

The Wider Circle



Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991

June 2005 Volume 1, Issue 1



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

Of Special Interest

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

General Presbyter Message

Social Ministries Report

Presbytery Meeting Update

Our Presbytery met May 17, in a worship context focusing on Pentecost at the Hartford Community United church.

Rev. Steve Mathison-Bowie, co-pastor of Newton First Presbyterian Church, gave the sermon.

The major focus of meeting time was spent on budget and financial information.



continued on page 6 Presbytery photos by Image by Lynda Richards, Hartford, Iowa.

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Phil's Corner

Welcome to our newest communication tool designed by Kim Coulter, our Director of Communications. We are trying to get information to you on a more regular and quick basis. We will be tweaking the newsletter as we try to devise a format that will be useful to you.

Let us know what you think and what would be helpful for you.

Routines in our churches and our Presbytery are gradually changing as summer activities swing into action, vacations are taken and a different pace seems to be in place.

I hope that all of your personal and congregational plans will help the summer be a great time for you.

We are at a time of stability in terms of pulpits filled, so we have very few vacancies, a change from 17 vacancies about two years ago. There are still some churches in the search process, and a few seem to be getting pretty close to finding a candidate. Maybe by the end of summer we will have news about these. In the meantime, continue to pray for our

brothers and sisters in **Grinnell, Des Moines Westminster** (Associate Pastor position), as well as the **Ankeny** and **Creston** folks in interim situations. See our Employment Opportunities section for more available jobs.

Pray for each other this week as we together seek to serve Christ in many ways.

Enjoy what the Lord brings to you, and thank you for all you do to bring the Lord to others.

Peace, Phil

Events Calendar

2005

June 11, 2 p.m. – *Revival in the Land*, youth musical by the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji, Winterset First Presbyterian Church

July 7-9 – *Effective Preaching in a Postmodern World*, Preaching Conference at Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash.

July 21 – Coordinating Council Meeting, Calvin Community, Des Moines

July 24-29 – Synod School, Buena Vista

University, Storm Lake, Iowa

July 29-Aug. 4 – Heartland El Salvador Delegation

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

Oct. 6 – Coordinating Council Meeting, Des Moines

Oct. 13 – *Congregational Revitalization and Worship*, featuring

Ed Varnum at the Rickman Center, Jefferson City, Mo.

Nov. 8 – Presbytery Meeting, Corning First Presbyterian Church


Dec. 15 – Coordinating Council Meeting, Des Moines

2006

May 16 – Presbytery Meeting, Chariton First Presbyterian Church

June 17-24 – General Assembly, Birmingham, Ala.

Synod School 2005



A place where you . . .

- learn something new
- experience hospitality and grace
- stretch your mind and your faith
- leave spiritually and personally renewed

July 24–29, 2005
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!
Go to www.lakesandprairies.org/synodschool or phone 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.

Coming Home

Discover Synod School 2005!

Synod School, an annual summer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is for laity, clergy, families, and singles. Discover Synod School, July 24–29, and you'll know why so many people keep returning.

Join us at Buena Vista University, in Storm Lake, Iowa, for 40-plus fun-filled and mind-stretching courses as well as worship and singing you'll long remember. There is time for both fellowship and private reflection. A bookstore, global fair-

trade gift shop and a nightly coffeehouse with live music will be offered.

Daily convocation speaker **Christopher Levan** is a minister in the United Church of Canada, a theologian, ethicist, and pastor of the Wilmot United Church in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Passionate about justice, he is also author of several books on stewardship including *The Dancing Steward* and *Living in the Maybe* and a Lenten devotion book *Give Us This Day* reflecting on bread and faith. Chris has been a

popular teacher at Synod School for the past several years. Hear his "Coming Home" reflection on Luke 15:11-32, the Parable of the Two Sons.

Brochures are available at the Presbytery of Des Moines office, and include details about the speakers, schedule and courses.

Go to <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/events.html>, or phone 800-328-1880, ext. 207 for more information.

Press Conference Against Bigotry

Reflections by Social Ministries Member Midge Slater

Sadness

The National Alliance is the largest and most organized neo-Nazi group in the United States which appears to be actively recruiting members. They should not have leafleted bigotry and hate fliers in selected areas of Des Moines, but it happened.

The local coalition of religious and community groups should not have been faced with the necessity of holding a press conference on June 3 to speak out against the content of a leaflet which promotes a message of divisiveness and hate against targeted groups including (in their words from their Web site) "...persons of Jewish descent, homosexuals or bisexuals, criminals, persons with a non-White spouse or sexual partner, or persons with more than an undetectable trace of non-White ancestry," but they were.

Our children should not have been exposed to such a message as they played together, caring more about the game than the characteristics of those who played it, but it happened.

Anger

Didn't we fight and die in more than one war at least partly to stop the spread of such ideas? Didn't we march and rally in cities across the country to end racism and other forms of discrimination? Haven't we opened our doors to people from many lands that have come here to escape oppression and find opportunity? Don't we work every day to change the law of the land so that opportunities are available to all regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic class, national origin, physical and mental ability? Aren't we moving forward in our resolve to create a just society?

Resolve

Well, hate never takes a holiday, and neither can we. The challenge continues for those of us who share the message of Jesus and the dreams of Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez. We were making a public statement against the hate mongering of the National Alliance, and as people of faith and conviction we must

continue to speak out in our neighborhoods, in our churches, in our workplaces.

Achieving the Dream, A Call for Unity and Action to Celebrate 40 Years of the Iowa Civil Rights Act is another opportunity for us to celebrate the past and poise for the future. The place is the Capitol Complex, and the time is Thursday, July 21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

I attended this press conference as a member of the Des Moines Presbytery Social Ministries Task Force, as it was fitting and proper that our presence at such an event should be known. While listening to the messages of those who spoke, the final refrain of an old labor song kept floating through my mind, one that I once found depressing. Now it feeds my resolve.

"...and every generation has to do it again.

Pass it on to your children sister,

Pass it on to your children brother,

Pass it on."



Mission Opportunities

*Coordinator **Judy Gale** and **Lois Williams**, Moderator*

of the Presbyterian Women

(PW), shared information

on PW-supported mission

projects for the Des Moines

Presbytery churches at the

annual PW Spring

Gathering. The theme for

the day was "Listen, Hear,

Renew and Serve" and was

held, Friday April 29 at Park

Avenue Presbyterian

Church in Des Moines.



Presbytery meeting attendees cast ballots for the newsletter name The Wider Circle. "Many of them believed his message and were baptized, and about three thousand people were added to the group that day." (Acts 2:41; 4:4)

A Message from the Editor

I grew up in rural northeast Iowa and attended Amity Presbyterian Church. Being from a rural congregation was enriching but I always felt secluded from other churches within the presbytery. This newsletter,

The Wider Circle, is to be a tool for both city and rural congregations. Hopefully, it will be a link for those who may feel secluded.

Newsletter distribution is currently to presbytery

pastors, but the vision is for the circle to broaden to clerks, staff and even members. I'm confident that our congregations using this newsletter will prosper in their faith.

-Kim Coulter

Congregational Connection

Here are a few Presbytery congregations that have a reason to celebrate:

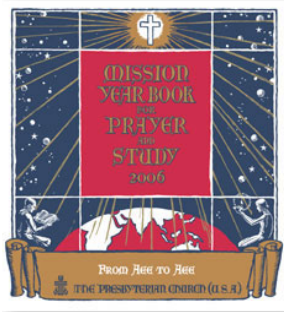
- **Rev. Terry Amann** was installed as pastor at **Windsor Presbyterian Church** in Windsor Heights on April 17.
- The **Mt. Ayr United Baptist-Presbyterian Church** dedicated their new building April 24.
- On May 29, the **Brooklyn First Presbyterian Church** celebrated its 150th anniversary as a congregation.
- **Rev. Ken Rummer**, is celebrating on June 12, his 25th year at **Corning First Presbyterian Church**. This is one of the longest-running relationships in our presbytery.
- **Rev. Roger Todd**, of the **Guthrie Center First Presbyterian Church**, is retiring (reportedly so he can play golf full time) and the congregation will be honoring him June 12.
- **Ed Wegele**, will be ordained June 19, 2 p.m., at **St. Paul's Presbyterian Church** in Johnston.
- **Rev. David Kincaide's** installation at the **Dexter First Presbyterian Church** will be June 26, at 7 p.m.
- **Rev. Claude Jones** and **Annamarie Kellner** are to be wed June 26, at the **Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church** in Des Moines.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

- **Rev. Pete Brantner**, as he recovers from a biking accident.
- **Chi Hofer** (Highland Park), widow of one of our retired pastors, Andy Hofer, as she has been hospitalized recently.
- **David Fitzimmons**, retired pastor who is back in the hospital after being released following a stroke.
- Our presbytery staff.
- **Tracy Edwards and Ed Wegele**, both have completed their candidacy activities and are looking at churches.
- Seminary graduate **Adam Nardini**, while he interviews for CPE residencies and considers parish ministry.
- **Cyndy Ripperger**, a current CLP student, who has heard the call to ordained ministry. She is applying for Inquirer status.
- The **Iowa mission delegations** visiting Berlin, El Salvador this summer.

Order 2006 Mission Yearbooks Now!

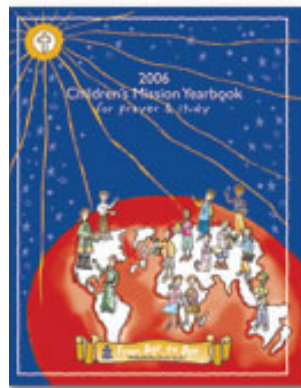


The 2006 *Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* celebrates 300 years of Presbyterian mission in the United States with the theme "From Age to Age."

Each day stories unfold depicting mission in every one of our presbyteries and synods, as well as mission work around the world.

This everyday practice helps encourage new

relationships and enhance those already established between presbyteries and partners overseas. Demographic profiles help readers learn about particular countries where the church has mission partnerships, while maps show mission locations around the world.



The 2006 *Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* carries the same theme "From Age to Age" and invites third-through sixth-grade readers to explore how we as Christ's disciples are enveloped in God's unfolding narrative from age to age.

Copies will be available starting Nov. 1, 2005. Order your books now through the presbytery office and save nearly three dollars! Use this form or contact Jennifer Hines at 515-276-4991, pbydesmoines@qwest.net.

Employment Opportunities

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

Part-time Program Secretary
For more information, contact senior pastor, **Rev. Jim Wallace** at jwallace@dmcentralpresbyterian.com, Central Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, Iowa, 515-279-3658.

Associate for Church-wide Relations and **Associate for Community Relations**
Both are for the self-development of the *People Program* of our denomination in Louisville, Ky.

Program Assistant for People in Mutual Mission Program
With the Worldwide Ministries Division of our denomination in Louisville, Ky.

Associate Pastor of Christian Formation
Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, in Lafayette, Calif.

Stated Clerk/Associate General Presbyter
Presbytery of the Pacific, Los Angeles, Calif.

Director of Community Development
First Presbyterian Church, Akron, Ohio.

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

2006 MISSION YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

Church _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study (#70-612-06-450)

No. of copies _____

X \$5.00 = _____

Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study (#70-612-06-451)

No. of copies _____

X \$4.50 = _____

=====
Total = _____

Please return order form by June 30, 2005.

Mail form and check made payable to:

Presbytery of Des Moines
2400 86th St., Suite 20
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306



The Presbytery attendees were given a free lunch by retired pastor, the Rev. Frank Younkin, pictured here in the Hartford church with his wife Anita. He graciously treated everyone to lunch in honor of the 50th Anniversary of his ordination here in our presbytery. Frank is a retired missionary who served in Thailand and Nepal.

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

Presbytery Meeting continued

Concern was shared regarding the pace and amount of general mission pledges being submitted. The Presbytery staff members offered a presentation about their work and how it helps support Presbytery missions. An open-panel discussion with the staff followed.

A PowerPoint slide show highlighting the April Spring Youth Connection was shared and free t-shirts were given away.

Several pastoral positions were added or changed as the *Congregational Care and Development Committee* presented its report: **Rev. Duane Miller** – interim pastor, Ankeny; **Rev. Terry Amann** – pastor, Windsor, Windsor Heights; **Rev. David**

Kincaide – pastor, First Church, Dexter (along with continuing as pastor of the Greenfield Church); **Rev. Bill LeMosy** – temporary supply, Knox Church, Des Moines; and **Rev. Hans Cornelder** – parish associate, First Church, Oskaloosa. It was also noted that the **Rev. Jan Scott** has completed her ministry as the Associate Pastor at the Central Church, Des Moines, and is now serving as the Interim Pastor of the Northminster church in Ames.

The *Professional Care and Development Committee* had great fun celebrating the retirement of **Rev. Roger Todd** as he was recognized during a special worship time. Roger has

been serving as the Pastor of the Guthrie Center congregation.

Two candidates under the care of the presbytery were presented by the *Committee on Preparation for Ministry* to be certified as ready for examination for ordination – **Tracy Edwards** is from the Creston First Presbyterian Church and **Ed Wegele** is from the St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Johnston. At the end of the meeting, these two offered the blessing and benediction.

The meeting site for the November Presbytery Meeting has been changed from Highland Park Church in Des Moines to the First Church in Corning.

-Stated Clerk, Phil Barrett

News from the Wider Church

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary has inaugurated and installed the Rev. Dr. Dean K. Thompson as its eighth president. In his inaugural address, Thompson spoke of the importance of linking one's leadership vocation with the vocation of the community.

Thompson, a graduate of Union Theological Seminary, has been an ordained minister in our denomination for over 30 years serving congregations in West Virginia, Texas and California.

The Board of Pensions has launched two new programs

available to its members, one a weight management program and the other a stress management program.

Find out more of these at: <http://www.pensions.org/weightloss> and <http://www.pensions.org/stressmanagement>.

Presbytery Office to Close for Special Days in July

On Friday, July 1, the presbytery office will be closed so that preparations can be made for a very special wedding of an office staff member.

The office will also be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, July 5.