

The Wider Circle



Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / July 2008 Vol. 4, Issue 6



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

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- Letter from GA Leaders
- Flood & Tornado Response
- Next Presbytery Meeting is August 16

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Follow-up Letter from the 218th GA Leaders

July 15, 2008

To Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

[In a letter to you on June 28,](#)

we began to tell the story of our 218th General Assembly. Our goal was to provide you a timely summary and perspective on issues that we sensed would draw the greatest immediate attention. In that first letter, we outlined the assembly's actions and our church's next steps in a continuing story, the outcome of which is known only to God. Most importantly, we infused our letter with our strong and abiding hope for the future

Phil's Corner



"What do I write to folks in the middle of summer?" I have been asking myself

this question for the last week or so. Two things kept coming back as I thought about options, so here we go.

ministry and witness of our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), because we are a Good News people.

We hope that you will share with us a bold and unabashed hope, firmly grounded in the solid foundation of our faith, that is daily confirmed for us in seeing how God is at work in and through our PCUSA. Every day, we hear story after story of new churches and fellowships, of immigrant and multicultural ministries, of large churches joining with smaller ones to support and encourage each other. Everywhere there is a new and growing hunger to hear and to tell the Good News. The commitment to "Grow Christ's Church

Deep and Wide" – overwhelmingly approved by the assembly – grew out of that very hunger to say "no" to a climate of decline and say "yes" to declaring a church wide commitment to participate in God's activity in transforming the PCUSA.

With this letter, we invite you to continue to celebrate with us good news of our General Assembly and of our Presbyterian Church. We ask you to join us in giving collective voice to the hope, the passion, and the future that has the power to unite us as Presbyterian Christians:

- As noted, the assembly overwhelmingly adopted a churchwide commitment to

(Continued on page 2)

First of all, I thought about a feeling many people have described over the years – Did you ever feel as if everything around you was falling apart? Now, most times this has referred to personal lives. For me, this summer it has had to do with weather. We had just begun feeling it

was summer when the towns of Aplington and Parkersburg were hit by a tornado. Things had settled down just enough to have coordinated disaster relief in place when it started to rain in the eastern part of the state, and boy did it rain! Iowa City and

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A letter from General Assembly Leaders continued from page 1

“Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide,” encouraging synods, presbyteries, sessions, and all agencies, entities, and networks of the PCUSA to foster the growth of Christ’s Church in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, servanthood, and diversity. This commitment builds on the many initiatives that are already under way in so many places – and calls on all parts of the church to start new congregations and transform existing ones; to nurture immigrant, racial ethnic and multicultural fellowships and congregations; to reach out through mission; and to deepen discipleship.

- In a related action, the assembly also enthusiastically approved a strategy for church growth for African American congregations. We see this as a call to action, and, more importantly, to collaboration. With the previous initiative, this comprehensive strategy invites us all to partner together in growing Christ’s Church Deep and Wide in the many ways we are called to achieve great things for God.
- The “Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God’s Mission,” an historic document which emerged from the Worldwide Mission Consultation held earlier this year in Dallas, was

boldly affirmed by the assembly. Covenanting to live and serve together, committing to working cooperatively, celebrating diverse Presbyterian approaches to mission, sharing responsibility for educating and preparation of all Presbyterians for mission and seeking and supporting more mission personnel, are among the statements in the invitation. Nearly 200 individuals and groups had endorsed this covenant before it was brought to the assembly and adopted. The committee that recommended it to the assembly, read the text of the invitation aloud, making it a statement of faith, a powerful affirmation of our Presbyterian commitment to mission. We encourage you to do likewise.

- For the first time in 50 years, the assembly voted to increase the number of mission personnel serving as the hands and feet of Christ around the world. The good news is that those who are called to serve will be “saving lives” not just by providing urgent medical care or implementing holistic ministries, but by preaching the gospel, often in places where it has never been heard. With the support of Presbyterians, this commitment will extend our collective outreach in mission around the world.

- Realizing that worship is our response to God’s love for us and that we pray for God to “put a new and right spirit within [us]” (Ps. 51:10), Presbyterians also covenanted at this assembly to gather in Solemn Assemblies over the coming years, worshiping God and seeking God’s healing for the church.
- Called by Jesus Christ to be peacemakers, the assembly continued to boldly affirm that stance around the world. The assembly called for “responsibly” bringing the troops home from Iraq, continuing peacemaking with Israelis and Palestinians, and supporting human rights in Zimbabwe, the Philippines, North Korea and Colombia.
- 752 commissioners and nearly 3000 other participants in San Jose were joined by more than 13,000 people who logged in and watched on line - a 21st century General Assembly!

As God’s story, entwined with ours, continues to unfold following this General Assembly, we find ourselves newly energized for the work to be done in the weeks and months ahead. The Good News, which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, calls us to immediate action. Empowered by the Spirit, we invite you to answer the carry out the work called for by

Christ’s commands and the Church’s actions:

- Recommend gifted people to serve as mission co-workers. We need your wisdom and your help in identifying qualified candidates to fill the new positions that have been created. www.pcusa.org/msr
- Hold Solemn Assemblies in your congregation or presbytery. A website with resources will be available soon through the General Assembly Council’s Office of Theology and Worship.
- Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide. Visit www.deepandwide.net and www.presbygrow.net to find ideas for growing the church and contribute your own.
- Support the work of mission around the world. There are countless opportunities for Presbyterians to invest in and pray for the good work the church is doing. www.pcusa.org/mission

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. And isn’t that Good News?

*The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the 218th General Assembly, GAC
Elder Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director, GAC; and
The Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly*

Phil's Corner continued from page 1

Cedar Rapids took the major brunt, then towns along the Mississippi were impacted. Not long after the major rains stopped and water began to recede, Omaha was hit by a tornado, then the Boy Scout camp in north western Iowa suffered a tragic hit by another tornado.

In the meantime, our part of the state, although suffering some flooding, especially in the Birdland area of Des Moines and in lowland fields, has been less affected. I sure don't know why this is, but it has given us the opportunity to be good neighbors. Work crews and clean up buckets from our area have already gone to help, and more are going. In our prayers, thoughts and actions, may we, who have been more fortunate, be of great help to those less fortunate.

Our denomination's General Assembly is the other constant in my thinking. I always find an Assembly to be a fascinating time, and so I'm grateful that attending General Assemblies is one of my tasks. Some of you know about some of what went on at the 218th General Assembly in San Jose, Calif., though reading blogs from some of our folks who were there, some by reading various web sites, some by watching live streaming from the Assembly, and others by information from other sources.

In many cases, the focus has been on one or two actions taken by the Assembly. Since I seem to be working on "twos" right now, I'll share two thoughts with you. First, the Assembly did and experienced a lot more than one or two things. Among these

were the election of a "younger" Moderator and Stated Clerk, further increasing emphasis on mission, theological conversations about a couple of creeds, outstanding worship experiences and more measured thinking on Middle East issues, to name a few. Your assembly commissioners will be reporting at the August 16 meeting of the Presbytery at First Presbyterian Church in Gibson. You will hear much more from them and can have a chance to visit with them.

You could also invite some or all of them to come to your church or Regional Partnership because they're "on duty" until the next assembly in 2010. Second, make sure you consult a variety of sources to get a more fully informed idea about what actually happened – or didn't happen. This will lead to more helpful conversations as we all are impacted by actions taken by this Assembly. (View commissioners thoughts and reflections of the 218th General Assembly on our Presbytery blog at: <http://presbyteryofdesmoines.blogspot.com/>.) May you find calm in the midst of activities and storms this summer so you will have time to be awed once again by God's power and majesty – and presence in your lives.

– Phil

Vital Signs Blog Give New Resources for Small Churches

"We get lots of requests from small, urban and/or rural congregations looking for different/alternate models of ministry. Here are just a couple helpful resources:

1. *Spiritual Vitality through Cooperative Ministry* by Diana Stephen. Helps congregations explore cooperative/shared ministries with examples.
2. *And The Two Shall Become One: A Resource on Church Mergers* by the Rev. Mariko Yanahihara. Helps congregations explore church merger as one pathway to spiritual renewal and vitality.
3. *A Resource on Developing Mission Partnerships – Multiplying Our Strength in Ministry* by Phil Tom. Helps congregations explore mission partnerships with others.

These resources do not provide any short-term quick fix solutions. But simply provide questions and processes that your congregation can use to reflect upon and discuss before you consider moving forward with these options.

Download or order from www.pcusa.org/smallchurch.

Phil Tom is the associate for the PCUSA's [Small Church and Community Ministry Office](#) and supports urban, rural and small churches.



Our Presbytery's General Presbyter and General Assembly commissioners pose for a photo with the new 218th Moderator the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow in San Jose, Calif. Attending were (left to right): **Rev. David Endriss (Indianola, Trinity United), Elder Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First), General Presbyter and Stated Clerk Rev. Phil Barrett, GA Moderator Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Rev. Jan Scott (West Des Moines, Covenant), Youth Advisory Delegate Chad Schwickerath (Ankeny) and Elder Paul Walther (Audubon, First).**

Flood & Tornado Response Continues

So far, the following churches from our Presbytery have or are planning to send work teams: [Westminster Presbyterian Church](#) in Des Moines participated in a neighborhood cleanup day July 12 in the Birdland and Union Park area of Des Moines; [Trinity United Presbyterian Church](#) in Indianola took day-trips to clean up in Parkersburg and Oakville, with more work days planned July 30, Aug. 13 & 27; [Heartland Presbyterian Church](#) in Clive went to Cedar Rapids July 9. They left at 5 a.m. and spent the day mucking out a home (See photo). The next trip will be Saturday, Aug. 9; [Ankeny Presbyterian Church](#) sent 40 people to Parkersburg for 4 day-trips and plan to spend a week in Cedar Rapids July 27–Aug. 1; Lenox United and Sharpsburg Presbyterian Churches will be going to Cedar Rapids on Aug. 10-14. Other teams planning day trips are [Community United Presbyterian Church](#) in Hartford.

In addition, [Highland Park](#) and Park Avenue Presbyterian Churches in Des Moines have offered up distribution services of cleaning kit buckets to those affected by floods waters in the Greater Des Moines area. Dexter First Presbyterian Church was able to send 3 buckets. Bedford United Christian Presbyterian Church and Lenox Presbyterian Church each sent 5. Mon-

roe Presbyterian Church sent 8. [St. Paul's Presbyterian Church](#) in Johnston sent 16. And [Covenant Presbyterian Church](#) in West Des Moines sent 30!

We've even heard from Presbytery member **Rev. Denise Group** who's hometown of Cedar Falls flooded. The Methodist church she's currently serving is sending volunteer work teams.

Donations have come from nearby: the Villisca Presbyterian Church and the Missouri River Valley Presbytery both sent buckets. And churches throughout the U.S. are responding; including the First Presbyterian Church in Delta Junction, Alaska which sent two checks, totaling nearly \$600 to Westminster Presbyterian Church for flood relief in Des Moines.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

- Prayers for victims and workers
- [CROSS Ministries](#) needs cleaning supplies (bleach, buckets, floor cleaner, laundry soap, etc.) for families of low income households who have experienced flooded basements. Contact 515-279-8877 or rjvictor@msn.com.
- Monetary donations are now needed. Send checks payable to **Des Moines Presbytery**, in the memo section write, "2008 Flood Relief" indicated where you would like the funds to go, tornado, flood, a specific

presbytery, etc., and mail checks to the Presbytery of Des Moines, 2400 86th St., Ste. 20, Urbandale, IA 50322. (100% of donations sent to this Presbytery will be used for its intended purpose indicated by the giver. All administrative costs will be absorbed by the Iowa presbyteries.)

Thanks to everyone! Our ministry in the midst of chaos, makes a difference where there is no hope.



Fifteen buckets from the West Des Moines Covenant Church were taken to Christ Church in Cedar Rapids.



Heartland Church volunteers from Clive take time for a photo opportunity in Cedar Rapids where water levels were high.



The Trinity United Presbyterian Church of Indianola spent a day in Parkersburg cleaning up after the F5 Tornado that damaged over 300 homes on Memorial Day.

PC(USA) 218th General Assembly Summary: Wrap-up

News Index for June 20–July 11

Stated Clerk releases 2007 PC(USA) statistics General trend of fewer members, higher giving continues

www.pcusa.org/ga218/news/ga08003.htm

For 218th General Assembly Stories (Pre-assembly June 20 through June 28), go to this link and select the day or article news www.pcusa.org/ga218/news.htm

Post GA Letter – June 28, 2008

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08469

New Fair Trade Bible study available

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08467

PC(USA) leaders send letter to congregations

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08469

Presbyterians among bipartisan group urging president to ban torture

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08472

College news www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08474

Jorge Lara-Braud, pastor, theologian, fighter for the poor dies at 77

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08476

Called to Malawi www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08479

Mission in Darfur www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08482

Montreat Youth Conference kicks off

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08483

Atlanta Presbyterians visit Iran

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08486

Is seeing believing? www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08487

Rescue operation www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08488

Love is all you need www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08491

Help line www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08492

Church unbound, Day 2: Unbinding the chains

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08494

Worth the risk www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08495

Stairway to heaven www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08496

Clean between your toes

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08497

North Carolina church installs its first-ever female head of staff

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08498

At Jesus' kitchen table www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08499

Knocking on heaven's door

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08502

Presbytery and synod news

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08511

218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUMMARY: WRAP-UP

A Transcript of Presbyterian News Service VoiceLine phone recording

by Jerry L. Van Marter

The General Assembly acted on nearly 1,000 items of business. For complete information on the actions of the 218th General Assembly, please visit the Web site www.pcusa.org/ga218.

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, 39, an energetic new church development pastor in San Francisco and leader in the “emergent church” movement, was elected moderator of the 218th GA, capturing a second ballot victory.

Later, the Assembly confirmed as vice-moderator the Rev. Byron Wade, 45, pastor of Davie Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, N.C. Wade, 45, has been a close friend of Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow for 20 years.

The Assembly elected the Rev. Grady Parsons as General Assembly stated clerk, succeeding the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick. Parsons, who is currently associated stated clerk and director of operations for the Office of the General Assembly, won a first ballot victory over three challengers with 57% of the vote. He was the choice of the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee.

By a vote of 380-325, the Assembly voted to send a

proposed amendment to the presbyteries that would delete G-6.0106b — which requires of church officers “fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness.” In its place the Assembly is proposing a new G-6.0106b that ties consideration of candidates for church office to their assent to the ordination vows in the Constitution. The Assembly voted 540-161 not to change the definition of marriage in the Constitution from “a man and a woman” to “two people.”

By a vote of 504-171, the Assembly endorsed the “Amman Call,” which includes affirmation of the United Nations resolutions that are the basis of a projected “two-state” solution, a shared Jerusalem, guarantees of the human rights of refugees and occupied peoples, and a call to resist extremism and push for reconciliation. The Assembly affirmed the efforts of all those who are seeking peace in Iraq, but stopped short of calling for immediate U.S. withdrawal of troops from that country. And the Assembly voted to oppose preemptive military action against Iran.

The Assembly approved by a vote of 547-149 a statement calling for tolerance and peaceful relations between Christians, Jews and Muslims. The Assembly said the three faiths share a common commitment to love God and neighbor and care for

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PCUSA General Assemble Wrap-up continued from page 6

the poor, though the Assembly acknowledged that the three religions hold "differing understandings of how God has been revealed to humankind."

The Assembly voted 436-280 to initiate the process of amending the *Heidelberg Catechism* to restore the original German text of the 1562 document. A 1962 PCUSA translation inserted the term "homosexual perversion" into the answer to question 87 of the catechism. No other church uses the 1962 translation. The Assembly also voted, by a vote of 536-154, to initiate the process of including the *Belhar Confession* in the denomination's Book of Confessions. *Belhar* was written in 1986 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa to address the apartheid situation in that country but it also points to the persistent sin of racism globally.

By a vote of 624-88, the Assembly voted to refer the proposed revision of the church's *Form of Government* back to the Office of the General Assembly "for a period of study and consultation with churches and presbyteries." The new timeline calls for a revised proposal to be submitted to the stated clerk in October 2009 for distribution to the church by mid-January 2010 for consideration by the 2010 General Assembly.

The Assembly unanimously endorsed *An Invitation to Expanding Participation in God's Mission*, a broad-based agreement growing out of a mission consultation in Dallas last winter that promises greater cooperation to support Presbyterian mission than has been seen in the PCUSA in many years. The Assembly urged all Presbyterian governing bodies and mission groups to accept the invitation.

The Assembly rejected a fifth churchwide special offering to support the salaries and expenses of mission workers around the world. Research indicates widespread opposition to an additional special offering. The PCUSA currently receives the *One Great Hour of Sharing offering*, the *Pentecost Offering*, the *Peacemaking Offering* and the *Christmas Joy Offering*.

By a vote of 472-180, the Assembly directed appropriate

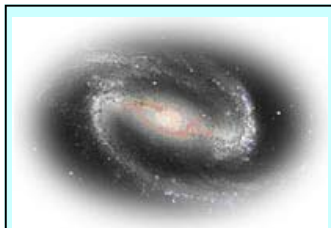
PC(USA) entities to redevelop congregational resource materials on the subject of reproductive options to more adequately reflect the full spectrum of biblical, theological, and pastoral counsel of the denomination, while remaining consistent with General Assembly policy statements adopted in 1992 and 2006, which support a woman's right to choose but urge that abortion be the choice of last resort.

By a vote of 552-110, the Assembly approved *A Social Creed for the 21st Century*, exactly 100 years after the *Social Creed* of 1908 spoke to the harshness of industrial life at the turn of the 20th century. The new creed, which is being considered by many U.S. denominations, calls for pay equity, greater workplace health and safety, criminal rehabilitation through restorative justice, abolition of the death penalty, tax and budget policies that reduce disparities between rich and poor, affordable housing, sustainable use of resources and just immigration policies.

On a voice vote, the Assembly adopted *Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness*. The statement calls for Presbyterians to engage in more education and advocacy efforts around mental illness issues and to work to be more welcoming to persons with serious mental illness and their families and to work to end the stigma attached to serious mental illness in the church and the world.

And now, more than ever, pray for peace. Good bye.

Call VoiceLine for a daily report from the 218th General Assembly in San Jose, call 800-872-3283, *, *.



Save the Date! Sunday Scientist Symposium, Oct. 31-Nov. 2

A national symposium sponsored by the ELCA's Alliance for Faith, Science, and Technology is being held in the Des Moines area. The group that provides annual symposia is a group which is part of the Alliance called "Sunday Scientist."

The event will be held Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at Faith Lutheran Church in Clive. *Food & Faith: Making the Connection* is this year's theme. Keynote is Dr. Jerry DeWitt.

PLEASE NOTE: The ELCA's Church in Society is offering some scholarship money for young adults (18-35). If you know someone who would qualify, contact Rev. Diana Sickles, ELCA retired pastor, at 515-255-5055 or dsickles@mindspring.com. Partial or full registration scholarships (no housing) will be offered.

Early registration fee for students is \$70; others \$95. If you would like to learn more, go online to: www.elca.org/faithandscience.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies Update

DES MOINES PRESBYTERY BLOG UPDATES RELIEF EFFORTS

The Presbytery of Des Moines, has established a blog on the presbytery's Web site that is currently updating flood responses. Among other items, the blog notes, "Also, our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance person in Iowa, **Don Hampton**, informs us that the Iowa Disaster Resource Council, a group of faith traditions, non-profit relief agencies and government agencies is working to set up a volunteer coordinator to which we will all refer people. The main thing to know is that we are working with our other faith tradition partners right now. Our biggest needs will come as the water recedes. This will be a long haul and require lots of volunteers." More of the blog can be found at <http://presbyteryofdesmoines.blogspot.com/2008/06/pda-responds-to-floods-and-storms-in.html>. The presbytery's Web site is www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

EAST IOWA WEB SITE CONTAINS RESPONSE INFO

The Presbytery of East Iowa is developing a new Web site, at www.peia.org. On Wednesday morning, June 18, the site notes, "PDA reps will be meeting with our Disaster Response Task Force tomorrow to set in motion our response plan. We will

be discussing volunteer coordination and housing along with determining sites in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area where we will be setting up work camps. We will post an update about the results of that meeting and how you and your church can plug into the relief effort." At the present time, congregations or other organizations interested in sending a work team to help with clean-up should contact Penny Noel at the PCUSA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Call Center at 866-732-6121 or pdacallcenter@sbcglobal.net. The presbytery is accepting financial donations at Presbytery of East Iowa, Attn: 2008 Flood Relief, 1700 South 1st Avenue, Suite 23, Iowa City, IA 52240. Contributors should write "2008 Flood Relief" in the memo section of the check.

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA CONTINUES WORK IN PARKERSBURG

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa, continues working in Parkersburg, where a tornado tore through that community May 25. Congregations or other groups that are willing to provide work teams in Parkersburg should contact the presbytery's disaster assistance coordinator Kaylene Hoskins at 319-233-1747. Rebuilding is beginning to take place in Parkersburg, but recovery will be a long-term process. Providing a presence

in the community is important, Kaylene says, because some tornado victims "just want someone to listen to them." Hoskins said the presbytery is working closely with 15 families "walking side-by-side with them" through the recovery process. Regarding the flooding in Waterloo/Cedar Falls, she said those interested in helping out should contact the Iowa Volunteer Hotline at 800-447-1985.

COE COLLEGE REPORTS 'SAFE, DRY' ON ITS WEB SITE

According to its Web site, Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, www.coe.edu, "is safe and dry, with the college poised to become fully operational in stages over the next couple of weeks. College officials remain cautiously optimistic that campus programs, camps and conferences, including summer research, may restart in stages beginning on Monday, June 30." In an e-mail dated Tuesday, June 17, Kristin Hutson, Coe chaplain, wrote: "Coe e-mail just became up and running last night. ... Only our physical plant was flooded. Unfortunately, [that] is where our circuit is so half the campus is still without power. ... The worse part of this for Coe is that at least four of our employees lost their homes several others suffered greatly. Please keep us in your prayers and thoughts."

IOWA CAMPUS MINISTRY SURVIVES, PROVIDES ASSISTANCE

When asked about the status of campus ministries at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Nancy Olthoff, director of United Campus Ministry, wrote on Wednesday, June 17: "Campus Ministry is fine. Our office and my home office were on high ground. The Association of Campus Ministers sent a letter of support to the president and vice present this morning telling of our support and our willingness to assist as needed. I've worked a couple of days in the Red Cross shelter because the scheduled orientation for freshmen students was cancelled this week on the campus. I am also working with some long term flood relief efforts that I hope will be able to mobilize students to contribute."

HILLCREST LOOKS FOR WAYS TO HELP IN DISASTER RELIEF

Gary Gansemer, president of Hillcrest Family Services, a mission partner of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies in Dubuque, Iowa, wrote Wednesday, June 18: "We ended up with no problems for any of our facilities. One staff person in Iowa City lost his apartment. We are mobilizing to see how best to meet the needs of our communities and churches over the next few months not just days." Hillcrest can be found online at www.hillcrest-fs.org.



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8

Note: Please pass this on to the person(s) in your congregation responsible for church communications (such as the church newsletter and/or website) and technology.

Dear Friends in Christ,
As the Director of Communications for the Presbytery, I'd

Attend the 2008 PCN Regional Conference

like to personally invite you to the 2008 Regional Conference being held August 25-27 at Stronghold Conference Center in Oregon, Ill. The purpose of these regional conferences is to help religious communicators at the church, presbytery and synod level learn how to improve their communications from leading experts in the field, as well as learning from each other. The conference will include presentations on podcasting, social networking, designing websites, how to improve your writing and reaching the unchurched and "dechurched."

Our keynote speaker for the conference is [Adam Walker](#)



[Cleaveland](#), a recent graduate of Princeton Seminary and a candidate for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. When he is not preparing to become an ordained minister, he does web design for various religious groups around the country. He will talk about "Web 2.0" and its impact on the church.

This conference is a great opportunity for fellowship with other communicators and learning new ways to enhance communication within our Presbytery.

Communicators, whether it is putting together the church newsletter, or working on a church website, is more than simply sharing information. It is also about being witnesses to Christ, of showing a "more excellent way" as the Apostle

Paul once said. The conference helps remind and renew us to our common mission as followers of Jesus Christ.

I hope you will consider attending this event. If you have financial needs, General Assembly has set aside monies for scholarships.

To register online, go to the [Presbyterian Communicators Network homepage](#) (www.pcusa.org/comnet/events.htm). You can also download the scholarship application.

If you have any questions about the conference, or need a ride to the event, feel free to contact me at pb-communication@qwestoffice.net or 515-276-4991.

– *Kim Coulter,*
Director of Communications,
Presbytery of Des Moines

What did GA do with 'Fidelity & Chasity Requirement'?

By Rev. Hans Cornelder

In San Jose, Calif., a majority of the 218th General Assembly wanted the ban on the ordination of practicing homosexuals lifted. They asked the presbyteries to remove the fidelity and chastity requirement (F&C) for ordained clergy from the *Book of Order*, and replace G-6.0106b with a more general text. They also removed the Authoritative Interpretation which says that homosexual behavior is

incompatible with Scripture, and took the first step on the road to remove the words "homosexual perversion" from the Heidelberg Catechism.

Some commissioners were celebrating, others were grieving, all believing that the ban had been lifted, even if the presbyteries would vote not to remove F&C.

It is a few weeks later now, and things look very different. What happened?

On July 7, Ed Koster, a minister and a lawyer, Stated Clerk of the Detroit Presbytery, and one of the candidates standing in San Jose for Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, came with an analysis of what the 218th GA had said and done, and concluded that everybody – including Koster himself – had been wrong, and the ban still had not been lifted.

Many polity wonks believe Ed Koster is right in his analysis, while many others disagree. We will have to wait until the GA-Permanent Judicial Commission speaks the decisive word.

The Rev. Hans Cornelder is a member of Des Moines Presbytery and the editor of Presbyweb (an online news service www.presbyweb.com). He also serves as Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Center for Lifelong Learning Schedule

Here are just a few of the offerings at the Columbia Theological Seminary www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/index.asp.

July-August Opportunities July 28-30 [Baptism and Eucharist: Ancient Practices in a Time of Renewal](#), (Summer Scholars 2008) Leaders: Samuel Torvend, Kim Long, Paul Huh and others.

July 31-Aug. 3 [Certificate in Spiritual Formation Immersion Experience](#), Starting point for the certificate in Spiritual Formation.

Aug. 22-23 [Programming with a Plan: Intentional Youth Ministry](#), Leaders: Lynn Turnage and Eric Dillenbeck (part of the YMLI Certificate Program).

Popular Presbyterian Women's Bible Study:

Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor

[July 28-Aug. 1](#) Morning format with Rebecca Parker.

[Aug. 4-6](#) Weekday format with author Dale Lindsay Morgan.

[Aug. 8-9](#) Weekend format with Rebecca Parker.

Presbytery Happenings

NATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRIES *MOM* VISIT A SUCCESS

The Health *Mission on the Move* van rolled into Des Moines June 15, and 'set up shop' in the parking lot of the **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church** – the church attended by the majority of the areas Sudanese population. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., over 15 adults and well over 30 children were served by doing Health Assessments, blood pressure checks, and blood glucose testing, followed by a discussion of those findings.

Darlene Shepherd (Oskaloosa First) and **Kim Coulter** (DM Westminster) coordinated the efforts of our Presbytery volunteers. Those who helped were:

Denise England RN (Audubon First); **Melissa Schnucker RN** (Clive Heart-

land); **Rev. David Madsen, Jaden Oriho RN, Ikram Kachu** and **Batul Chol** (DM Cottage Grove); **Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson** (DM Park Avenue); **Rev. Adam Nardini** and **Sarah Mapes LPN** (DM Union Park); **Nancy Hampton RN, Karen Sanders RN** and **Jan Siwinski RN** (DM Westminster); **Dru McLuen** (Indianola, Trinity United) and Judy Harvey.

The Sudanese population struggles to obtain adequate medical aide, as well as their daily needs. The Health Assessments done through the National Health Ministries and our area volunteers was an invaluable ministry.

Originally funded by the *Birthday Offering* of **Presbyterian Women of PCUSA**, National Health Ministries receives no direct support

from congregations or offerings. The funding comes through Extra Commitment Opportunities (ECO).

To learn more go online to: www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth.

IRMS HAS A LABYRINTH AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT

Newly added to the **Iowa Religious Media Services'** collection is a 36' x 36' canvas labyrinth. Hand-painted in a modified 7-circuit Chartes pattern, the labyrinth is available ONLY to IRMS members. It may be used indoors only, must be picked up and returned to IRMS, and comes with several resources.

[Click here for more details!](#)

To learn more about labyrinths, attend *Re:image II*, featuring Mary Dreier, a certified labyrinth facilitator. To register for this Aug. 16 conference go to: www.irms.org/RE-Image2.asp.

Prayers and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Elder Jo Rainer, office manager at **First Presbyterian Church in Grimes** will be out of touch for a month or so recuperating from hip replacement surgery on July 23.

The Presbytery is saddened to learn of the death of **Elder**



John Young, a member of the **Douglas Avenue Church in**

Des Moines. John served as Moderator of the Presbytery in 1982, on the Permanent Judicial Commission for six years in the late 1980's, and was a member of the "Closing the Back Door" project team in the early 1990's. John volunteered in the Presbytery office and made several small pieces of office accessories using his wood-working skills. Our deepest sympathy is with John's wife, Lucille, and his family. Condolences can be sent to Mrs. Lucille Young, 3824 Sherman

Blvd., Des Moines, IA 50310, 515-276-0578.

The Rev. Dennis Morey had triple-bypass surgery on Friday, June 20 and is doing fine at home recuperating.

The Rev. Pat Summers, HR reports that her husband, Verle (Bud) made it through surgery for an aneurysm, but they couldn't do a stent at this time. Bud is now home, and recuperating slowly. He is still very weak. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Make the Effort in Engaging Youth

Engaging youth is the holy grail for many congregations.

The “church of tomorrow” (we use the phrase only to suggest that it be permanently banished) is actually acutely interested in spiritual matters, and their own spiritual development, but, the ‘church of today’ has a lot of trouble capturing and sustaining their interest. We have a small suggestion to offer. Not a miracle cure, not another program or resource, just an observation that:

1. Youth ministry experts seem to agree that effectiveness in reaching out to youth depends on being there for them, being willing to engage them in an authentic relationship.
2. Youth spend an enormous amount of time in one or another kind of digital communication space, whether it's cell phone, instant messaging, social network chat, texting, email or “other” (whatever the new thing is we haven't caught on to yet).

We suggest putting those ideas together. Be there for them not only in the congregational space, but also in their chosen forms of interaction.

Now, nobody would suggest that electronic communication should *replace* the kind

of face to face interaction you get when you bring the kids together with a set of caring leaders.

But, at the same time, it would be foolish to write off the benefits of contacting youth on their own communication turf. Among others, they include:

- It let's them know you're accessible and that you really do care about their welfare. Nothing says “my door is always open” like giving out a cell number, or inviting friendship on a social network.
- Some young people will find texting or instant messaging (IMing) preferable to personal communication. Some people (teen boys, in particular), sometimes will happily carry on an IM conversation, even though you can't get two words out of them face to face. It seems paradoxical, but in such cases the “impersonality” of the medium actually allows to you develop a more personal relationship.
- In some cases, as with email or an online forum, it may allow a young person to raise a concern or ask a question with a certain amount of anonymity. Obviously, that's an area with plenty of pitfalls, but it can be useful to initiate a contact.

- Many of these forms of communication are intricately networked, giving you an opportunity to reach beyond your immediate youth; to their friends as well. In this way, communicating digitally becomes a form of outreach.

Recently, an anti-drug campaign placed print inserts in newspapers across the country. They were aimed at getting parents to talk about drugs with their kids and they included an image of a cell phone bearing the text message:

“mNE Ps dnt bleev der is a gNR8N d/c b/t em n thr teen.”

That's “Many parents don't believe there is a generation disconnect between them and their teen.” It's an arresting way of making the point that teens have their own styles of communication which, unless we make an effort, can become almost impenetrable. So that's our modest suggestion: Make the effort.

Desiree Frieson,
Marketing & Public Relations Assistant,
Faith & Values Media
The Interchurch Center
475 Riverside Dr., Ste. 530
New York, NY 10115
Ph: 212-870-1030, ext. 1053
E-mail: desireefrieson@faithandvaluesmedia.org.



Change the World: Host an Exchange Student with YFU USA

Youth for Understanding (YFU) International Exchange is offering families of this worship community—and their friends—the opportunity to share their home with a teenager from another country.

Each year **YFU** makes it possible for thousands of international students to live in the U.S. for an academic year. The 2008–09 school year can be your opportunity to teach an international student about America while learning about another culture.

Hosting an international exchange student can be an enriching experience for the entire family that will last a lifetime.

All you need to host an international student is the ability and desire to open your home and heart to a new family member.

To find out more about becoming a host family or to volunteer for **YFU-USA**, the website is www.yfu-usa.org, or call the Iowa Field Director in Des Moines, Jim Maxwell at 515-276-6301, ext. 104 or jmaxwell@yfu.org.



Attend Blood Drive Fundraiser for CROSS Ministries: August 7

Westminster Presbyterian Church will host a Blood Drive for The Blood Center of Iowa on Thursday, Aug. 7, from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Blood Drive will also be a fundraiser for **CROSS Ministries**, a social outreach program of the **Presbytery of Des Moines** and **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church**. For every donor registered, Westminster will give \$5 (\$10 for first-time donors) to CROSS. To make an appointment, contact **Sue Freeman**, 515-473-4699. Walk-ins are welcome. Westminster Church is located at the corner of Beaver and Franklin Avenues in Des Moines. At the May blood drive they had 36 donors and gave \$190 to CROSS Ministries.

Missionary Denise England Leaves for Egypt

Hopefully this will be the first of many updates from my new life in Egypt.

After years of waiting, the time has finally come for me to move to Egypt as a mission worker with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I will leave in July and serve in Egypt for 3 years. My actual title is "Geriatric Nurse Consultant to Egypt". I will be serving at four different health facilities in two different cities:

Presbytery Mission Hospital (Tanta) – hoping to start a nursing school.

Cairo Evangelical Medical Center (Tanta) – new Geriatric unit and hoping to start a Hospice unit.

Synod of the Nile Geriatric Center (Cairo) – Nurse and Care Giver (nurse aide) training (In Egypt, nursing homes are fairly new.).

Care With Love (Cairo) – Care Giver (nurse aide) school.

Believe it or not, I have the easy part. I just have to show up, let each of the facilities tell me what they want, and trust that God will give me everything I need to accomplish his work.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where will you live: I don't really know, however I am confident I will have a roof over my head and running water. My funding pro-

vides me with a place to live and covers the utilities, however PCUSA has left it up to me to decide where that will be after I get to Egypt. My bigger hope is that someone who speaks English will be waiting at the airport doorway to help me with my luggage and get me into Cairo.

What is the language: Arabic. Part of my funding includes paying a tutor for a year of Arabic instruction. I just have to find him or her. As my daily survival hinges on being able to communicate, I am motivated to learn quickly.

What will you take: This has become my source of entertainment. I have spent the past 2 months trying to condense my life essentials into 3 suitcases. FYI – most large suitcases weigh 12 pounds which is almost a third of the allowed weight. I have packed, weighed, rearranged, and reassessed what constitutes a must go item so many times it has become comical, but I am proud to say I have finally accomplished the task. I am hopeful that where ever I end up living it will be somewhat furnished... then, when I can speak enough to go shopping and find my way around I will purchase what I need.

What's the weather like: Egypt has both winter and summer, so I had to pack for

both seasons. Nov.-Jan. is around 60°F daytime. June-Aug. is 110°F daytime. (Because of the desert, the nighttime temperatures drop about 20°.)

How can I be reached:

E-mail address is the same:
deniseengland@mchsi.com

Postal mail address is:

Ramses College for Girls
Dawson Hall
198 Ramses Street
Dhafer, Cairo
Egypt

If at anytime anyone feels compelled to send blessings from home this would be my wish list:

- Nature Valley Sweet & Salty granola bars – Peanut flavor
- Crystal Light drink mix
- Jiff peanut butter
- Chocolate chips
- Charmin toilet paper

When will I leave: I leave the USA on July 30. My funding covers the flight to Egypt and a return ticket in 3 years.

It is with a lot of excitement and a little bit of trepidation that I start this new phase of my mission life. All of the logistics that I have control of have been completed. All of the unknowns God has control of so I have no need to worry about details and I have all of you to pray so know I will be blessed.

*In Christ,
–Denise*

CROSS Ministries Update

With the rising costs of gasoline and food, many low-income families with children are struggling harder than ever before. Daily, I see mothers making difficult decisions on how to stretch their limited resources. When nearly \$4 is needed to purchase either a gallon of milk to nourish your children or a gallon of gas for the car that transports you to and from work, how do you choose? What if you are only making \$8.00 per hour and you still need to pay the rent, utilities, car insurance, medical expenses, clothes, shoes, and laundry costs? How do you stretch the family budget even further to purchase back to school supplies? CROSS Ministries can help with YOUR help!

With summer just beginning it is difficult to begin thinking about school supplies! Yet, in order to have enough for all the children, we need to begin now. The 16th Annual Back-to-School Giveaway will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7 and Friday, Aug. 8. Last year, because of your help, we were able to give supplies to more than 750 children from low-income families. We anticipate even more children in need this year!

The children of low and no-income households are most affected by the poverty their families experience. The best way to get them out of the

poverty cycle is through education. If a child has to start school without the basic supplies that other children have, or start school late while waiting for the money to purchase the supplies, it puts them at a major disadvantage. Therefore, the Back-to-School Giveaway is an investment in the future for us all.

Since we do not count on using our general program funds that have been intended for emergency rent,

utilities, and other basic needs, your donations are greatly needed!

CROSS Ministries needs money to buy supplies at a discount, and / or:

- New backpacks
- Notebook paper
- Wireless spirals
- Three ring notebooks
- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Pencil cases
- Scissors


- Glue
- Pocket folders
- Pencil boxes
- Pens – black, blue, red
- Kleenex

In addition to basic school supplies, we will also provide deodorant, toothbrush, and toothpaste that can be added to each child's packet. Studies indicate that many children from low-income families do not have these simple but important tools for healthy living.

We would appreciate any help you might be able to give. Because we need to package the supplies by various grade levels prior to the giveaway, **we are asking for the donations to be made by Friday, August 1.**

Thank you for any help that you can offer to this vital giveaway program for school children.

– Roberta Victor, Director,
CROSS Ministries



CROSS Ministries' Back-to-School Giveaway 2008


FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For Grades: Head Start – 12th Des Moines Metro Area Residents

Where? Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church
1050 – 24th St.

When? August 7 – 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
August 8 – 10:00 AM – Noon
(or until supplies are gone)

-Eligibility-
Family income must be at or below 150% poverty level.
Bring IDs for all members of the family.
If supplies have already been received from other programs, the family will be ineligible.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

IRS Increases Mileage Rates through Dec. 31, 2008

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced on June 23 an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

The rate will increase to 58.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008. This is an increase of eight (8) cents from the 50.5 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2008, as set forth in [Rev. Proc. 2007-70](#).

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2008. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year.

How are you doing on your "One A Week?" It's not too late to start.

Employment Opportunities



Children and Family Urban Ministries

Administrative Support Coordinator – Children and Families Urban Ministries, Des Moines, Ia. and Breakfast Club Supervisor – Children and Families Urban Ministries, Des Moines, Ia. Children and Families Urban Ministries is a non-profit organization that seeks to create, welcome, nurture lives, and promote social and economic justice by bringing together a broad and inclusive community to share the resources and abundance for all, is currently seeking candidates for two career opportunities. For More Information, visit www.cfum.org or contact Carmen Lampe-Zeitler, CFUM

Executive Director, at 515-282-3242 or

Carmen@cfum.org.

Interim Pastor – Morningside Presbyterian Church, Sioux City, Ia.

The CIF has been completed and approved and are in the Des Moines Presbytery office. If you are interested in an interim pastor position in Sioux City, contact Cathie Bishop, Chair of the Morningside Presbyterian Interim Search Committee, at: cyclebud@cablone.net or 712-490-8333.

Please take a moment to review the below advertisement for a parish-based CPE residency position that will have open starting January

2009. If you know of someone that may be interested, please forward this information to them.

Parish-Based CPE Residency Position – Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, S.C.

Stipend \$40,000. Rural Parish with Recreation Ministry; Contracted with the S.C. Department of Corrections and the Midlands Area Pastoral Counseling Services, Inc. Accredited by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (Jan. 5–Dec. 31, 2009). Find application at www.cpsp.org. Inquire at Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 170, Liberty Hill, SC 29074; 803-273-9191; lhpc@comporium.net.

Congregational Connection

A GRANDSON IS BORN

Congratulations to **Rev. Ken and Sue Arentson** (Des Moines, Westminster) on the birth of their grandson, Andrew Todd. He was born Tuesday, June 3, at 8 a.m. and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces. Andrew's parents are **Todd and Renee Little**, members at **Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola**. Renee is the daughter of Ken and Sue. Congratulations!

STUBER CELEBRATES ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY The First Presbyterian

Church in Des Moines and **The Rev. Ken Stuber** recently celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination as

Minister of Word and Sacrament on July 13 during Sunday worship. Congratulations!

The Rev. Sue Babovec has resigned her position at First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa and will be transferring to ?

The Rev. Barry Anderson has transferred to the ? Presbytery in California.

The Rev. Adam Nardini has resigned his position at Union Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines to attend medical school at Duke University this fall.

JOINING HANDS CELEBRATES PARTNERS IN EGYPT

The Presbytery of Des Moines is celebrating the success of

our Joining Hands partners in Egypt on their advocacy campaign by sharing the news! The latest newsletter is available at

www.relufa.org/partners/jhnewsletter.htm.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS TO BE OFFERED AT WESTMINSTER

A six-week support group, "Rebuilding After Your Relationship Ends," will be held at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** beginning Saturday, July 26. Meetings will be held on six consecutive Saturdays, from 1 to 3 p.m. The group, for those dealing with the pain of divorce, separation, or broken relationships, will be led

(Continued on page 15)

Congregational Connection continued from page 14

by licensed mental health counselor Dr. Susan Schiltz-Day, will use the book *Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends* by Dr. Bruce Fisher. The cost is \$25, and free childcare is available on request. Registration deadline is July 15. For details or to sign up, contact **Sherryl McAvoy**, 515-993-3977 or heartworks@webmcavoy.com. Westminster Church is located at the corner of Beaver and Franklin Avenues in Des Moines.

CACTUS FINE ARTS DAY CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS

CACTUS (Creative Arts Camp: Together Under the

Sun) offers children in 3rd-8th grades a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the arts! The day camp will be held at **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, July 28-Aug. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with a concluding celebration on Sunday, Aug. 3, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

The camp curriculum includes vocal development, dance, drama, musical instruments, visual arts, and creative writing, all taught by experienced professionals. This year's theme, *Love Thy Neighbor*, will focus on

sharing God's amazing gifts of love and grace. The suggested donation to attend is \$15 per child, plus a can of juice or a bag of snacks. To register, call 515-274-1534 or download a form at www.westpres.org.

DEACONS ARE EXPERT FUNDRAISERS! The First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell

recently held a fund raiser for the Sudanese Ministry at Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church. The Deacons sponsored a Benefit Concert and Ice Cream Social on June 22 and raised nearly \$1,700! What a testament to the generosity of the

church members and community.

The Deacons of the **First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa** recently pledged \$350 to purchase Rapid Deployment Kits and challenged their congregation to match their pledge. The members not only met, but exceeded their pledge and raised \$1,004.75 to add to the deacons pledge. They were able to purchase 416 kits. What better gift to give our troops as they are being deployed overseas!

Cover the Kids Day is Sunday, August 3

The month of August is a transitional month for families. It marks the winding down of the summer vacation season and the preparation for return to school. At the same time rapidly rising costs for necessities like gasoline and food are causing a serious financial pinch for many families, including families in your congregation. There are as many as 25,000 children in Iowa who will be heading back to school this fall without health insurance coverage. The state of Iowa offers two health care coverage programs to help families maintain coverage for their children – Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (hawk-i) and Medicaid. The Department of Human Service is designating August 3 as *Cover the Kids Day* in Iowa. Your help is needed to let parents know they can apply for free or low-cost health care coverage for their children. Your assistance can make a real difference in helping families assure their kids get the preventive health care they need to lead happy, healthy lives and avoid the catastrophic expenses of illness or injury. The DHS is encouraging you to participate by:



1. Informing worshipers from the pulpit, church bulletins or both that Iowa offers two free or low-cost health care coverage programs for children;
2. Have several enrollment application packets on hand for members of the congregation to pick up; and
3. Encourage parents who might benefit to take home an application form and send it in.

We will provide you with information to make it easy for your churches to participate. This will include:

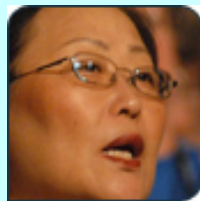
- A suggested announcement and talking points that you can deliver during services;
- A draft article you can insert into your bulletin/newsletters;
- A package of application forms that each church can have available on that day.

Church members who are in the news media are invited to attend and cover services on that day for churches willing to host them. If you would be willing to have a reporter visit your church to cover this important story, contact Amanda Paulsen, Public Relations Account Manager, ZLRIGNITION, 303 Watson Powell Jr. Way, Ste. 100, Des Moines, IA 50309, Ph: 515-244-4456, FAX: 515-244-5749, apaulsen@zlrignition.com.

One reason so many children are uninsured is because parents are unaware there are free or low-cost health children's health insurance programs. And there are parents who assume that they earn too much to qualify, when in fact a family of four earning \$41,300 or more may be eligible. For complete eligibility requirements, visit www.hawk-i.org, or call 800-257-8563.

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PW Gathering songwriters needed!

Songwriters are invited to submit songs to be considered for the theme song of the 2009 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women (PW). The theme is *God Will Do Wonders Among You* and is based on Joshua 3:5.*

Rules and guidelines for song submissions:

1. Songs must consist of original words and music (or original words to a tune in the public domain) that reflect the gathering theme, chosen scripture and biblical concepts of the wonders of God in our lives and in the world.
2. Songs must be theologically sound, in keeping with the Reformed tradition, and use inclusive language.
3. Songs must be original and not used at any time prior to PW Gathering, July 11–15, 2009.
4. All songs will become the property of PW.
5. PW will pay no remuneration to the songwriter.
6. PW reserves the right not to select any of the entries.
7. Songs are due Aug. 1, 2008. Mail to: PW Churchwide Gathering Theme Song Contest, c/o 6200 Camphor St., Metairie, LA 70003. No copies of submitted entries will be returned.

*Members of the plenary team will sing all of the songs submitted, with the names of the writers and composers blocked out, so that the songs will be judged on their merits alone.

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VISIT OUR BLOG:

<http://presbyteryofdesmoines.blogspot.com/>