

The Wider Circle



Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / February 2008 Vol. 4, Issue 2



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

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- Communications Classes at the Presbytery Office
- Presbyterians Go to New Orleans
- Compañeros Visits Mahler in El Salvador

Attend Lunch & Learn Series at Presbytery Office

A monthly *Communications Lunch and Learn Series* will begin February 21 for churches in the Presbytery of Des Moines. If you currently work at a church, either as a pastor, staff member or volunteer, you are invited to join these informal discussions and information sharing groups.

Each month a communications topic is identified around which the majority of the discussion will revolve. Participants are encouraged to bring questions, samples, and insights related to the topic. In addition, each session will include time to network and discuss off-topic items. Such as to share recent projects or accomplishments, or ask your "burning questions".

All sessions are free, just bring your brown bag lunch and be ready to participate! (A microwave and refrigerator are available.)

Times for all lunches are Noon-1 p.m. at the Presbytery of Des Moines Office, 2400 86th St., Suite 20, Urbandale, IA 50322.

For questions or to RSVP, contact Director of Communications Kim Coulter at 515-276-4991 or pbycommunication@qwest.net.

2008 Communications Lunch & Learn Series

(Held the 3rd Thursday of each month, except March and June, sessions run from Noon-1 p.m.)

- **February 21** – Brochures (please bring samples of your church's brochures)
- **March 27** – Newsletters and E-mail Announcements (bring samples)
- **April 17** – Writing and Distributing Press Releases
- **May 15** – Web Sites: Basic (design, troubleshooting, etc.)
- **June 26** – Watch LIVE Podcast of the 218th General Assembly from San Jose, Calif.
- **July 17** – Stretching Your Church Office Staff/Volunteers
- **August 21** – Maximizing Your Database for Church Marketing: To ACS or Not
- **September 18** – (Re)Transforming Your Church
- **October 16** – Annual Reports (bring samples of your annual reports)
- **November 20** – New Media: Blogs, Podcasts, Wikis and more

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Phil's Corner



February is now here – a month I like to call the 'L' month. Why would I do this? Because two important dates occur this month. The

first has to do with Love. When I say this I am sure that most of you right away think of Valentine's Day, and you would be right. This day – although over-hyped by florists, candy makers, jewelers and greet-

ing card makers (among others) – is one in which we do focus on the one(s) we love and letting them know it. Unfortunately, this is the only day such affections are communicated and we soon

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Celebrating the Young Women Within

The *Presbyterian Planning Calendar* designates March 9, 2008, as **Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday**. It is a day set aside to honor women who contribute their gifts and talents to the church and community. In 2008, we continue the celebration of young women within our church, as well as honoring the "inner young woman" dwelling inside gracefully aging women, who have within them the divine spark of vitality.

Celebrate the Gifts of Women is often associated with International Women's Day, March 8. Many congregations choose the Sunday closest for their annual celebration. However, this resource may be used whenever you choose to celebrate women. Download the 2007 Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource pamphlet www.pcusa.org/womensministries/celebrate-gifts-2007.pdf.

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return to our routine days and relationships. In spite of these shortcomings, it is still an important day on our calendar.

For we Christians, the other 'L' day is even more important, and has a much higher meaning and form of love connected with it. Of course, I am talking about Lent which, this year, begins over a week prior to Valentine's Day. This important holy time of reflection and preparation heads us toward observance of those great days for the Christian faith (and the whole world, for that matter) – the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we all enter into this season of love and preparation, may this prayer by Arden Mead be ours:

"And so the season has begun, and with it my devotion. But where shall I begin, O Lord? Your Word suggests my heart – with wholehearted love for You – implying that if my heart's in the right place, all else will fall into place as well, in keeping with Your will. Wholehearted love, I know, is how You first loved me. This holy season shows me once again that for the sake of my redemption You loved me with all Your heart, a love I see

as I behold my Savior's single-minded, soul-sorrowful suffering for my sake, knowing everything he did was done for me. He loved me with a whole heart, a whole and holy love. And now my love? Lord, take my heart and make it holy, wholly dedicated to Your will.

May this season of walking together and with Christ, bring new understandings and experiences of the overwhelming love of Christ.

Peace, Phil

Rev. Phil Barrett is General Presbyterian and Stated Clerk of the Des Moines Presbytery

Prayers and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Grimes First Presbyterian Church Office Manager Jo Rainer's husband **Donald Rainer** went to the hospital this past week with pneumonia.

Oskaloosa's First Presbyterian Church member **Dirk Van Gorp** suffered a stroke Jan. 11 and is now in the Ottumwa rehab unit. He has pneumonia but may be able to go home later this week. Dirk's wife, **Dianne Van Gorp** serves as moderator of the **Presbytery's Nominating Committee**.

Oskaloosa's First Presbyterian Church member **David Shepard** had an active heart attack and was life-flighted to Iowa Methodist Medical Care Center Jan. 20. A stent was placed in a 99% blocked artery the next day, and he is recovering. Unfortunately after returning home, he fell and was diagnosed with an unusual type of stroke/dementia. David's wife **Darlene Shepard** coordinates the Older Adult Ministry for the Presbytery.

The Rev. Dave Schneider, interim pastor at **Covenant Presbyterian**

Church in West Des Moines is done with his service. He headed to Oklahoma the end of January. Well wishes to Dave in his new interim position in the Cimarron Presbytery at the First Presbyterian Church in Guymon, Okla.!

The Rev. Eric Keller, pastor at **Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, left the end of January to serve in the Blackhawk Presbytery at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Love's Park, Ill. Blessings to Eric in his new position!

Events Calendar

2008

Feb. 13-22 – Presbytery's Egypt Delegation Trip

Feb. 16 – *Contemplative Prayer Workshop* at Grace Methodist Church, Feb. 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Rev. Paul Witmer, UCC minister will present contemplative prayer founded by Thomas Keating in 1994. To participate, contact Rev. Jill Flyr at the church, 515-255-2131. Cost is \$20.00.

Feb. 19 – Cultural advocates are invited to attend *IOWA Principals and Practices for Charitable Nonprofit Excellence*, a free workshop Tuesday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Iowa State Historical Building, presented by Sandy Boyd and Richard Koontz from the Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center. This will help anyone involved in the non-profit sector – management, staff, board members, volunteers and professional association employees who wants to improve their organization. To attend *Cultural Advocacy Day* Feb. 18 (See ad on page 10 of this issue) and/or the Nonprofit Workshop Feb. 19, contact Oxana Bedore by Friday, Feb. 15. mobedore@smunet.net. For details, contact Tom Smull, tsmull@associationsinc.us or Tracy Levine: tracy@metroarts.org.

Feb. 21 – *Communications Lunch and Learn Series* begins at the **Presbytery Of-**

ice, 2400 86th St., Ste. 20, Urbandale. See details on front page of this issue.

Feb. 22-23 – Aquire the Fire, an event your youth will never forget at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. *Let your voice be heard* is this year's theme. Register now and get the best seats and prices. Youth come to Christ, incredible worship and bands, life-changing messages. www.acquirethefire.com or 877-392-3473.

Feb. 20 – Stewardship & Mission Interpretation (SMI) Committee, 9 a.m., Presbytery Office

Feb. 21 – *Legal Issues for Congregational Leaders* at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City, Mo. Sponsored by the Missouri School of Religion www.msr-crm.org. Attorney and pastor Carla Fletcher, Hawk Point Community Church, Mo. will explore church legal issues in a continuing education event for pastors, church board chairs, treasurers and moderators. She will cover a range of need-to-know issues, including the importance of good governing documents. She will also address, why (besides avoiding lawsuits) should church leaders care about legal issues, the best practices for preventing problems, recognizing red flags and knowing when and how to get help. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: \$60 (includes lunch). For a registration

form, contact: Krystal Jacobs, Office Administrator, Missouri School of Religion, Center for Rural Ministry, P.O. Box 104685, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4685, Phone: 573-635-1187, e-mail: krystalmsr@earthlink.net.

Feb. 22-24 – *Camp Wyoming 2008 Confirmation Retreat* for confirmation students and their pastors or leaders. Youth will explore the sacrament of Baptism while experiencing the beauty of God's World and grow in their faith. The retreat begins, Friday at 7:30 p.m. and goes until Sunday at 1 p.m. Cost is \$75 per student / adult chap-erones are FREE. Register by Feb. 14 at:

www.campwyoming.net.

Feb. 26 – Khadamat Sudaniya (Sudanese Ministries), 4:30 p.m., **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**

Feb. 26 – Compañeros, 6:30 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**

March 1 – School of Ministry at Grand View College in Des Moines. Melinda Littler, early childhood coordinator at Faith Lutheran Church in Clive, will present *The Building Blocks of Faith* and Erik Ullestad, family life and youth director at Windsor Heights Lutheran will present *Nurturing Parents to Nurture Children in Faith*. Cost is \$25.00 each, Lunch available at nominal charge or

bring your own. To register visit

www.renewingchurch.org

under workshops and events or call 515-263-6008 or e-mail jwhite@gvc.edu.

March 4 – CCD Committee, 1:30 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**

March 4 – Compañeros, 6:30 p.m., **Presbytery Office**

March 10 – Personnel Committee, 3 p.m., **Presbytery Office**

March 12 – Stewardship & Mission Interpretation (SMI) Committee, 9 a.m., **Presbytery Office**

March 14 – *Women Helping Women Luncheon*, Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Lesley Jane Seymour, editor-in-chief of *More Magazine*, and will talk of "Reinventing Yourself", at Sheraton West Des Moines (new location,) 1800 50th St., West Des Moines. Tickets: \$35 (includes lunch). Sponsored by The Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, www.dmpcc.org or 515-274-4006.

March 15 – Palm Sunday

March 20 – Maundy Thursday

March 21 – Good Friday, Presbytery Office closed.

March 23 – Easter Sunday

March 29-April 5 – Newton Medical Delegation to El Salvador



Churches Alive and Growing

We often hear stories about congregations doing exciting ministry resulting in churches that are alive, vibrant and growing – but we know there are many more that we don't hear about and we're hoping you'll share them with us. If you have a story of a congregation experiencing growth and transformation please share it with us so we can share it with others.

This type of sharing to a broader audience will allow more of us to learn from best practices, and be renewed in our faith that the PCUSA is alive and moving into the future making disciples in the name of Jesus Christ.

Send your stories to Mindy Marchal, associate for creative services of the GA Council, PCUSA at mindy.marchal@pcusa.org.

PCUSA Update

WORLD MISSION BEING RETOOLED

A new staff structure will serve grassroots mission initiators. The Presbyterian World Mission program area is retooling its ministry to respond to the growing number of grassroots Presbyterians who are participating in God's mission around the globe, World Mission director Hunter Farrell announced.

World Mission has created three associate director positions, including one charged with leading a work area dedicated to training congregational mission committees, mission networks and other mission initiators. A search will be launched for an associate director to lead that work area, called *Equipping the Church for Mission*, and for a mission training materials specialist.

"This 'retooling' responds to the needs of the 230 PCUSA mission leaders and global partners I have interviewed over the past six months," said Farrell, who began his current assignment last August 1. "Whereas for decades the GAC 'did' international mission on behalf of the denomination, changes in international travel and communication have opened up new possibilities for Presbyterians to participate in international mission."

Farrell said he found that World Mission's constituencies want it to continue to deploy high-quality, long-term mission personnel, serve as a nexus for the growing network of Presbyterians involved in mission work, and equip the church for mission.

Equipping the Church for Mission and two other work areas, Mission Partners and Programs, and Mission Personnel, will seek to meet the needs of World Mission's constituencies, Farrell said.

"In essence we are trying to take the highly effective ways we have been doing mission in partnership with global partners around the world and apply them to mission initiators and mission personnel from our own denomination." Read more at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08070.htm.

LESBIAN'S BID TO BECOME MINISTER MOVES FORWARD

San Francisco Presbytery has made way for an openly gay candidate for ministry in the PCUSA to take the first steps in the ordination process under a controversial Authoritative Interpretation approved by the 2006 General Assembly. After three hours of debate in closed session, the presbytery voted 167 to 151 on Jan. 15 to approve as "ready for examination, with departure" Lisa Larges, a lesbian who has been blocked from ordination for more than 20 years. Larges' case marks

the first time a presbytery has approved action to consider a candidate who declared a conscientious objection – or "scruple" – to the denomination's ordination standards involving sexual practice. The full story is at

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08048.htm.

IT'S A SOUL ISSUE

By the Rev. Joan S. Gray, Moderator, 217th General Assembly (2006)

ATLANTA — We Americans seem to be drowning in our stuff.

I read an article recently in the *Wall Street Journal* that helped me see the situation more clearly. Entitled "The Struggle to Contain Ourselves" (Jan. 4, 2008), the article talked about a University of California study published in 2006.

The study showed that there is "a storage crisis" in this country, in spite of the fact that Americans enjoy "the largest amount of private housing space per person in the history of urban civilization."

What came to mind as I read this article was a story Jesus told about a man who also had more stuff than he knew what to do with. The man in Jesus' parable came to the conclusion that his problem was a storage problem.

"WRONG," said God to that rich fool. The parable makes it

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clear that too much stuff is really a soul problem or a soul opportunity.

It should bother us that people in the world, some very close to us, are going without necessities while we continue to spend our money to buy and store unnecessary things.

Anyway, this "storage crisis" has started bothering me.

Since the first of the year is a good time to take a long look at ourselves and make adjustments, I have decided to grab hold of a small piece of freedom from stuff by not buying any clothing in 2008.

I've gone back through my records and added up the money I spent on clothes and shoes in 2007, and I will give that money this year to some Presbyterian mission project that helps and empowers poor people. Putting my bulging closet on a diet will not inflict great hardship on me. It's a very small thing, yes, but it's a start.

The bottom line is that God can lead us to see ourselves in new ways and to respond with actions that make the gospel visible in the world. I invite you to consider your own "barns" and see where you can push back against the stuff you really don't need. Use the money freed up to further God's agenda in the world. It's not really a storage issue. It's a soul

issue. This story may be seen at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08046.htm

MISSIONARY LETTERS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR WEB SITE

The Mission Connections Office offers a free service that will put 10 selected letters from Presbyterian mission workers on your Web site each week. As new information is updated in the RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed, the content displayed on your Web site will automatically change. Visit www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/rss.htm to register or to see how this can look on your Web site.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION REQUEST

If you are interested in contributing to a discussion of the mission and ministry of the Spiritual Formation Leadership Network (SFLN), send Tammy Wiens an e-mail identifying your interest and experience in the Network as it currently exists. You are also encouraged to participate in the discussion if you have no experience with SFLN but would like to contribute to its future configuration. Write to tammy.wiens@pcusa.org

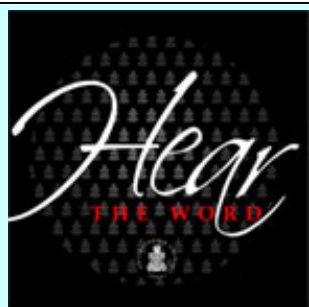
ONLINE TEACHER TRAINING FOR THE PCUSA

This is a FREE, Web-based course sponsored by the Office of Christian Education. For details and login info, contact Candace Hill, 888-728-7228, ext. 5166, or candace.hill@pcusa.org. Or visit www.openingdoors.todiscipleship.com.

News Index for Jan. 14–Feb. 4

- CCT adds seven new members www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08035.htm
- HIV/AIDS project seeks to educate Malawians using the arts www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08036.htm
- Policy on inclusion of people with disabilities awaits implementation www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08038.htm
- Wheeler, Mouw decry 'bumper sticker' theology www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08041.htm
- New Covenant Trust Company sponsors exhibit of medieval and Renaissance masterpieces www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08043.htm
- Three new mission workers appointed www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08047.htm
- WCC asks for prayers, advocacy and solidarity with churches in Gaza www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08053.htm
- 'Abraham's dysfunctional family': Canadian pastor makes case for interfaith relations in new book www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08055.htm
- Consultation unites Presbyterians doing mission www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08061.htm
- Homeless ministry founder is third candidate for GA moderator: The Rev. Carl Mazza is endorsed www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08062.htm
- Jack L. Stotts is dead at 75: Theological giant's career spanned pastorate, classroom and seminary president's offices www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08059.htm
- Presbyterian Army chaplains defend former School of the Americas www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08066.htm
- Presbyterian Army chaplains defend former School of the Americas: They say arguments for closing controversial military institute a 'house of cards' that doesn't stack up www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08066.htm
- \$1 million given for camps, conference ministry www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08069.htm
- PCUSA World Mission 'retools' to better serve grassroots www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08070.htm
- Notes about people www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08073.htm
- Presbyterian Publishing Corporation makes sales budget 14 consecutive months www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08074.htm
- Two Presbyterians receive prison time: Pair entered Army base protesting U.S. military school www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08075.htm
- From Russia with love: Van Marter to chronicle PCUSA mission and blog his experiences www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08076.htm
- Out of the ashes: Oregon church vows to minister on after fire www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08079.htm
- Lewis Wilkins dies at age 71: Texas native was heavily involved in reunion www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08080.htm
- Advocacy Days conference to explore true meaning of security www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08083.htm
- Narnia Center leads Russia in publishing Christian literature for kids www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08084.htm

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Hear the Word: Weekly PC(USA) Podcast

Now available online are weekly audio recordings of the lectionary texts. Each podcast includes: an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, an Epistle and a Gospel reading. Following each set of readings is a prayer for the day from the *Book of Common Worship*.

Tune in at: www.pcusa.org/devotions/podcast.htm. And you can subscribe with iTunes ([download iTunes for free](#)) or with Yahoo. Or subscribe with your favorite podcasting tool or other feed reader. Clicking on the button below will generate the actual URL that you can paste into your feed reader.

PLAN AHEAD FOR PALM SUNDAY [Readings for March 16](#)

(MP3 file — For best results, right-click the link or click and hold for Macintosh. Select “save target as” and save the file to your desktop.)

May these scriptures be a source of challenge and hope as you prepare your heart and mind for Sunday worship, and may the Word of God guide and nourish you in the service of daily living.

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SHOOTING IN KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI: PDA RESPONDS

PDA has sent two members of the PDA National Response Team to St. Louis, at the request of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, to help respond to the shootings at the Kirkwood, Mo. city hall. Kirkwood is a suburb of St. Louis.

Thursday night during a city council meeting, a gunman stormed the meeting and opened fire. Five people were killed and several others, including the mayor, were wounded. Several Presbyterian churches in the area have been affected, as some of those killed or wounded are members of Presbyterian churches.

PDA is especially saddened to learn that one of the dead is Kenneth Yost, Public Works Director, and husband of Carol Yost.

Carol organized many of the groups that went to the Gulf Coast from Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. This Presbytery designed and built the pavilion at Houma Presbyterian Volunteer Village.

Please keep the loved ones of those killed and injured, Kirkwood city officials and administrators, the residents of the community, and the caregivers in your thoughts and prayers.

PDA's work in spiritual care giving in disasters is highlighted in this year's *One Great Hour of Sharing* bulletin insert.

TORNADOES: PDA RESPONDS

A spate of unseasonal storms is continuing to wreck havoc across the south-central United States. In the recent wave of storms, tornadoes in five southern states have caused at least 47 deaths. The states most affected are Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky, with 24 of the deaths in the state of Tennessee.

In mid-January, tornadoes were reported in Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin. Two died in the Missouri storms.

PDA has been in contact with presbyteries in the affected areas and stands ready to immediately assist with *One Great Hour of Sharing* funds and by sending members of the PDA National Response Team if outside assistance is needed. PDA will also be working with the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) and other ecumenical disaster response organizations to help survivors recover.

Please keep the affected presbyteries, storm survivors and all who are responding to this crisis in your thoughts and prayers.

Those wishing to respond financially may do so by designating gifts for U.S. Disaster, DR000015. Donations may be sent through normal mission giving channels. Gifts by credit card can be made by calling PresbyTel at 800-872-3283 or online at

www.pcusa.org/pda/donate/accounts.htm.

Checks payable to PCUSA can also be mailed directly to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Central Receiving Services, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396.

PAKISTAN - A LETTER FROM PARTNERS TO KEEP THE COUNTRY NAME FIRST

PDA and the Peacemaking Program are holding our colleagues, partners and the people of Pakistan in prayer as they struggle with the death of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, chairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party and a renowned personality, politician, statesperson recognized nationally and internationally and highly respected leader of Pakistan.

A letter received from Marvin Parvez, director of the Church World Service (CWS) Pakistan/Afghanistan office is posted on the PDA web site at: <http://staging.pcusa.org/pda/response/asia/pakistan-letter122807.htm>.

PDA has provided support for response to flooding that struck the country this past summer and the earthquake that ravaged North West Frontier Province last fall.

We ask that you also pray for the people of Pakistan and our CWS partners in the sad and chaotic times there.

Learn about PCUSA work in Pakistan at: www.pcusa.org/worldwide/pakistan/ or read

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the latest on the Lahore bombing at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08027.htm.

NOTES ABOUT PEOPLE

Sara Lisherness, interim director of the GAC's Relief and Development program area, has announced the departure of **Susan Ryan** as coordinator for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). As of Jan. 2, Ryan was succeeded by Simon Park, a former PCUSA missionary who will serve as PDA's interim coordinator.

"The PCUSA is grateful for Ms. Ryan's service to the church. She has built a vibrant ministry, strengthening PDA's capacity to respond to disasters in creative and innovative ways," Lisherness said in a prepared statement issued Jan. 3. "We wish her success in her future endeavors."

Ryan told the Presbyterian News Service she had "no comment." **An Iowa native,**

Ryan, 58, first joined the PCUSA national staff in 1990 as associate for refugee ministries. She became PDA coordinator about 10 years ago. She previously served as a mission enabler for Tampa Bay and Peace River presbyteries in Florida.

Read the complete story and see photos online at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08005.htm

Attend Book Signing on Saturday, Feb. 16

You're invited to attend a book signing for author Rev. Brian Rihner on Saturday, Feb. 16, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Wellspring Christian Resource, 10465 Hickman Rd., Des Moines. The Rev. Rihner is currently pastor at the United Presbyterian Church of Denison, Iowa (Prospect Hill Presbytery) and was former pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of Keokuk. He is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas and Simpson College in Indianola. *Angel Hike: An Answer to Prayer*, is a book about Alzheimer's, www.angelhike.com.

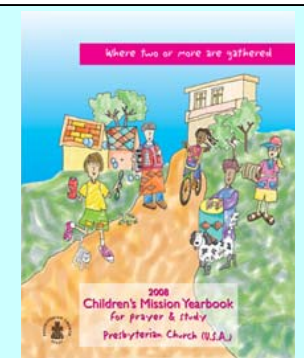


Chances are that someone in your family or a close friend has been affected by Alzheimer's, other forms of dementia, or a stroke. How are we supposed to deal with these "diseases of the mind" that silently strike the people we care about? These diseases are becoming more prevalent as medi-

cal technology prolongs life, but what about the quality of that life? Is God as silent on this issue as those that are afflicted?

It is these questions, and more that *Angel Hike* tackles. Open this book and take the journey with Ben and a heavenly visitor – a journey that will open your mind and your heart to a God who does answer, if we are courageous enough to seek and wise enough to listen.

For more information, e-mail author Rev. Brian Rihner, pastorbrian@presbyden.com. Can't make the event? Visit Tate Publishing and Enterprises, LLC's online bookstore to get a copy, www.tatepublishing.com.



2009 Children's Mission Yearbook Story Request

The *2009 Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* is seeking stories for the 2009 edition. This is its own project and is not to replace the copy for the *2009 Mission Yearbook*. The theme is "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8. The deadline is Monday, March 31, 2008.

Editorial guidelines, photo specifications and examples are available from Kim Coulter at 515-276-4991 or pbcommunication@qwest.net. As well as a sample from the 2008 edition to illustrate an engaging story and excellent photo. It is hoped that you can share the wonderful ways children and youth participate in making the denomination its best.

If you have questions, contact Mission Interpretation Program Margaret Hall at 888-728-7228, ext. 5183 margaret.boone@pcusa.org or Jean Sniffen, the new editor, at 888-728-7228, ext. 5636.

Employment Opportunities

Executive Director and Finance & Operations Manager – Bidwell-Riverside Center, Des Moines
 Bidwell-Riverside is a 501c3 organization with the mission to build hope and opportunity by providing food, clothing, childcare and education to people in need. For details on the two job descriptions, contact the Center at 515-244-6251, bidwellriverside@gmail.com, or Bidwell-Riverside Center, 203 Hartford Ave., Des Moines, IA 50315.

SESSING IS ELECTED SYNOD MODERATOR AT WINTER MEETING

Elder Ward Sessing of the Twin Cities Area Presbytery was elected and installed as the moderator of the **Synod of Lakes and Prairies** for 2008, and Cheryl Biller, an elder commissioner from the Presbytery of Northern Plains, was elected and installed as the vice moderator. Sessing, who serves on the synod's finance committee, is a member of the Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview, Minn. He and his wife, Margie, have two children. At Church of the Way, Sessing

Synod of Lakes and Prairies Update

has served as an elder and chaired the commissions for finance and facilities, and outreach and evangelism. Sessing, also currently moderator of the Presbytery of Twin Cities Area, is president of Sessing Architects Inc., a general practice firm. Biller and her husband, Curt, reside in Fargo, N.D., with their two dogs. She is an elder in First Presbyterian Church in Moorhead, Minn., synod commissioner, serves as moderator of the Emerging Churches Coaching Team with the presbytery, and is a representative to Presbyterian Clearwater Forest. For the synod, she has served continuously on the Program Coordination Committee. A summary of the synod meeting can be found at www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFFiles/SYNSUMMARY-WINTER08.pdf.

TWIN CITIES PRESBYTERY RESTORES CAPETZ' ORDINATION

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area voted Jan. 26 to restore the ordination of

Paul Capetz, an openly gay man, as minister of word and sacrament. Capetz had laid aside his ordination in 2000 in response to the 1997 addition of G-6.0106b to the PCUSA's *Book of Order*. The section requires ordained church officers to practice "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and woman or chastity in singleness." In asking the presbytery to restore his ordination, Capetz declared a principled objection or "scruple," noting that he could not affirm G-6.0106b, and cited the 2006 General Assembly's authoritative interpretation of *The Book of Order* section G-6.0108 that allows candidates to raise principled objections and reaffirms the presbytery's responsibility to determine fitness of candidates. This story and photo can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08063.htm.

3 NEW BLOGS LAUNCHED

- The Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life

at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. launches a new 'Spiritual Politics' Blog based on religion and the 2008 election campaign. Outside contributors are featured as well as members of the Center's staff.

www.spiritual-politics.org.

- Questions being raised by Muslims, Jews and others about the use — and misuse — of religion this campaign season is the current topic on the blog of *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, produced by Thirteen/WNET New York. www.pbsorg/wnet/religionandethics/blog.html.
- A multi-contributor blog has tripled traffic to the *Religion News Service* Web site since its formal launch in October 2007. The RNS blog features RNS editors and correspondents taking a critical and offbeat look at a variety of religion stories. www.religionnews.com/weblogs/religionblog/.

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Coloring
Outside the Lines

DMARC Greet & Meet Scheduled for Feb. 21

The Des Moines Ministerial Association is inviting Presbytery clergy to greet and meet opportunity with the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008, 11:45

a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room at **Central Presbyterian Church**, 3829 Grand Ave. in Des Moines. (Signs will be posted at doors giving directions to room location.) You'll meet

Rev. Sarai Schnucker Rice, new Executive Director of DMARC, and other clergy.

If you have any questions, call the DMARC office at 515-277-6969 or e-mail info@dmreligious.org.



BOP Regional Links E-Newsletter Update

Regional Links is a monthly newsletter of the latest news from the Board of Pensions www.pensions.org/.

Contact your Regional Representative, **Rev. Dr. Douglas Kelly**, if you have questions.

Note: As of February 1, 2008 Doug's mailing address has changed: 1302 Platte Falls Rd Ste. D, PMB 211, Platte City, MO 64079. E-mail and phone numbers remain the same.

NEW SABBATH SABBATICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM INTRODUCED

Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, a three-year pilot program will allow eligible pastors of small churches – those serving congregations of fewer than 200 members – to seek a stipend of up to \$3,000 towards a sabbatical. Through the Sabbath Sabbatical Support Grant Program, the BOP will provide up to 110 grants a year, administering them in cooperation with the middle governing bodies.

The program provides an opportunity for pastors serving small congregations to take time away from the demands of the job and engage in a period of personal and professional renewal. Among other requirements, a grant-seeker must be an active Benefits Plan (Traditional coverage) member, have served the PCUSA for at least ten years, and have served his/her current congregation for at least six years.

For details or to determine grant availability in your synod or presbytery, see the product sheet for contact information at www.pensions.org/library/publications/publications/pts-624.pdf.

TAX TIPS FOR MINISTERS AND CHURCHES TELECONFERENCE

At the Tax Tips for Ministers and Churches Teleconference, more than 400 attendees listened to renowned church and clergy tax expert Richard R. Hammar, JD, LL.M., CPA, discuss perennial clergy tax issues and the most important tax developments affecting clergy and churches. Topics included:

- The handling of expense reimbursements
- The continuing implications of the 2006 Tax Relief and Healthcare Act
- The tax advantages of the housing allowance and the Retirement Savings Plan, a 403(b)(9) plan.

A replay of the teleconference is available at www.pensions.org/library/publications/multimedia/taxtips.

TAX GUIDE FOR MINISTERS AND CHURCHES AND FEDERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCHES PUBLISHED

The BOP is once again happy to offer a tax guide to help ministers and churches navigate the complexity of changing tax laws and regulations. Prepared in conjunction with noted tax expert Richard R. Hammar, both publications serve as valuable resources

for preparing and filing Federal Income Tax returns. The Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches contains step-by-step wage reporting and withholding instructions, a Taxation of Death Benefits worksheet, and information about situations specific to filing various federal forms.

Tax Guide for Ministers and Churches has been sent directly to ministers. However, you may access it and the *Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches* at www.pensions.org/taxes. Or call the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) for copies.

MAINTENANCE MEDICATION PROGRAM REMINDER

The BOP continues to encourage members to obtain maintenance medications through Express Scripts' Home Delivery service. Maintenance medications are drugs taken regularly for long-term, chronic conditions.

The benefits of the Home Delivery service include:

- **Savings** – Save money by ordering up to a three-month supply of your medication.*
- **Safety** – Pharmacists check every prescription for accuracy and potential drug interactions.
- **Service** – Talk confidentially to a pharmacist 24 hours a day, every day.
- **Convenience** – Order refills easily by mail, phone,

or online with free standard shipping.

If you have any questions about the maintenance medication program or Home Delivery, you can contact Member Services at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) or Express Scripts at 800-344-3896.

*Savings will vary depending on the drugs you are taking and your plan's home delivery benefit.

CHANGE IN EFFECTIVE SALARY CALCULATION

As of Jan. 1, 2008, employer matching contributions to the Retirement Savings Plan, a 403(b)(9) plan, will no longer be included in the calculations of employees' effective salary. This change makes it less costly for employers to offer such contributions, and the BOP strongly encourages all churches and employing organizations to consider introducing the Retirement Savings Plan or adding a match program to their existing plan.

SERVICE/SALARY CHANGE FORM SPLIT INTO TWO

The Service/Salary Change form has been split into two new forms. Use the [Change of Salary form](#) to report annual salary updates or changes in existing total effective salary. Use the [Service Change form](#) to report all other position or service changes.

What does the *BIBLE* really say about Homosexuality?

Maybe not quite what you might think! Come find out about *Homosexuality and the Bible*, to be held at First Unitarian Church of Des Moines, 1800 Bell Ave., Des Moines, 515-244-8603, www.ucdsm.org.

Presented by The Rev. Dr. Shannon Michael Pater, senior Pastor, Urbandale United Church of Christ on Wednesdays, Feb. 13, 20, & 27, 2008, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The seminar is FREE and open to the public.

This provocative three-part class will examine what the Bible actually does and does not say on the subject of homosexuality. It will address interpretation issues concerning the passages most commonly used by some people to 'lobber' others, including: Sodom & Gomorrah, the Holiness Code, ancient Hebrew sexual mores, and the letters of Paul.

It will also explore life-affirming relationship images from scripture. You will come away with new ways of thinking about and responding to the misinterpretations so often heard regarding what the Bible says. You will also be challenged to examine your own ways of thinking about the relationship between homosexuality and religion.

Presbyterians Go To New Orleans

The following was written for the Audubon newspaper.

The Rev. Don Seeger (Atlantic, First); **Denise England, Angie Williams, Lila Jean Jensen and Paul Walther** (Audubon, First); **John Mitterer** and **Rev. Dr. Dennis Morey** (Oskaloosa, First); and Matt Gearhart of Des Moines traveled to Pearlington, Miss., an unincorporated town just east of New Orleans, the week of January 20th to help people in need and improve their housing. The Pearlington and Slidell areas were in the eye of the Katrina hurricane that devastated the New Orleans area in August 2005.

Katrina with its 145 mph sustained winds with gusts of up to 175 mph and storm surge waves of up to 30 feet high caused an estimated 81.2 billion dollars of damage. Forty-one thousand inexpensive rental houses were destroyed, along with 4,500 publicly subsidized apartments were damaged beyond repair. Many of the people who used to live there have fled, many never to return.

Imagine a situation where all basic infrastructure of a community or area is destroyed in on swift swoop--no police, no fire fighters, no sewers, no safe water, no gas stations, no banks, no post offices, no hospitals, doctors and nurses, no restaurants, or grocery

stores, no electricity, no pharmacies, no street signs, no churches, no schools, no government services. People lost not only their homes but also their cars, jobs, documents of house ownership, often even driver's licenses — and the lives of 1,836.

We were part of two teams totaling 124 Presbyterians from the eastern two-thirds of Iowa and parts of Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and One Great Hour of Sharing so far has provided 16 million dollars to support the program. This is the third year of a six-year Presbyterian program that will take an estimated additional 24 million dollars.

Before our team arrived at the area, a group had canvassed the area to determine who needed help and what kind of help they needed.

FEMA has granted low-interest loans to those who could provide the necessary papers of lot ownership. But you couldn't get a loan to rebuild without a job or without some income. Most of the houses we worked on were

for retirees and those on public assistance.

We lived in "pods" that were located at a site that once was a Post Office. The pods were made of material that resembled corrugated cardboard but made from plastic. The walls resembled the bellows of an accordion. A pod was about 8 or 10 inches thick when shipped but expanded to about ten feet square when unfolded. Each pod housed two people. A mess hall tent, a shower house, a small office building, two tool sheds and two FEMA trailers for the administrators made up the compound or "village." The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has a total of six such villages, for volunteer workers, located from Biloxi, Miss. to western New Orleans, La.



Compañeros Visits Mahler in El Salvador

KATHY'S BLOG—JAN. 26

I got to go truck shopping this morning! A good friend of La Casa – Alejandro (Dímas' brother) and I drove to San Miguel in search of a worthy (but affordable) vehicle. Alejandro (Ale) is highly respected, knows lots about cars and offered to help. He is a good advocate for us!

In San Miguel, we stopped at probably 15 places. Car alley, kind of like Merle Hay Road in Des Moines. But these lots are really little and the vehicles kind of scary looking! Maybe 20-25 vehicles in each lot. And we have very specific needs: 4x4 is a must on the canton roads; not an extended cab but sufficient space for two people to sit comfortably behind the driver.; enough space in the bed for 20 people to stand; standard would be nice, but automatic is cheaper.

We found everything we needed. Ale was even able to knock the price down to \$9,200. It's a 2000 with 98,000 miles and in far better condition aesthetically than any of the others. But not so good looking that it would attract a thief. We will put the "La Casa Pastoral Comunitario" logo on it which is a deterrent as well.

I just found out that Alejandro called and he has a friend who doesn't need his

truck anymore and thinks it might be better and cheaper. So we'll make a quick trip back to San Miguel to go look.

I will be in San Salvador with the Compañeros delegation for the next 3 days so I need to be on my way to get our rooms ready at Los Pinos and to then fetch my Iowa friends who will spend a week here.

I will send their itinerary in the next blog so you can see what a typical delegation schedule looks like... It might make you want to join a delegation and that would be great!

KATHY'S BLOG - JAN. 27

Here is the itinerary for the Compañeros delegation: **Marcia Justice (Ankeny), Pete Bird (Des Moines, First) Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First) and Joe Pirtle (Waukee, St. Boniface Catholic Church).** See photo above.

Sunday, Jan 27

8:53 p.m. - Arrive at airport. Alfredo will deliver us to Los Pinos in Microbus. Bienvenidos!

Monday, Jan 28

7 a.m. - Breakfast at Los Pinos
8:00 - Depart for La Palma with Alfredo, shop and lunch
2 p.m. - Depart from La Palma and go to guest house
4:30 - Shop a bit in San Sal
6:00 - Dinner in San Sal
7:30 - Spend night at Los Pinos

Tuesday, Jan. 29

7 a.m. - Breakfast
8:00 - Depart for museum with Alfredo and Raúl. See Nobel Peace Wall.
9:30 - UCA, great place to get books/shirts etc., and reflect in the chapel

10:30 - Depart for Cathedral
12 Noon - Lunch in San Sal or on the way to Berlin.
3:30 p.m. - Arrive in Berlin. Rest and enjoy the greetings of the Pastoral Team.
6:00 - Dinner at La Casa
7:00 - Meeting with Pastoral Team

Wednesday, Jan 30

6:45 a.m. - Breakfast
7:30 - Leave La Casa and drive to Ciudad Barrios.
9:30 - Visit Radio Romero
10:30 - Visit church (or whatever the Team thinks we should see).
11:30 - Drive to San Antonio del Mosco for lunch, visit with Fr. Antonio about the dam problem. (Celebration at church today and the Bishop might be there!).
1:30 p.m. - Drive to river and enjoy leisure time exploring the bridge, hot springs and mini-geysers. Wear walking shoes that can get wet and bring clothes to swim in.
4:30 - Drive home
6:30 - Dinner at La Casa (possibly later)

Thursday, Jan. 31

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast
8:30 - Depart for visit to Corozal and San Felipe
12 p.m. - Lunch on the road (probably cheese sandwiches)
1:00 - Drive to and visit with Virginia.
4:00 - Kathy needs to be back at La Casa to greet visitor from *Seeds of Learning* (Daniel might be a good resource for ALL church partners working on education). He and Alvaro (who is bilingual) will spend night at La Casa. After we are done with the 3 cantons, everyone can rest, explore Berlin, hang out or visit with Daniel, Alvaro and me.

6:00 - Supper at La Casa



7:30 - Drive the road to Alegria to see the stars (just a thought) or just hang out.

Friday, Feb. 1

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast
8:30 - Kathy goes to Cerna w/ Daniel & Alvaro in a.m.
8:30 - Everyone can visit the physical therapy clinic or the marginalized schools
12 Noon - Lunch at La Casa
2:00 p.m. - All of us go to El Recreo
4:00 - Return to La Casa
6:00 - Supper at La Casa
7:00 - Meet with the Pastoral Team

Saturday, Feb. 2

7:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 - Celebration event at the Catholic Church
12 p.m - Lunch at La Casa
2:00 - Visit San Miguel where the water filters are manufactured. Jorge to arrange van
5:00 - Return to La Casa
6:30 - Take the Team out to supper in Alegria

Sunday, February 3

7 a.m. - Breakfast
8:45 - Load truck and head to Airport
10:45 - Arrive at airport/check in
12:50 p.m. Fly back to Iowa (Do you have your tickets?)
Buen Viaje! Estamos contentos que ustedes pudieron visitarnos!

—Kathy Mahler,
Interim Mission Co-Worker
to Berlin, El Salvador



GuideOne Insurance and 99.5 KZZQ Present *Faith and Family Night*

Join us for
*Faith and
Family
Night* with



the Iowa Energy pro-basketball game on Sunday, February 17, 4 p.m. at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. Tickets are \$9 for any faith group wanting to attend (not valid at Box Office).

Enjoy a "Preachers and Sneakers" game prior to the Iowa Energy game! Contact the Energy at 515-462-2849 for more information on how to sign up your pastor to play!

Stick around for a post game concert featuring the Grammy nominated band DecembeRadio at:
www.myspace.com/decemberadio.



Presbytery Happenings

EGYPT DELEGATION LEAVES THIS WEEK

Egypt Delegation trip dates are Feb. 13-Feb. 22. Members from our Presbytery include: **Nancy Lister-Settle** (Dallas Center, First), **Rev. Kate Stangl** and **Lori Funk** (Ottumwa, East End), **Elizabeth Smith** (Des Moines, Central), **Marcia Justice**, **Sue** and **Ken Nelson** (Ankeny).

UPDATE ON EGYPT MISSIONARY DENISE ENGLAND

Audubon's First Presbyterian Church member **Denise England**, and our designated missionary to Egypt, is still seeking support for the geriatrics position in Tanta. Denise is available to meet with your church mission teams, or speak during worship or provide a sermon about herself and her mission work with PCUSA. Currently Denise cannot leave until the funding for the 3-year commitment has been pledged by donors. She still needs \$74,048 of her \$136,000 financial goal. Send your contributions to: The Presbytery of Des Moines, 2400 86th

St., Ste. 20, Urbandale, IA 50322-4306. Include in the memo line: Denise England #MI910061. Thank you.

YOUTH SPRING CONNECTION IS APRIL 4-5

The Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force is currently making arrangements for a middle and high school youth retreat April 4-5, 2008. Interested churches are encouraged to contact Committee Moderator **Denis Britson (Dallas Center, First)** at 515-282-9139 or dnbritson@aol.com.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS HOLD MEETINGS

• **Southwest Regional Partnership** has rescheduled their meeting due to the weather for Feb. 28, 7 p.m., at **United Presbyterian Church, Lenox**. Agenda: presentation on church nominating committees and their work. Also information will be shared about the *Healthy Congregations* seminar coming up on April 11-12 hosted by the **First Presbyterian Church in Creston**.



- On Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, the **Presbytery's South Central Regional Partnership** will hold a dinner to begin at 6:15 p.m. at **Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola**. After a fine pork loin dinner (vegetarian meals are available), we will drive the short distance to the National Balloon Museum for a guided tour at 7 p.m. To learn more about the museum, go to: www.nationalballoonmuseum.com. We plan to be done about 8:30 p.m. The cost for the entire evening is only \$12.50! Make checks payable to your local church and RSVP to your church by Feb. 25. Questions? Contact your church or **Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Indianola** at 515-961-6231.

Join us at the Crossroads: A Project about Civility

This is a monthly gathering of [The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa](http://www.iowatia.org) (www.iowatia.org) and an opportunity to learn, participate in civil dialogue, and gather with people of faith and goodwill. You'll discuss issues at the intersection of religion and politics. Civilly.

The next Crossroads luncheon is Friday, Feb. 15, 11:45 - 1 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines (the corner of 42nd St. & Ingersoll Ave.). The Rev. Dave Ostendorf, executive director, Center for New Community, Chicago, will speak on *Immigration: Why is there so much fear & hate of immigrants in a country of immigrants?* Cost is \$8. Contact The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa for reservations at 515-279-8715 or taiowa@dw.com.



Congregational Connection

KUDOS FOR JOBS WELL DONE

Rev. Theron "Tom" Conrey (Perry, First) and **Rev. Claude Jones** (University of Dubuque Theological Seminary) retired at the January Presbytery Meeting in Ankeny. And the **Rev. Pat Summers** retired at the November Presbytery Meeting in Ottumwa. Congratulations to our honorably retired pastors!

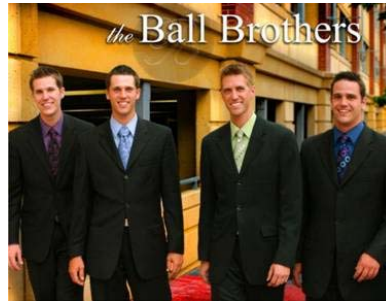
Nathan Williams' Ordination service was held Jan. 27 at First Presbyterian Church in Creston. Nathan has been called to the Northern Waters Presbytery in Virginia, Minn. at the Hope

Community Presbyterian Church.

Sara Hopkins, CLP, became a commissioned lay pastor at the November Presbytery meeting in Ottumwa and will be parish associate at **First Presbyterian Church in Newton.**

GOSPEL SINGERS COMING TO HARTFORD

Do you like to hear that "good ole'" Gospel music? Maybe you savor the beat of a contemporary Christian song? Do you enjoy hearing perfect 3-part family harmony? The Ball Brothers will be at the **Community United Presbyterian Church**, 315 North Vine

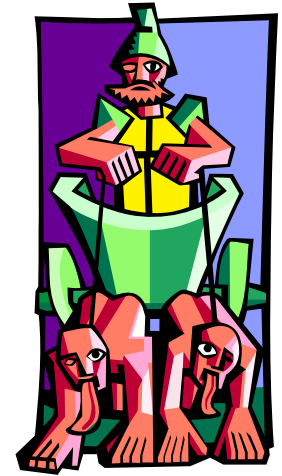


St., **Hartford, Ia.**, Saturday March 1, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$10.

Call Dave Walker reserve your seat, at home 515-989-4501 or by cell 515-210-7191 or e-mail davewalkjr@msn.com.

Be sure to check out their Web site at: www.theballbrothers.com and you'll see and hear what everyone is talkin' about!



SLAVERY IN 2008?

Attend the Human Trafficking Seminar, Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Beaver & Franklin Avenues in Des Moines.

Today, in the United States and other countries, men, women and children are being held in slavery and forced to work against their will. Join us to find out more. Learn how to recognize and respond to this devastating human tragedy.

A homemade lunch will be provided for \$5. There is no cost to attend the seminar. Register by calling 515-274-1534. Everyone is welcome!

Attend Spiritual Practices for Busy People

Work deadlines. Family. Job security. Health concerns. These are just a few of the 20 stressors identified by *Worklife Report* that contribute to the frantic pace of 21st century living. Sure, spiritual practices could lead to a more balanced lifestyle, but who has the time?

The Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center invites you to 'block out' some time Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, from 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. for learning and renewal as you explore the evolution of spiritual practices over the centuries and across continents. Discover the life-giving possibilities of mini-meditations, *imago divina*,

and other practices designed specifically for people on the run.

This seminar will be held at the Plymouth Congregation Church, 4126 Ingersoll Ave. in Des Moines and is intended for professionals in ministry, spiritual formation, mental health, education and for spiritual directors and spiritual companions.

Session fee is \$35 and includes lunch. Register by contacting the Center at 515-274-4006 or info@dmpcc.org.

Each session features lecture, group discussion, how-to information, and an opportunity to experience a spiritual practice designed for busy people.

Diane Stephens, M.A., is a spiritual director, writer, retreat leader and congregational consultant. Diane serves as affiliate faculty in spiritual formation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL, and as faculty of the new CREDO program of renewal for Presbyterian pastors. She received her BA from Duke University and her masters in Spiritual Formation and Evangelism from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Diane is an ordained elder and deacon in the PCUSA.



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PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES
 OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
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Growing into Tomorrow... Today Seminar a Must



On April 16-17, 2008, the **University of Dubuque Theological Seminary** will sponsor *Growing into Tomorrow... Today Seminar* on retirement planning for BOP Plan members age 50 and older. Registration is open for this two-day retirement planning seminar for clergy

and lay Benefits Plan members age 50 and older, and spouses or fiancés. Information brochures were mailed to active clergy and lay Benefits Plan

members age 50 and older in our presbytery.

For seminar details go to: <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/info/summary.aspx?e=de6eef2a-9f0b-4a86-b89f-793c1b4cbfc0>.

Due to the Seminary's popularity, expect this seminar's seating to fill quickly, so reg-

ister by March 21, 2008 with the Board of Pensions. There is no registration fee. Presented by: The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and sponsored by: University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

For more information, contact Nadine L. Monn, Coordinator, Education Programs, The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2000 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19103-3298, telephone: 800-773-7752, ext. 7223 or 215-587-7223.

**HOW ARE YOU DOING
 WITH YOUR
 "ONE A WEEK?"**