

# The Wider Circle

Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / December 2005 Vol. 1, Issue 7



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

## Of Special Interest

JHAH Egypt Delegation Returns

Over 250 Sudanese Visit  
Des Moines

2006 Presbytery Holidays and  
Stated Meetings Announced

## Contents

JHAH Egypt Delegation	1
Phil's Corner	1
Attend East Iowa Faith Enrichment Academy	2
Events Calendar	2
PC(USA) Update	3
GA Quilt Squares Needed	3
ICIU Workshop Special	4
Congregation Connect	4
Prayer Concerns	4
Employment Opportunities	4
Over 250 Sudanese Visit Des Moines	5
New Office Manager	5
2006 Transformation Conference Set	7
Presbytery Happenings	6
2006 Presbytery Calendar	7
Synod Office Moves	7
Park Avenue Advent Journey Begins	8

## JHAH Delegation Returns From Egypt

By Margaret McGill

The *Joining Hands Against Hunger* (JHAH) delegation from the Des Moines Presbytery arrived in Egypt early morning on Nov. 5. The streets were crowded because of Ramadan, the month in the Muslim calendar when people fast during daytime and eat at night. We were invited to the home of Rabat and her family for a great feast. They were gracious and generous—in fact, great hospitality was the tone of our whole trip.

*continued on page 7*



*Egypt delegation members (standing, left to right): Denise England, Urbandale; Nancy Lister-Settle, Dallas Center; David Best, Brayton; Maria Zagar, Perry; (seated, left to right), Margaret Magill, Lewis; Elizabeth Smith, Des Moines; Ann Turnbull, Brainerd, Minn.; and Dorothy Turnbull, Pasadena, Calif.*

## Phil's Corner



By now we are in the middle of Advent. Wasn't Thanksgiving just last week? While we are busily preparing for what follows Advent, all the activities and involvements seem to make time pass very quickly. I know it is a time in which we find it tough to slow down, but I have a feeling that we all need to do exactly that. How can we prepare the way if we're too busy looking to the end of the observance?

How can we prepare our hearts if we are tied up in buying, wrapping, and writing? How can we anticipate His birthday when we are busy anticipating departures, visits and parties? It is so easy to get caught up in activities, church ones included, plans and other busy-ness of the season that we are not able to slow down long enough for Christ to get a word in. I hope that all of us will make time for the real reason for all our activity

to speak to us, and for us to listen. When I'm able to do so (and I'm no better than anyone else at this) the reward and peace of Christ's presence is an overwhelming time of grace. May some of this grace-full time come to you during the rest of this Advent season.

All of us here in the Presbytery Office are grateful for each of you, the joy you bring to us and the support you give. We pray that the Advent and Christmas season

*continued on page 5*

## Attend Neighboring Presbytery's 2006 Faith Enrichment Academy

*The Presbytery of East Iowa has begun a new "Faith Enrichment Academy" for 2006. Registration deadline is the first Monday of the new trimester (in 2006, those dates will be Jan. 2, April 3 and Sept. 4). Each course is 12 hours in length and costs \$35. Call the Presbytery of East Iowa office at 319-354-9220 for a brochure or to sign up. For details of course descriptions, dates, times and locations, contact Rev. Dr. Scott Alan Nesbitt, Ainsworth Community Church, P.O. Box 40, 322 Washington St., Ainsworth, IA 52201, 319-657-3020, [acc@iowatelecom.net](mailto:acc@iowatelecom.net).*

## Events Calendar

### **2005**

**Dec. 15** – Coordinating Council Meeting, Des Moines

**Dec. 15** – Applications are due for the *Small Church Clergy Conference*, June 21-29, 2006 in Alexandria Va., All expenses paid. Sponsored by Virginia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifetime Theological Education.

**Dec. 23-30 – Christmas Holiday through Jan. 2**

### **2006**

**Jan. 2 – New Year's Day Holiday**

**Jan. 13-15** – Theology, International Law, and Torture: A Conference on Human Rights and Religious Commitment in Princeton, N.J. Sponsored by Church Folks for a Better America. For more information call 609-924-5022.

**Jan. 15-17** – Synod of Lakes and Prairies Meeting

**Jan. 20 – PerCapita Due**

**Jan. 20-27** – Compañeros El Salvador Delegation

**Jan. 21 – Presbytery Meeting**, Windsor Presbyterian Church, Windsor Heights

**Jan. 27-Feb. 3** – El Salvador Delegation from Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive.

**Feb. 1-4** – *Association of Presbyterian Church Educator's Conference*, St. Louis, Mo. More than 1,000 educators, pastors, middle-governing body and national staff representing four denominations from North America will participate with key leaders who carry out various educational tasks in PC(USA) congregations, as well as regional, national and ecumenical agencies. More information is available at [APCenet.org](http://APCenet.org).

**March 5-7** – Annual Rural Ministry Conference, *Living With Hope in an Age of Fear*, Dubuque, Iowa, [www.ruralministry.com](http://www.ruralministry.com).

**March 10-13** – Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. Go to [www.advocacydays.org/](http://www.advocacydays.org/) for details.

**March 13-15** – The 2006 Stewardship Network Meeting, Hampton Inn, Louisville, Ky. Keynote speaker is Dr. Laura Mendenhall, President, Columbia Theological Seminary.

**March 20-24** – *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders*, sponsored by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Camp Calvin Crest in Fremont, Neb. Leadership provided by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. All presbyteries and their church leaders in the Synod

are invited to this event. Contact Erin Dalian, LMPC Assistant for Communications, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, 101 W. 22nd St., Suite 206, Lombard, Ill. 60148, 630 627-0507, [www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

**March 22-24** – *Exploring a Call to Ministry*, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Overnight accommodations are free. For details, e-mail [udtsadms@dbq.edu](mailto:udtsadms@dbq.edu) or visit online: <http://udts.dbq.edu/prospective/exploring.htm>.

**April 3** – *Faith Enrichment Academy*, registration deadline for first trimester (see article on left hand column of this page).

**April 8-16** – *Congressional Accompaniment Program*, a tour of Israel and Palestine. Sponsored by the East Iowa Presbytery, call 319-354-7877 for details.

**April 14** – **Good Friday Holiday**

**April 22** – *The Core*, by Youth Specialties, Des Moines, Iowa, Sponsored by Group Publishing, <http://events.grouppublishing.com/public/index.cfm?action=chooselocation&intanceid=19&state=IA>.

**April 24-28** – 28th Annual Seminar on Local Church History, at Montreat, NC.

## Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Update

### BOP 'SMOOTHES OUT' APPORTIONMENTS

By Jerry L. Van Marter

PHILADELPHIA - The PC (USA) Board of Pensions (BOP) has adopted a new formula for calculating "experience apportionments," the periodic increases in pensions and pension credits for participants in its retirement plan.

Experience apportionments are percentage increases in the pensions of retired plan members and the pension credits of active members. Historically, they have been calculated annually on the basis of the BOP's pension fund reserves and that year's investment performance.

Effective Jan. 1, the new formula uses a "smoothed" calculation to spread out apportionments and eliminate dramatic fluctuations that have characterized recent apportionments.

For instance, the apportionment for 1994 was 3%, but in 1995 jumped to 8%. In 1997, it was 11%, but dropped to 10% for 1998 and 9% for 1999. When the bottom dropped out of the stock market, it plummeted to 3% for 2000 and zero in 2001 and 2002.

"Wouldn't it be nice," said Donald R. Fleischer, chair of the task force that designed the new formula, "to spread

out benefits over more years, to create some generational equity?"

The new policy will eliminate "the higher highs and lower lows" in favor of a more consistent pattern of apportionments, he said.

Calculations by the board's actuaries indicate that apportionments won't be affected much by the new policy. If it had been in use over the past 15 years, apportionments would have averaged 3.3%; the actual average was 3%. Projections for the next 15 years show a 3.5% average using the old formula and a 3.6% average for the new one.

The goals of the new policy, Fleischer said, are to maintain the fully funded status of the pension plan, keep pensions in line with inflation and be fairer to all members over the long haul.

### NEW DRUG PLAN DRIVES DOWN RATES

Medicare's new prescription drug benefit is driving down subscription rates in two BOP programs. The board voted to reduce the monthly Medicare Supplement dues for regular plan members from \$194 to \$174, effective Jan. 1. Prescription drugs account for about 80% of Medicare Supplement costs.

The board also reduced monthly subscription rates

for Medicare Supplement participants in the Affiliated Benefits Program from \$264 to \$244.

In other recent actions, the BOP:

- Approved an adoption-assistance program that provides \$3,000 per child to families for adoption-related expenses, effective Jan. 1. Program money will come from the "Relief of Conscience" fund, which sets aside dues of members conscientiously opposed to abortion;
- Approved a 2005 Christmas Gift of \$250 for every single person and \$500 for every married couple receiving BOP income supplements. The gifts will go to 208 single persons and 86 couples.
- Increased the maximum effective salary for calculation of disability benefits and the Lump Sum Death Benefit for active members from \$70,000 to \$90,000.
- Raised the maximum income levels for Income Supplement recipients for 2006 from \$23,760 to \$24,120 for single persons and retained the level for married couples at \$28,920.
- Increased the Education Benefit from \$6,000 to \$9,000 per year.



## Squares Needed for Quilted Banner at GA

*Pastor Susan Barnes, First Presbyterian Church, Baker City, Oregon, is making a quilted banner for General Assembly in 2006. She is asking every congregation in the PC (USA) to send her two 2" X 2" fabric squares, honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first woman deacon and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first woman elder in PC (USA). Also, every PC (USA) woman minister is asked to send one 2" X 2" square, honoring 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first woman ordained as a minister in PC(USA). The fabric can be new or used. Send squares by Dec. 31, 2005, to Pastor Susan Barnes, 3430 Ninth Dr., Baker City, Oregon 97814.*

## Special Offer for Cultural Connections Workshops

*For a limited time Iowa Council for International Understanding (ICIU) is offering discounts on workshops aimed at improving cultural competency while promoting a healthy exchange of ideas related to diversity issues. Offer runs from now until Dec. 14, and is available in three ways:*

- *One full-price registration, get the second at 1/2 off*
- *30% group discount for 5 to 9 people registering*
- *35% group discount for 10 or more people registering*

*Discount applies to all workshops except Training of Trainers. For workshop details, call Jennifer Smyser at 515-282-8269, x15 or [www.iciu.org/diversity\\_trainin\\_g.shtml](http://www.iciu.org/diversity_trainin_g.shtml).*

## Congregational Connection

Presbytery congregations have a reason to celebrate:

**Rev. Linda O’Connell** is new pastor at **First Presbyterian Church in**

**Lucas** and will be installed Saturday, Jan. 21.

**Rev. Richard Harbart**, is interim pastor at **Community United**

**Presbyterian Church in Hartford.**

## Prayer Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

The North Central Iowa Presbytery and the congregation, session and staff of the **Collegiate Presbyterian Church (CPC) in Ames**. Their new Senior Pastor Malcolm Laing, suffered a fatal heart attack while shoveling snow

at his home Dec. 1. Memorials may be given to CPC for use at the families’ discretion. Condolences may be sent to the Laing family at 3321 Kingman Road, Ames, IA 50014.

The men and women serving our country at home and abroad this Christmas season: go to the web and

search on “send a message to the troops” to locate one of the many sites where you and your congregation can send a Christmas blessing and message.

The 1,000 people who have died by execution since the United States has reenacted the death penalty.

## Employment Opportunities

**Christian Education/Youth Director—** Full-time position for nursery through grade 12 CE youth program. Contact Rev. Jim Wallace, Central Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, 515-279-3658, [jwallace@dmcentralpresbyterian.com](mailto:jwallace@dmcentralpresbyterian.com).

**Christian Youth Coordinator—** Full-time position for middle through High School youth programs. Contact Personnel Committee, St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Johnston, 515-276-2818, [jw.gilmore@att.net](mailto:jw.gilmore@att.net).

**Part-time Choir Director—** Contact Joyce Rash, Union Park Presbyterian, Des Moines, 515-266-4988 [joycerash@hotmail.com](mailto:joycerash@hotmail.com).

**Choir Accompanist and Part-time Nursery Care Coordinator—** Two separate positions. Contact Rev. Duane Miller, Ankeny Presbyterian Church, Ankeny, 515-964-0264, [pastor@ankenypresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@ankenypresbyterian.org).

**Work Camps/Flood Relief Helpers –** Contact West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps.

**Montreat Summer Staff—** 2006 applications are available: [http://www.montreat.org/brochure\\_requests.htm](http://www.montreat.org/brochure_requests.htm).

**Presbyterian United Nations Representative –** PC (USA)’s Peacemaking Program is seeking a person to serve. To apply, see

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

**Designated Pastor –** Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton, Florida.

**Pastor –** First Presbyterian Church, Britton, South Dakota.

**Volunteer Village Management Coordinator –** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance of PC (USA), needs a coordinator of 6-12 camping villages for faith-based volunteer work teams assisting in hurricane recovery efforts. Base of operations is the Gulf Coast. To apply, see [www.pcusa.org/onedoor](http://www.pcusa.org/onedoor).

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

## Over 250 Sudanese Visit Des Moines

The Sudanese Fellowship Conference was held, Nov. 24-25, in combination with the Omaha Sudanese Fellowship and the Sudanese group at **Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. Expectations of the conference are to help attract Sudanese Christians who may be unaware that there are Sudanese Arabic Juba services available in the Midwest.

Nearly 320 people (including children) attended the two-day event and came from as far as California, Georgia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Texas, Nebraska and other Midwestern states.

Among the 90 or so adults,

it was very clear that women were the majority and are the main decision makers in the Sudanese churches.

Coverage of the conference was aired on the Des Moines local access television Channel 10 and video copies are available, by contacting Rev. Goanar Chol, Coordinator for Sudanese ministries for the Missouri River Valley and Des Moines presbyteries.

On the final day, Rev. Michael Yemba from Pennsylvania, annointed interested individuals during the service.

"I was amazed how many Sudanese the service

attracted," said Rev. Goanar Chol. "There were even a few Muslim Sudanese in attendance that I recognized."

In 1999, the Presbyteries of Des Moines and the Missouri River Valley initiated the Sudanese Ministry and it is still active in Des Moines and Omaha, as well as other cities in the Midwest.

Those churches interested in hearing more about the Sudanese ministry supported by the two presbyteries, can contact Rev. Chol at [goanar@msn.com](mailto:goanar@msn.com), or 515-276-4991, to set up a presentation for their session or congregation.

## New Face in the Presbytery Office Ready to Help You!



Welcome to **Betty Dyer**, new office manager of the Presbytery

of Des Moines. Betty has been a member of **Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola**, for almost 32 years and is an elder there.

Betty came to us from Simpson College where she was Campus Visit Coordinator and Student Ambassador Supervisor for seven years with the admissions office.

She and her husband, Maurice, have actively served as children's, junior high and high school youth directors during various years at Trinity United.

Together they have taken 10 mission work trips to 10 different states having taken eight youth the first year to 48 youth the last. She is currently membership director at the Trinity United.

Betty and Maurice's children are Alex (Kirstin) of Elkader, Jessica (Michael) Forinash of Nashville, Tenn., and Maryanne of Iowa City. She enjoys gardening and family activities.

## Phil's Corner continued from page 1

will be extra special for you and that the birth of the Christ Child will take on extra meaning for you during this exciting and anxious time.

Some of you have asked about the Presbytery Christmas Party. We will not be having one this year. This is one of the unfortunate casualties of having to amend the 2005 Budget in August to deal with anticipated deficits in income for the Presbytery. We regret having to miss this wonderful time to

gather and celebrate. We are hoping that circumstances will allow us to re-start this tradition next year.

Duane Barger, a brother Presbyterian from Oceanside, California, has written an Advent prayer that has touched me over the years. May it do the same for you.

"By way of Bethlehem lead us. O Lord, to newness of life; by the innocence of the Christ Child renew our simple trust; by the

tenderness of Mary deliver us from cruelty and hardness of heart; by the patience of Joseph save us from all rash judgment and ill-tempered action; by the shepherds' watch open our eyes to the signs of thy coming; by the wise men's journey keep our searching spirits from fainting; by the music of the heavenly choir put to shame the clamor of the earth; by the shining of a star guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen."

*Peace, Phil*



## Des Moines Regional Transformation Conference, October 2006

*Mark your calendars now! A Regional Transformation Event for all congregational teams will be held Oct. 6-8, 2006. Co-hosted by the Des Moines and Missouri River Valley presbyteries, tracks will be offered for teams interested in investigating transformation, for those beginning involvement in transformation, and for teams more heavily involved in transformation.*

*Excellent leadership has been recruited for this special time.*

*Plan now to be present Oct. 6-8, 2006, in the Des Moines area.*

*More information will be available early in 2006.*

## Presbytery Happenings

### PRESBYTERY UPDATE OF HURRICANE RESPONSE By David Stipp-Buthene

Hurricane Katrina and the resulting flooding in New Orleans has changed life forever three months later, power has not been restored in much of New Orleans; and most residents remain on a "forced exodus." **Rev. Tim Maxa** and I saw significant physical damage during our visit in November, however, the spiritual and emotional damage was more dramatic.

While a few congregations will struggle to survive, it is still not clear what church life will be like for churches. In New Orleans, at least four congregations sustained catastrophic damage and will need to rebuild, presuming everyone returns.

For example, First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans—one of the oldest in the city—the pastor estimates that 60% of the congregation will return. With approximately 100 members, it means losing nearly half the congregation. They will have to restore the building themselves. Members' stewardship will mean getting their hands dirty, scraping, repairing, and refurbishing the pews. Most of us take our membership and pews for granted.



*With 32 inches of water in the historic sanctuary, the First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans' handcrafted pews from the 1800's didn't survive "intact."*

Unlike First Presbyterian, Louisiana and Mississippi water came up as high as 12 feet or more at Carolyn Park Presbyterian Church in Arabi, La.—just east of New Orleans in St. Bernard Parish. Because most church members were "dispersed" and remain "exiled," there's no way to tell what will happen to the congregation or the building.

How can Presbyterians in Iowa help?

**Pray.** Pray for the affected churches and people. You can continue to pray for Presbyterian congregations and leaders by name. (Contact Tim Maxa or myself for a list.)

**Send financial assistance.** All presbyteries affected by the storms are receiving PC (USA) disaster assistance, or can direct you to congregations in need. You can send financial assistance for congregations or pastors directly to the South

Louisiana and Mississippi presbyteries.

**Consider sending work teams.** Some of our own congregations in Iowa are discovering a new service opportunity in mission trips. Groups of interested persons can help by simply cleaning up, or helping rebuild. Your church or a group of churches can send people.

**Consider partnerships.** The Church Partnering/Adoption Program is currently being administered at the Presbytery of Mississippi by George Bates, 601-807-5863. Or call the Hansboro Presbyterian Church office, 228-604-2424.

Life has changed forever with the hurricanes and their aftermath. With the invitation of Jesus to live a new life together, I believe we can make positive changes for ourselves and others. It's our chance to serve.

## Egypt Delegation Returns continued from page 1

The JHAH network in Egypt has designated their main concern the education and mainstreaming of handicapped children. We met with associates of the network from Cairo, Alexandria, Ga'afar, and Beba City who have started such projects. We were introduced to board members, teachers and classrooms of these organizations which are working together and are Muslim, Coptic, and Evangelical based.

Perhaps the most constructive visit was attending a meeting/

training session of the network in Cairo. Thanks to an excellent interpreter, via earphones, we were able to understand the conversation and could participate in the group discussions.

Another highlight of the trip was the Nov. 8, worship service, celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cooperation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Christians of Egypt. There were 1,700 people, from 12 different countries, represented.

The main speaker was Marian McClure, director of Worldwide Ministries of PC (USA). We were thrilled to be a part of this celebration and presented a communion gift to the Synod of the Nile.

Thanks to the Des Moines Presbytery and the West Regional Partnership who helped make our trip possible and those counterparts in Egypt who planned our itinerary. A presentation of the JHAH Egyptian adventure will soon be available to those interested.

## Nominate Women for Human Rights Award

*The Ginetta Sagan Fund of Amnesty International is accepting nominations for its 2006 Annual Award for the Human Rights of Women and Children recognizing women who work to protect the lives of women and of children. Nominations deadline is Dec. 19. Send to the GSF Award Committee, c/o AIUSA Western Regional Office, 350 Sansome Street, #630, San Francisco, CA 94104, 415-291-9233 or e-mail [gsf@aiusa.org](mailto:gsf@aiusa.org).*

## Mark Your Calendars! Official Presbytery 2006 Holidays and Stated Meetings Announced

The Des Moines Presbytery office will be closed in observance of the following holidays in 2006. Also included are the dates and locations for the quarterly stated meetings.

**Monday, Jan. 2** – New Year's Day

**Saturday, Jan. 21** – Presbytery Meeting, Windsor Presbyterian Church, Windsor Heights

**Friday, April 14** – Good Friday

**Tuesday, May 16** – Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Chariton

**Monday, May 29** – Memorial Day

**Monday and Tuesday, July 3-4** – Independence Day

**Saturday, Aug. 19** – Presbytery Meeting, Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church, Des Moines

**Monday, Sept. 4** – Labor Day

**Tuesday, Nov. 14** – Presbytery Meeting, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Des Moines

**Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24** – Thanksgiving Day

**Thursday, Dec. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007** – Christmas and New Year's

## Synod of Lakes and Prairies Moves

Our Synod of Lakes and Prairies office has a new location effective Dec. 9, 2005.

**The new address for the office is:**

Synod of Lakes and Prairies  
2115 Cliff Drive  
Eagan, MN 55122-3327

**Phone:** 651-357-1140

**Fax:** 651-357-1141

The toll-free number remains the same:  
800-328-1880

**Presbytery of Des Moines  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH (U.S.A.)**  
2400 86<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 20  
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306  
**Phone:** 515-276-4991  
**Fax:** 515-276-7596  
**E-mail:**  
[pbycommunication@qwest.net](mailto:pbycommunication@qwest.net)  
**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  
**Designated Missionary  
to El Salvador:** Rev. Bob Cook

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.

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

## Park Avenue Advent Journey Begins

In January 2005, **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, began a spiritual journey with church member, **Peggy Sanders**. Peggy was inspired by an article about life-size figures made by a church in Charleston, depicting the birth of Christ. She brought the idea to the attention of **Virginia Cole** and **Pastor David Stipp-Bethune** and the 2005 advent project was born.

Peggy, Virginia and **Myrna Agan**, began the project in secret with patterns designed by Virginia who had experience making dolls. The

fabric used is a tea-dyed muslin and no faces are put on the people, because there is no knowledge what they actually looked like.

Myrna did all the cutting of the figures. Peggy sewed all the body parts and Virginia put them together. Various materials, including regular cotton batting, sheets, a bedspread, nylons and old pillows, were used as stuffing. The 5-foot tall figures were mounted on stands designed and constructed by **Jack O'Neel**.



The figures will journey through the church on their way to Bethlehem for the birth of Christ. On Christmas Day, Dec. 25, a special baby figure will appear.

If you'd like to see this display, the church hours are: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org)