address issues of Christology, Biblical authority and interpretation, ordination standards and power.

Hymn-Contest Sponsors Seek Entries

by Jerry L. Van Marter

LOUISVILLE - Macalester Plymouth United Church and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area are seeking entries for their 10th international contest for English-language hymn writers.

The progressive congregation, which is affiliated with both the PC(USA) and the United Church of Christ, is "looking

for new texts that call the church and its people to greater awareness of the plight of the homeless and to the need for affordable housing for all people."

There is an entry fee of \$3 per hymn. The winner will receive \$500. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 31. The winning hymn will be announced by Feb. 28, 2006.

For details go online to:

http://www.ptcaweb.org/RESOURCES/cong_events.htm
[#stpmacplymouth10thhymncontest12-31-05](https://twitter.com/stpmacplymouth10thhymncontest12-31-05)

Entries and correspondence should be sent to Hymn Contest, Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul, Minn. 55105 or to office@macalester-plymouth.org.

**Presbytery of Des Moines
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

2400 86th St., Suite 20
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306

Phone: 515-276-4991

Fax: 515-276-7596

E-mail:
pbcommunication@qwest.net

Editor: Kim Coulter

The Wider Circle is published monthly by the Presbytery of Des Moines, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). To view online or learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines, contact the office.

Copy deadlines for The Wider Circle is the last day of the month. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word or compatible format; digital images and photos are both acceptable.

**PREBYTERY OF DES MOINES
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**
2400 86TH STREET, SUITE 20
URBANDALE, IA 50322-4306

DMARC Celebrates 11 Years

The Des Moines Area Religious Council invites you to the 11th Annual Interfaith Brunch, Aug. 28, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 924 Polk Blvd. in Des Moines.

Enjoy a kosher brunch and interfaith fellowship that aims

to raise funds for DMARC's interfaith community outreach efforts. Tours of the synagogue will be available.

Advanced tickets are \$5 for adults, \$6 at the door and can be purchased from your church office or by calling

DMARC at 515-277-6969. Children 6 years and under are free.

A shuttle service will be available at Roosevelt High School off Chamberlain Dr. Call DMARC if you are interested in volunteering.

About the Presbytery of Des Moines

Located in the heart of Iowa, the Presbytery of Des Moines spans the state from Sigourney in the east to Atlantic in the west, and from Perry south to the Iowa-Missouri border.

Rolling hills, rich farmland, welcoming small towns and bustling cities define the region, known nationwide for its extensive agribusiness and insurance industries, quality education, and honest, hard-

working residents. Concerts, museums, sporting events, bike trails, and more than a dozen institutions of higher learning all serve to enhance the quality of life in south central Iowa.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org
