

The Wider Circle



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**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (USA)**

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

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- PC(USA) Calls for Wage Increase
- Presbytery Happenings
- Youth Triennium

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PC(USA) Call for Increase of Minimum Wage

**PC(USA), JEWISH GROUPS
CALL FOR INCREASE TO
\$7.25**

January 9, 2007

by Jerry Van Marter

LOUISVILLE – Leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a number of Jewish groups have united to send a letter to members of Congress urging an increase in the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour.

"The Jewish and Presbyterian communities have long

advocated for the rights of fair pay and the sanctity of families. We have sought an end to child labor, sweatshops, the six-day work week, and occupational safety violations," the religious leaders said in their letter, dated Jan. 8.

"Today, we continue our commitment to these values, by calling on Congress to raise the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour and give America's workers

the pay increase they so rightfully deserve."

The letter was signed by leaders of the PC(USA), the Reform Jewish movement, The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation.

To read the full text of the statement sent to members of Congress, go online to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/07021.htm.

Phil's Corner



A new calendar year is here. How's that for a profound statement!

A lot is made about a new year because it gives us a feeling of a fresh start at something, a chance to do something new, the opportunity to leave something behind.

I have a suggestion for all of us, something that comes from things I pick up in my travels to our

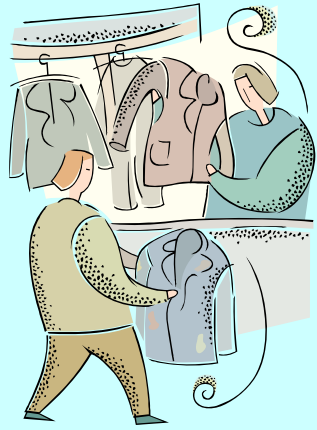
churches and presbytery meetings. I want to encourage us all to pay renewed attention to what is arguably the most important thing we do as Christians. How about in 2007 we pay attention to our worship?

I have been thinking a lot about this as I regularly hear comments – many negative – about worship, an activity about which most of us have passionate opinions or thoughts. Then I came across an article written by a Lutheran pastor, Dwight DuBoin, so I

thought I'd share it with you as it struck home with me.

"For far too long, due in large part to modernity's emphasis on the primacy of the individual, worship in our congregations has been focused on the needs and desires of the individual worshiper. 'Paying attention to our worship' means, in part, making sure that the subject of our worship is always God, not the 'expressed needs' of those who are present.

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Des Moines Homeless Shelter Needs Help!

A request for winter clothing such as coats, hats, gloves, socks etc., blankets and, of course, any toiletries has come in from the Central Iowa Shelter & Services (formerly Churches United Shelter). They are also requesting spray deodorant in order to share cans. All sizes are needed for coats from infant to adult. There are women with children on the streets all the time.

Anna Williams from **Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive** mentioned that recently there was a mother with two daughters that had shown up and there was “no room at the inn” at any of the shelters in town. “Howard, the man I spoke with down at the shelter,” Anna says, “was just sick trying to figure out where they could go at least for the night.”

If you can help, contact **Anna Williams** at: espanda@msn.com or 515-987-6046.

Phil's corner continued from page 1

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Mary Jo Leddy, writing in *Confident Witness – Changing World*, writes:

“When we know God loves us for nothing, only then do we begin to contemplate, “Can we love God for nothing, for no reason? Not for what we will get out of it. Not for how God shores up the church and helps us increase and multiply. But rather, can we love God because God is God?” That is the beginning of worship. Worship services are not yet worship when we ask what we are going to get out of it.

“Others worry that the form of worship and the symbols that the church has used for the past two millennia is foreign to most people today, and therefore will harm the church’s ability to witness. While we certainly need to pay attention to the ‘user friendliness’ of our worship, we don’t need to change everything to make worship relevant.

“An excursus: I don’t like ice hockey. The music is much too loud, and far too raucous. I don’t know the rules, and I don’t understand the game. What does the National Hockey League need to do to get me to attend their games? Change the music? Install bases and make players run from first to second and go on to

home? No, I need someone to take me to a game, buy me something to eat and drink, explain the rules, tell me who the players are, introduce me to other fans, so that I can enjoy the game. (Providing some ear-plugs might be helpful, too.)

“Darrell Guder, in *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*, writes, ‘public worship is the first and central form of witness to the world. It is at the same time a demonstration of the reality of God that cannot be, in everyway, understandable and accessible. The watching world must see a community of people who love the God they are addressing, who love each other, and who desire to carry their God’s love into the world.’

“Paying attention to our worship’ also means building into our worship the sense that we are called and sent for the sake of the world. Like the *Lutheran Book of Worship* did in making baptism central to our worship and our self-understanding, so do we now need to build our call to witness into the very fabric of our worship. The dismissal at the end of the service is a good start: not the ‘Thanks be to God’ part (in which some people might be saying, “Thank goodness, church is done

for the week’) but the “Go in peace, serve the Lord” part. We would do well to expand the sending rite, and to clarify what it means to ‘serve the Lord,’ especially in terms of witness.

“The story of the disciples and their encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus is on possibility for expanding the sending rite. Luke tells us that as soon as the disciples recognized Jesus (interestingly in the breaking of the bread) they 1) rose, 2) returned, 3) found the people who had heard preliminary reports about Jesus’ rising, and 4) told them about their encounter with Jesus. Rose-returned-found-told; it could be a pattern for a new sending rite. There are many other such ways to instill in worship the sense that we are called and sent, for the sake of the world.”

As we begin this new year, may we remember on whom worship is centered, pay attention to what God is saying to us, and take more seriously the call to go out, tell and bring people to an opportunity to experience God. And may this bring special meaning into all our lives.

Peace, Phil

Events Calendar

2007

Jan. 17 – Iowa Religious Media Services will hold their annual meeting at the center, 3816 36th St. in Des Moines. The gathering is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with lunch and a meeting. To RSVP, contact Sharon at 515-277-2920 or sharon@irms.org.

Jan. 31-Feb. 3 – *A.P.C.E. Annual Event 2007*, A Conference for All Persons Serving in Educational Ministry to be held at the Marriot in Philadelphia, Pa. This year's theme is represented by the Sankofa Bird; a concept from the West African Akan people that means "in order to move into the future one must go back and learn from the past." The Sankofa Bird is depicted as a carving, flying forward with its head facing back and holding an egg in its big beak to symbolize the future. To register, call Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Coordinator Pat Murphy at 888-728-7228, ext. 5460, or pmurphy@ctr.pcusa.org. For conference details, go online to: <http://apcenet.org/events/annual-next.htm>.

Feb. 1-4 – PAM Professionals Meeting 2007 theme is: *What Does the Lord Require of Us? Becoming partners in the Ministry of Worship for the formation of faithful disciples*. Based on Micah 6:8, this event will be held at the Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Ga. For details, go

to: www.presbysmusic.org/confprofessional.htm.

Feb. 5-8 – *2007 Winter Pastors School* slated at Hastings College, Hastings, Neb., sponsored by the presbyteries of Central Nebraska, Homestead and Missouri River Valley, with Hastings College and the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation as supportive partners. Chip Andrus, a Presbyterian singer and songwriter, will lead the school with the theme, "Emerging Worship." Andrus, who has produced two CDs of his music and serves as associate for worship in the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship, coordinates the ecumenical Emerging Worship Initiative and frequently serves as music leader for General Assembly worship. More information, contact Rev. David McCarthy at Hastings College at: 402-461-7397.

Feb. 9 & 10 – 2007 Eastern Iowa Children's Choral Festival, *Learning to Trust, Living to Praise*, at First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City. The Eastern Iowa Choristers Guild Chapter is committed to providing opportunities for children and youth choirs and their directors to gather, learn about and experience welcoming, participatory worship. Read about 2007 clinician Mark Patterson at: www.choristersguild.org/patterson.html.

For details contact Matthew Penning, Festival Coordinator, at 319-338-7523 or e-mail: matthewp@saintandrew-ic.org.

Feb. 15-17 – *Restoring Creation*, Presbyterians for Restoring Creation will hold a Southeast Regional Conference on St. Simon's Island, Ga. go to: www.prcweb.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=events&fuse=SE07event.

Feb. 23-25 – *Confirmation Retreat* at Camp Wyoming, Wyoming, Ia. Confirmation students and their pastors or leaders will explore the sacrament of communion while experiencing the beauty of God's world. Opportunity for everyone to grow in their faith. Starts Friday at 7:30 p.m. through Sunday, 1 p.m. Cost is \$75 per student. Adult chaperones are FREE. To register, go to: www.campwyoming.net, or e-mail: campwyo@netins.net or phone: 563-488-3893.

March 4-6 – The 26th Annual Rural Ministry Conference will again be held in Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Ia. This year's theme is "Sustainable Ministry: Faith, Farm and the Future." Explore how rural ministry can be sustainable into a compassionate, productive and more humanizing future. Speakers will include Bill Warhover, pastor of First United Presbyterian Church in Miles. Early bird registra-

tion ends Feb. 6. For details go to: www.ruralministry.com/.

March 9-12 – *Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, and How are the Children?* At the Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia. Details of the conference are available at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days Web site: www.advocacydays.org/.

March 12-14 – *Transformational Stewardship Conference* in Denver, Colo. Registration deadline is Feb. 16. Broaden your mind and expand your knowledge as you learn more about stewardship of time, talent and treasures. Find answers to the questions: Is there a cure for "influenza"? If Jesus talked about money so often, why are preachers reluctant to? How can you transform your congregation from one focused on fundraising to one focused on funding ministry? Read more about the conference and get registration information at: www.pcusa.org/stewardship.

March 16-17 – *Spiritual Leadership for Becoming a Transformed Congregation* Workshop at First Presbyterian Church in Marshalltown, Ia., Register by March 9. Cost is \$30 per church plus \$15 per person for meals.

March 16-17 – *Evolution and Intelligent Design Conference*, at Wartburg College, Waverly, Ia. Go to: www.iowa-rsd.org/Home.html.



Interested in Church Consultant Training?

Do you want to share your experience leading an unhealthy church back to vitality? Are you seeking wisdom to improve the church where you serve? Whether you desire to help one church or many, the program developed by Church Central can equip you for the task. The five-level program consists of levels 1-4 in a classroom, and level 5 in an actual church consultation project. To learn more, go to: www.churchcentral.com/nw/sid/596/template/Storefronts/Template.html. Consultant training courses in 2007 include:

Jan. 23–25, Louisville, KY

Apr. 16–18, Salt Lake City, UT

May 15–17, Dallas, TX

July 17–19, Louisville, KY

Nov. 6–8, Louisville, KY

To register, simply visit the Church Central Consultant Training registration Web site or call Bob Browning toll-free, at: 866-515-0520.

Employment Opportunities

Executive Director – Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)

The executive director is responsible for executing the mission of Des Moines Area Religious Council by building strong relationships with the Greater Des Moines faith community, managing effective programs, administering the Council and its staff, and further developing lines of interfaith dialogue in the community. A full job description may be found at www.dmreligious.org.

To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to search@dmreligious.org.

Director, Relief and Development — Louisville, Ky.

The General Assembly Council (GAC) Executive Directors Office (EDO) needs a person for the program area of the GAC that provides ministries of direct service and disaster relief, support for community development and health initiatives, programs addressing the causes and consequences of poverty, and efforts to encourage congregational and personal lifestyle changes. For information or

to apply, contact: Peggie Blenman, HR Director at MBlenman@ctr.pcusa.org or 888-728-7228. ext. 5710.

Committee On Ministry Consultant – Waterloo, Ia. The Presbytery of North Central Iowa seeks a consultant to work with the Committee on Ministry (COM). The position will work closely with the Moderator of COM, the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk and will have expertise in personnel, human resources, and conflict resolution and will attend monthly meetings and give 10 hours per week to the committee, working with

Respect For All Help for Youth Ministry

The *Respect For All* Project presents two FREE professional development workshops to be held Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Southwestern Community College, Osceola Center, 2520 College Dr., Osceola, IA 50213. Lunch is provided from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

- **At 8:30 a.m. — THAT'S A FAMILY!** takes a fresh and revealing look at the different kinds of families in America today. From the point of view of children, who speak candidly about what its like to have parents who are divorced, gay or lesbian, single, of different races or religions, or to be raised by adoptive parents or guardians, workshop participants learn about the importance of valuing all families. This award-winning film helps generate discussion among elementary school students, parents, youth service providers and educators about the importance of ensuring safe and welcoming schools and communities. www.womedia.org/rural_iowa_taf.pdf

www.womedia.org/rural_iowa_taf.pdf

- **At 1:30 p.m. — LET'S GET REAL** takes a unique and candid look at name-calling and bullying from the point of view of young people who speak candidly about this national epidemic. This award-winning film helps generate discussion among middle school students, parents, youth service providers and educators about teasing and bullying in our schools and communities. www.womedia.org/rural_iowa_lgr.pdf

These free workshops provide an opportunity to come together with other educators and youth-service providers from the southwestern Iowa area to see and learn how to use the film and curriculum guides with youth. Each participant receives a FREE workshop manual and curriculum guide! Each participating organization will receive one FREE copy of either That's a Family! or Let's Get Real video. A charge will apply for CEUs. SPACE IS LIMITED! Please RSVP by Feb. 5 to Abena Darden at: registration@respectforall.org, or through their Web site at: www.respectforall.org or 800-405-3322, ext. 380 by phone.

Prayers and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

The El Salvador delegation from **Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive**, was recently in Berlin, Jan. 8-15 and arrived home safely.

Rev. Marvin Potter, HR, who is currently undergoing radiation therapy for prostate cancer.

Rev. Melvin Roblee, HR, interim pastor of **First Presbyterian Church in Guthrie Center**, is currently at *On With Life* in Ankeny for skilled care and therapy. Kathryn Roblee, Mel's wife, reports, "His progress is good, and he is able to walk short distances. His spirits are good so keep sending prayers and cards his way!" Send correspondence to: Mel Roblee, Room 46, 715 S.W. Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50023. Phone calls and visits are welcomed. Call 515-965-1339, ext. 346 to reach his room, or dial 1 for the nurses desk to find out his schedule before your visit.

Rev. Giles Card, HR, temporary supply at **First Presbyterian Church in Centerville**, is continuing with aggressive radiation therapy for a cancerous brain tumor. Most of the tumor was removed with surgery back in Sept. 21, 2006. Church member Jim Senior, indicated in the *The Gleaner* newsletter, "This guy is tough and he's thinking straight. Rev. Card

was back in the pulpit 10 days after surgery and he's excited about the plans to revitalize and grow the congregation." According to **Jane Sheston, Clerk of Session** at Centerville, lay people have been assisting Rev. Card with Sunday services and the result has been rewarding, meaningful and worshipful.

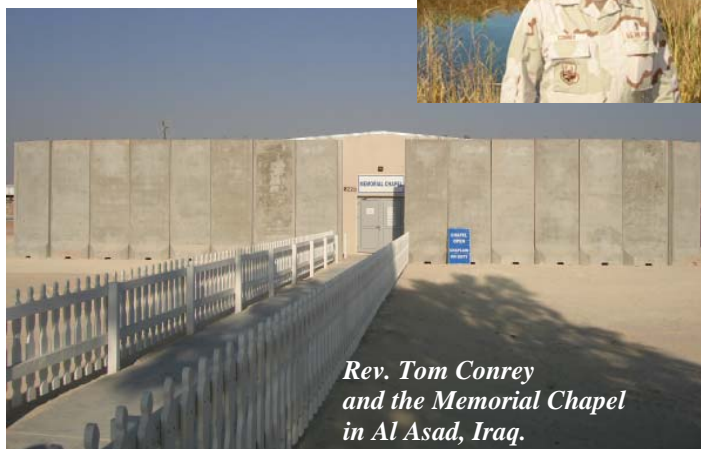
Rev. Giles Card also sent his sincere thanks to all of us for our thoughts, cards and helpful expressions sent his way during this unusual time. Also, **Glennice Card**, wife of Rev. Giles Card has also been hospitalized recently for cancer. Our prayers are with them and their friends and family.

Norma Jean Mason, wife of **Rev. George Mason**, former pastor at **Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** and **Hartford Community United Presbyterian Church**, passed away Nov. 4, 2006. Rev. Mason served our presbytery for 25 years

before retiring and moving with his wife Norma, to O'Fallon, Mo., 13 years ago. Norma was very happy there where her two children's families lived. A memorial service was held on Nov. 8.

Dr. Richard Roush, Clerk of Session at **First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa**, has been assigned to active duty with the military in Wisconsin. Send correspondence to: Fort McCoy Dental Clinic, USA—DenTac, Attn: Col Roush, Bldg. 2668, 1678 S. 10th Ave., Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5114.

Rev. Tom Conrey, First Presbyterian Church in Perry, deployed with the Air National Guard and is now at the Al Asad Air Base in Iraq. You can send correspondence to: Chaplain Lt. Col. Theron Conrey, 557 ERHS/USAF, APO AE 09333, or e-mail: theron.conrey@iraq.centcom.mil. To read more about his adventures, go online to Tom's blog at:



Rev. Tom Conrey and the Memorial Chapel in Al Asad, Iraq.



It's Not Too Late to Help Re-gifting Project!

Through Children & Families of Iowa's *Friend of the Family Program*, you have an opportunity to re-gift some of your holiday presents that will have lasting value to the at-risk families, children and individuals served by Children and Families of Iowa's Family Violence Center!

The Mars Café is currently collecting items to be delivered Friday, Jan. 19. Below is a list of gifts and personal care items most often needed by the families they serve: Travel vouchers, personal care items, clothing, linens, baby items, school supplies, toys, backpacks, purses, CDs, audio players, and various other items.

Mars Café is a family owned coffee shop in the Drake Neighborhood of Des Moines. Bring your gifts to the Mars Café, 2318 University Ave., Des Moines, Ia. 515-369-MARS (6277). To learn more, go online to the Mars Café at www.myspace.com/marscafe or e-mail phil.james@gmail.com.



'Souper Bowl' Hopes to Score \$8 Million

by Evan Silverstein

LOUISVILLE – As National Football League playoff teams clash for the right to advance to the Super Bowl, participants in another big game will be teaming up next month to fight hunger and poverty. But the players in this match-up, the annual *Souper Bowl of Caring*, won't need helmets.

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 4, young volunteers armed with soup pots, will be collecting canned goods and dollars at churches, businesses and Super Bowl parties for the annual event.

The Presbyterian-founded, youth-oriented anti-hunger campaign takes advantage of the NFL championship game to raise money for the poor and ill-nourished.

The program has raised \$33 million for charities like food banks and soup kitchens since its inception in 1990.

To participate register at: www.souperbowl.org/. Each registrant receives a free kit with materials to plan and promote their event, or contact Dianne Lewis at: 803-609-2520. To read more go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07030.htm.

PC(USA) Update

Pandemic Planning

In late October, the Harvard School of Public Health conducted a survey in order to see how much a random sample of folks know about the possibility of a pandemic and how they would respond. The results have strong implications for how the "people in the pews" might respond, what they might need, etc. Importantly, the survey also found that a substantial share of people would have no one to care for them if they become ill or would face serious financial problems if they had to stay home from work for a week or more. You can view and download the complete survey and Power Point slides at: www.hsph.harvard.edu/panflu/IOM_Avian_flu.ppt or www.hsph.harvard.edu/panflu/panflu_charts.ppt

Also, the National Health Ministries department of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) would like to know which Presbyteries and congregations have started planning for a Pandemic Planning. Most have only started thinking about the topic. In July 2006, most congregations had not yet begun their work either. Just in case you are one of those waiting, MSNBC has developed a graphic showing the spread from 2003 until this month. It is not

for the fainthearted and can be found at www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12375868.

Some folks are operating in the denial mode – it isn't going to happen, or, it isn't going to happen to me/us. While that might be temporarily comforting, it does not address the issue – Pandemic Flu is very likely to happen – according to many scientists, within the next 3-5 years. It seems that in congregations and Middle Governing Body's most people want samples of what others are doing. We are happy to serve as a clearinghouse so that duplication of work is avoided.

So, if your congregation has begun some significant work, please contact Pat Gleich, EdS, Associate for National Health Ministries and let her know what you are doing. She can be contacted at 502-569-5793 or if you have something you would be willing to share - sample plan or program material or newsletter story, etc., send it to Pat at pgleich@ctr.pcusa.org. Be sure to tag whatever you send so that you and your congregation or organization can be credited.

And about preparedness, remember – it was not raining when Noah built the ark. To learn more about plans for a pandemic, please visit the Web site at:

www.pcusa.org/health/usa or contact us at: 888-728-7228.

Medicare Summary

If you are or know someone who is struggling to make sense of the 116 page *Medicare & You* booklet, and web information, we have sifted through the important information into a new document on the NHM Web site. If you go to www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth you will see a link to *Still Struggling through the Medicare Morass*.

It is important that people read through the materials and find the numerous changes for 2007. Premiums and deductibles have increased. Particularly in looking at Medicare Part D, timely and critical that decisions regarding plan selection must be made. It is important that people do not rely on continuing Prescription Drug Plans from the previous year because many plans have changed. Monthly premiums may have increased only slightly, but the tier assignment of particular drugs might substantially affect the co-payment.

Also important to note is the very small window for making a plan selection. While the CMS instructions

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PC(USA) Update continued from page 6

indicate that the decision needs to be made by the end of December, if one delays the decision past Dec. 8, there will be a lapse in coverage due to processing until Feb. 1.

It is also important for people to be aware that if they are eligible for Medicare Part D and do not enroll, they will pay a penalty – each and every month after they do enroll for late enrollment. (This penalty can be waived for people who

have other coverage, but it is not an automatic waiver.)

ATTENTION SENIORS

There is financial aid for students available through the National Presbyterian College Scholarship Program. Applicants must:

1. Be prepared to enter as full-time incoming freshman in the fall of 2007 at one of the colleges related to the Presbyterian Church
2. Be a member of the Presbyterian Church

3. Be a high school senior or graduate who has not attended college as a full-time student

4. Be a U.S. citizen.

If you are interested, please let your pastor know as soon as possible. Applications must be postmarked before January 31, 2007. For more information on financial aid for students of all types, go online to: www.pcusa.org/financialaid/index.htm.



Presbyterian Congress List Now Available

Although a few races are still being contested, a new list of Presbyterians in the 110th congress has been added to the Presbyterian Washington Office web page. It sits just below the list of 109th at:

www.pcusa.org/washington/presbys.htm.

RELIGIOUS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Thirteen members of the 109th Senate identified themselves as being Presbyterian (10 Republicans and 3 Democrats). Nine members remain after the November elections for the 110th Senate (7-Rep. and 2-Dem.). Presbyterians now hold 9% of the seats in the U.S. Senate down from 13%.

Thirty-eight members of the 109th House identified themselves as Presbyterian (26-Rep. and 12-Dem.). There are now 32 Presbyterians in the 110th Congress, a combination of new and returning members (18-Rep. and 14-Dem.).

Overall, the 41 Congressional Presbyterians make us the fifth most represented faith group in the Senate and the House.

DMARC Food Pantry Celebrates 30th Anniversary

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Des Moines Area Religious Council's Food Pantry, a soup dinner will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1115 Grand Ave., West Des Moines on Sunday, January 28, 2007. Dinner will be served from 4-8 p.m. for \$10 per person. Three kinds of soup will be served. Each

diner will receive a commemorative ceramic bowl and as a reminder that hunger still exists. All proceeds will go to the DMARC Food Pantry.



A reminder: Congregations are encouraged to deliver

their food donations to the Food Pantry on Monday, Jan. 22. This is the day they have volunteers to accept the donations. If you are planning a food drive, please call Sr. Sandra Rodemyer, at 515-277-6969, so that details may be discussed beforehand. The next Food Pantry weekend is Feb. 17-18, 2007.

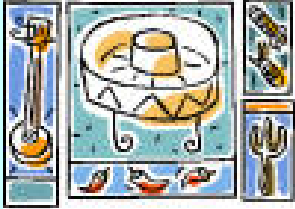
Indianola Church Recognized as *Just Neighbor*

The **Social Ministries Task Force of the Presbytery** recognized **Trinity Presbyterian Church in Indianola** at the last Presbytery meeting held at the **Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. The Indianola church was honored for the congregations commitment to being a "Just Neighbor" in their community. The traveling award banner (seen here)

and a certificate were given to congregation for their years of mission, ministry and conscientiously seeking to fulfill Christ's command from *Matthew 25:35-36, 40*.



The banner depicts the Spirit of God burning in the lives of believers who respond in worship and service.



Dinner To Raise Funds for El Salvador, Jan. 21

A fundraising dinner is being held to support the El Salvador mission on Sunday, January 21, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** at the corner of Beaver and Franklin in **Des Moines**. There will be a short presentation before the meal with history and background information of the mission as well as ongoing and current project information.

Cost of the meal is \$8 per person or \$25 per family. This sit-down dinner, prepared by Chef Dwight Christman and served by Compañeros members will feature authentic Salvadoran pupusas appetizers, Ginger thyme chicken breast, garlic mashed potatoes with cheese crisps, Key West vegetable, Onion rolls with herb butter, Maple pecan salad and a chocolate Brownie in a Cloud.

Contact **Compañeros Moderator Sue Hotevec** or call **Westminster Presbyterian Church** at 515-274-1534 to purchase tickets. Proceeds support the social and economic justice projects of Our Sister Parish.

For details visit:

www.oursisterparish.org.

Interfaith Education Classes Offered

Grow in faith. Explore other faith traditions. Nurture your spirituality and health.

Come join our interfaith educational opportunities on Jan. 16 & 23 at Dowling High School, 1400 Buffalo Road in West Des Moines.

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC), the Jewish Federation and St. Joseph Educational Center are offering courses for your midwinter fellowship and educational enjoyment. Courses begin Tuesdays evenings at 7 p.m. and run until 9 p.m., Jan. 16 and 23. Please note that the registration cost for this year's Registration cost is only \$20 (regardless of whether you attend one or both nights).

A list of courses follows on this page. If you have questions or would like to attend, call the DMARC office at: 515-277-6969 or e-mail: info@dmreligious.org.

January Thru 2007 Courses

TUESDAY COURSES, JAN. 16, 7-9 P.M.

- Exploring the Creation Story from A Jewish Perspective
- An Introduction to the Muslim World
- Symbols in Clay
- Immigration: A Question of Faith
- Finishing Well – A Medical and Legal Perspective

TUESDAY COURSES, JAN. 23, 7-9 P.M.

- The Third Gospel with the Third World
- Commandments of the Lord: How the Mitzvot are Organized
- An Examination of the Religion Clauses in the First Amendment
- Finishing Well: Religious Perspectives – A panel of religious leaders

COMBINED COURSES, JAN. 16 & 23, 7-9 P.M.

- Music Diversity Workshop (Jan. 16) and Music within the Jewish Tradition (Jan. 23)
- Youth and Media: Challenges and Opportunity for Parents and Family
- Spanish Conversation for Fun and Friendship
- Contemporary Perspectives on Spirituality and Health
- Enneagram

Congregational Connection

Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines is honored to have Iowa's new Governor Chet Culver as an active member and elder for the past three years. Before that he was a member at **Central Presbyterian in Des Moines**.

In fact, last week during the inaugural festivities, **Rev.**

David Schneider, interim pastor at **Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines** received an invitation from the Governor-Elect's office to offer the prayer at the Interfaith Service held on Jan. 13 at Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines.

The Culver-Judge Inaugural Committee offered the Inter-

faith Service celebrating Iowa's rich faith community which included music by *Our Lady of the Americas* (Las Americas) *Choir* of St. Peter's Church and Grammy award winning gospel singer, Bishop Walter Hawkins, in addition to speakers from an array of faith communities.

Older Adult Mission Update

In a recent issue of the Older Adult Mission (OAM) newsletter, *AGenda*, the following news from presbyteries appeared:

"A scholarship recipient from last year's Annual Conference shares her experience in the Des Moines Presbytery: 'I asked for and received time on the agenda for a brief report at

the May 2006 Presbytery assembly (a requirement of the scholarship is sharing the experience back home). In August I had a display board and books for browsing. In November, my church sent a display board, loop video, and handouts related to OAM (more than 50 copies were picked up); I announced the Annual

POAMN Conference. So far, 7 churches have asked for further information and OAM now regularly appears in the Presbytery newsletter *The Wider Circle*. Notice that warm feeling? It's God, holding our toes to the fire.' Submitted by **Darlene Shepherd, Oskaloosa, Ia.** PROAM's are individuals in each Presbytery who have

volunteered, (or been nominated) to be the voice, ears, and arms for Older Adult Ministries in their area. Or contact **Darlene Shepherd** at: dshep@mahaska.org or at 641-673-5793.

To become a member of PROAM, a network of resources and partners in Older Adult Ministries, contact Vickie at: pastorvickiek@yahoo.com.

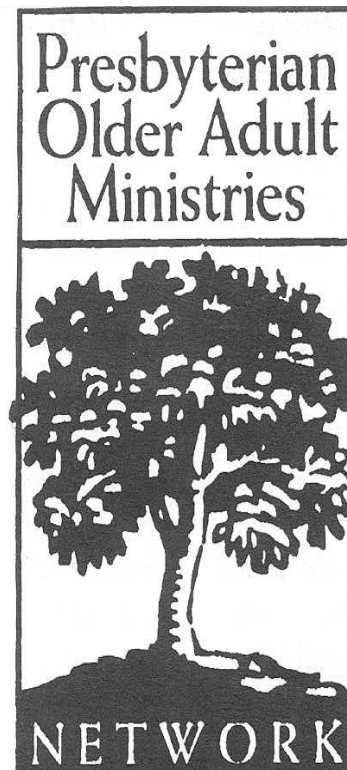
5 Things to Consider before Starting Adult Ministry

1. **Pray.** See God's will in prayer, and share your prayerful concern and vision.
2. **Count the cost.** The ministry will cost you and your congregation time, money, and emotions.
3. **Develop your mission statement.** We need to know where we are going so that we can determine a way to get there.
4. **Set your goals and objectives.** Brainstorm – have long-term and short-term goals and numerical goals.
5. **Dream big, but live in reality.** Dream and catch a vision!

9 Benefits Of Establishing Adult Ministry

1. **Expands the Church's existing ministry** by reaching entire families, including grandparents and homebound seniors.
2. **Shows the community that the church is a vital part of community life** through activities, programs, meals, trips, social events and bible study.
3. **Builds the Sunday School.** Seniors share experience, wisdom, insight, desire and ability to younger church members.
4. **Increases worship attendance.** Seniors become interested in a social activity – then become involved in the seniors group and they begin participating in the worship service. Often, their families may join them.
5. **Instills biblical truth in the lives of seniors** and helps them face the challenges of today's deteriorating society. This may include media impact, loneliness, depression, fear, crime, suicide, alcohol abuse.
6. **Provides enriching experiences close to home.** Friendship groups, social events, and prayer groups all enrich their lives.
7. **Helps meet the need for senior care.** Ministries can provide food for the homebound, have a system in place to provide enlightenment, edification, education, enrichment, transportation, visitation, and offer counseling services.
8. **Provides an opportunity for mature adults to serve.** Plan and schedule volunteer time. Adults have much to offer.
9. **Provides an opportunity for young adults to serve.** Younger adults can help guide seniors in learning new skills, hobbies, etc. This can work in the opposite direction as well – senior's teaching, serving young adults.

Adapted from Gallagher, Dr. David P., Senior Adult Ministry in The 21st Century.



Curriculum Options

from PC(USA)

New CE Curriculum Available

Sample kits are currently available for:

- Augsburg VBS *Great Bible Reef*
- Akaloo Starter Kit

Other PC(USA) curriculum samples will be made available as the Christian Education committee begins to evaluate and choose curriculum for the fall 2007.

Check out www.akaloo.org for updates on this curriculum. It is a great mid-week or small group ministry program. For more info, contact the **Des Moines Presbytery's P.O.I.N.T. Person, Sandi Stuckey** of **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** at sstuckey@westpres.org or 515-274-1534.

P.O.I.N.T. (Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching) is a network of knowledgeable, enthusiastic volunteers who have been trained and equipped to lead the way in sharing PC(USA)'s Christian Education curriculum with you. This includes *We Believe*, our denominational curriculum, as well as *Bible Quest* and *The Present Word*, our curricula produced in ecumenical partnership.

Presbytery Happenings

PER CAPITA IS SET FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

Per Capita payments make up the budget of the Presbytery including the work of its committees, the reimbursement of volunteers for expenses related to service to the Presbytery, and the support of Presbytery committees as they work with local churches.

Our per capita also goes to pay for the budget of Synod and General Assembly and its work and ministry. The Presbytery honors its commitment to pay the entire per capita assessment due to General Assembly and Synod, whether or not payment is actually received from our local churches.

The 2007 Per Capita Assessment is broken down as follows:

\$16.60	Presbytery
\$ 4.61	Synod
\$ 5.79	General Assembly
\$27.00	Total

STATED MEETING HOST IS NEEDED

Can your church host the Presbytery of Des Moines' stated meeting for Nov. 13, 2007? If your congregation would like to help with this ministry to the Presbytery, contact **Stated Clerk, Rev. Phil Barrett** at: 515-276-4991 or pby1@qwest.net. Thanks!

CHURCH FORMS DUE ASAP

Please be sure to get the necessary church forms back to the Presbytery office

as soon as possible. We've only received 30 responses, from the 64 clerks of session. The needed forms include:

1. *2007 General Mission Pledge* form
2. *2007 Church Staff Information* form (pink)
3. *2007 Additional Church Personnel Information* form (yellow)
4. *2007 Report of Changes in Ministerial Calls* form (green)
5. *2007 Church Loan Update* form as of 12/31/06 (blue).

Thank you for your quick turn around on these documents!

– Betty Dyer,
Office Manager

FRIENDS OF REV. COOK RAISE RETIREMENT FUNDS

Jeff Heil from Marshalltown, Ia., went on a delegation to El Salvador and was fortunate enough to get to know Rev. Bob Cook, HR, fairly well before his retirement in July 2006. Bob consulted Jeff recently for financial advise in his retirement. He did not ask for money but wanted sound advise in an area that he admitted was not his forte. After much discussion and sharing of difficulties, Jeff came to the conclusion to establish a retirement gift fund for Bob.

As many of you know, Bob has spent several years living among the very poor of God's creation. While living amongst them, he shared not

only his time, heart and soul, but he gave of his personal belongings. Bob does have a pension to live on in retirement but he did give away much of his savings that he accumulated before he went to El Salvador. Not only did Bob give of his savings but he also borrowed funds to give to those in need. When you live amongst the poor as long as Bob did, it becomes hard not to give all that you can, and Bob gave more than he had.

Even in retirement Bob is still continuing to help the needy where he lives in San Salvador. Again, Bob did not request a gift for his need, but after the discussion with Jeff, he did give permission to share his need. You can also contact Bob for verification.

Jeff is asking friends of Bob to be a part of a retirement gift for all his years of service to many. This retirement gift will continue to give to those who are not as fortunate as most of us. Please, lay this request before the Lord and respond as the Lord directs. The Marshalltown parish approved the gifts to be processed as a tax deduction.

If you or your church is interested in helping with this fund, contact Jeff Heil at 641-750-5720 or e-mail jpthheil@hotmail.com.

Community Cultural Grants Apps Due Feb. 1

The Iowa Community Cultural Grant (ICCG) program encourages employment of Iowans in the arenas of the arts, culture, and history. Matching grants support organizations and projects that provide lasting employment for Iowans while also enhancing Iowa's artistic, cultural and historical resources. Eligible projects may include but are not limited to museum exhibits, historic restoration and ar-

cheology projects; folklife and other festivals; public art or ethnic heritage projects; and performing arts events and companies. Local governments and their subsidiaries, tribal councils, and nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations are eligible for cash-match awards that range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 to fund salary support for new and/or enhanced positions. Applications are available at

www.culturalaffairs.org.

Contact Riki Saltzman at Riki.Saltzman@iowa.gov or 515-242-6195.

Communities and organizations intending to apply for Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008) Iowa Community Cultural Grants must have their applications in the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs offices by 4:30 p.m., Feb. 1, 2007.

Ecumenical Lobby Day and Rally for Children

On Jan. 23, 2007, join the **Presbytery of Des Moines' Social Ministries Task Force** for their annual legislative forum at Calvary Baptist Church, 606 East 9th St., Des Moines. The focus for the annual Lobby Day is *Children and Poverty*. The forum schedule is as follows:

- 9 a.m. Welcome, followed by keynote speaker: Susan Pace Hamill (see bio following)
- 10:15 Health care panel
- 11:00 Before and after school care panel
- 11:45 Immigration panel
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch and advocacy training with Jos Linn, RESULTS
- 1:30 Lobbying at the Capitol

3:00 Judicatory Leaders' press conference in the Capitol Rotunda

3:45 *Moral Witness for Children Rally*, including milk and cookies with the legislators

Schedule held simultaneously, for youth and young adults includes:

9 a.m. Meet at Calvary Baptist Church

9:15 Opportunities include keynote speaker or a trip to the Capitol (guided tour, meet legislators, legislative committee meetings)

12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Calvary Baptist Church

1:15 Poverty simulation

3:00 Judicatory Leaders' press conference in the capitol rotunda

3:45 *Moral Witness for Children Rally*, including milk and cookies with the legislators

Suggested donation (to cover lunch and keynote) is \$10. Register with Kristin Clark Nolan before Jan. 18 by e-mail kristin.clark_nolan@iaumc.org or phone 515-974-8911.

Keynote speaker **Susan Pace Hamill** has been a Professor of Law at the University of Alabama since 1994 teaching in the areas of tax law, business organizations and ethics. She also has published numerous articles, and, a chapter in *Business Tax Stories*, focusing on business organizations, especially limited liability companies. To read writings by Professor Hamill go to: www.law.ua.edu/susanhamill/.



Helping Hurting Kids? Don't Miss April 21 CORE Seminar!

When you can only see the outside... how do you get to the CORE; the cause, the root, and the remedy? You can see the symptoms: pain, family breakdown, addiction, self-injury and depression. Join us this spring for The Core 2007 event, "Helping Hurting Kids," sponsored by Youth Specialties.

This Christian education event will be held at the **Ankeny Presbyterian Church**, 317 S.E. Trilein Dr., in Ankeny, **Saturday, April 21**, at 8:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. (check in at 8:15 a.m.). Volunteers, parents, and Sunday School teachers will benefit from this conference.

Speaker Dave Ambrose has been working with students for more than 15 years.

For details, check the Web site at: www.youthspecialties.com/thecore or call 888-346-4179.

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PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES
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 Urbandale, IA 50322-4306



WE'RE ON THE WEB:

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org

Youth Triennium, A Chance of a Lifetime

The Presbytery of Des Moines application process is in full swing for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, to be held July 17-22, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Both adult and youth application forms are still available on the Presbytery's Web site and must be complete in order to attend with our Presbytery's delegation. To start the application process, go online to: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/resources.htm,



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2007

to print and send completed application to:

Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson,
 PYT Registrar
 Presbytery of Des Moines
 7207 S.W. 16th Street
 Des Moines, Iowa
 50315-6030

By January 31, 2007 for initial consideration.

If you have questions or need trip details contact Lisa at 515-287-1288 or by e-mail at LeftyLizard@juno.com.

The cost for the 5-day event is \$399

per participant. For conference details check out the updated Web site at:

www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org.

More info about participation in the Presbytery delegation will be given at the January 20 Presbytery Meeting in Dallas Center, Ia.