

The Wider Circle



Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / March 2007 Vol. 3, Issue 3



**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (USA)**

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

Of Special Interest:

- Stated Clerk Monthly Column
- Prayers and Concerns
- Presbytery Happenings

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One in Christ... that the World May Believe.

A monthly column from:
Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk General Assembly PC(USA).

I have just returned from the Middle East. While there, we were thrilled to visit with Reformed Christians in Lebanon—the place of the first Presbyterian Church international mission endeavor—and to see the vitality and strength of the ministry there. We cele-

brated churches alive in worship, children learning the Christian faith, seminarians being trained for ministry, and a church reaching out to all those who suffer in a war-torn country. We also rejoiced at the ministry of Palestinian Christians and of Christians, Jews, and Muslims who are working together for a new day of peace and reconciliation in Israel and Palestine. But we also saw another side. In place after place we saw

the ugly consequences of division. We saw tents and protests all over Beirut seeking to overturn the government, and building after building damaged or destroyed from the bombing this summer. In Bethlehem and Jerusalem we witnessed walls dividing people from people, fear on all sides, and a situation where Palestinians have literally slipped from poverty to des-

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Phil's Corner



March is a month of transition and change. It certainly arrived

with a lion-like vengeance, at least for those of us on the western side of the Presbytery, yet within a week the snow was rapidly melting and various forms of wildlife were appearing. As far as the church goes, we are getting deeper and deeper into the observance of Lent.

In another way, several of our congregations – 10 to be exact – are going through a different kind of transition and change as they are in the process of a change in pastoral leadership. (I have not included the Windsor Presbyterian Church in this group as they are working with an administrative commission to determine future directions.) Most of these have some sort of interim pastoral leadership in place. A few are currently getting by with weekly pulpit supply

services. All but one of them have a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) in place. Some are very early in the search process, some are looking at or talking to potential candidates. A couple seem to be very close to extending a call to a new pastor

Searching for a new pastor is an anxious, exciting, frustrating, spirit-filled, and busy time and requires a great deal of time, dedication and work, and pastor nominating committees

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Register Early for Transformation Workshop: March 16-17

Spiritual Leadership For Becoming a Transformed Congregation Workshop – March 16-17, 2007 at First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown. Rev. N. Graham Standish will lead the workshop. Register by Feb. 27 for the and you'll receive a copy of his book, *Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power* prior to the workshop for review.

In *Becoming a Blessed Church*, Presbyterian pastor Graham Standish flips on its head the conventional wisdom about what makes a church "successful." According to Standish, the church is not a business, an organization, or even a family. It is the body of Christ, and the only measure of its success is whether the congregation asks the question, "God, what are you calling us to do?" and responds accordingly.

To learn more or to get registration details, contact North Central Iowa Presbytery Office Secretary Vicki Thordsen at: vthordsen@presbynciowa.org or call 319-233-1747.

This event is sponsored by the Vital Ministry Initiative Board of the North Central Iowa Presbytery.

GA Stated Clerk's monthly column continued from page 1

peration. It was not a pretty sight.

Our journey took us to the Mount of Olives, overlooking the old city of Jerusalem. There, we looked out on the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus offered his high priestly prayer before his crucifixion. I understood like never before why his most passionate prayer on that occasion was "that they may all be one ... that the world may believe" (John 17: 21). Jesus understood the power of unity and reconciliation to build up the body of

Christ and witness to God's love to a divided and fragmented world. And he knew all too well the consequences of division, especially among Christians.

I have returned from that experience with an even deeper commitment to pray and live so that Jesus' last prayer will be a reality in my life, in my church, and in this world. I hope you will join me in that commitment. Because we have been together over the years, Presbyterians have been able to reach out and to plant strong churches like those in Lebanon. I believe

we are called to stay together to be God's witnesses for peace and justice in the Middle East today—and in our own communities. As Jesus knew well, we are indeed better together, and I pray that we in the PC (USA) and Christians around the world will both pray and live the prayer of Jesus, "that we may all be one ... that the world may believe!"

The Reverend Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick is Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, PC(USA).

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don't work alone. Liaisons from the Congregational Care and Development Committee (CCD) provide guidance and support throughout the whole process. As persons in whom the PNC is interested surface, the Moderator of CCD and I both do checks with the presbyteries from which these people come to make sure they are free to move and have no negative baggage that might impair min-

istry. When a potential final candidate is identified, the CCD committee interviews that person to help determine if this person is a fit for the situation and meets the qualifications for membership in the Presbytery. When a candidate is called, the Presbytery again swings in to action in installing the person to the position. When all of this is happening during the already active season of Lent, re-

sources and people often go "above and beyond" to both make things happen and stay focused on the season. Just as it is with Lent, we know that there is life at the end, and so we all keep plugging and observing, dealing with transition and change in the church and creation.

May all of us find joy, hope and peace.

Peace, Phil

Attend Windsor Concert

Windsor Presbyterian Church in Windsor Heights invites us to attend a concert by the *ReBELLion* handbell choir and the *PraiSING* vocal ensemble groups from **First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa**. They will be performing their talents from God at the Windsor church Saturday, March 24 at 4 p.m. Circle the date in your calendar and come to a great concert with your Presbytery community!



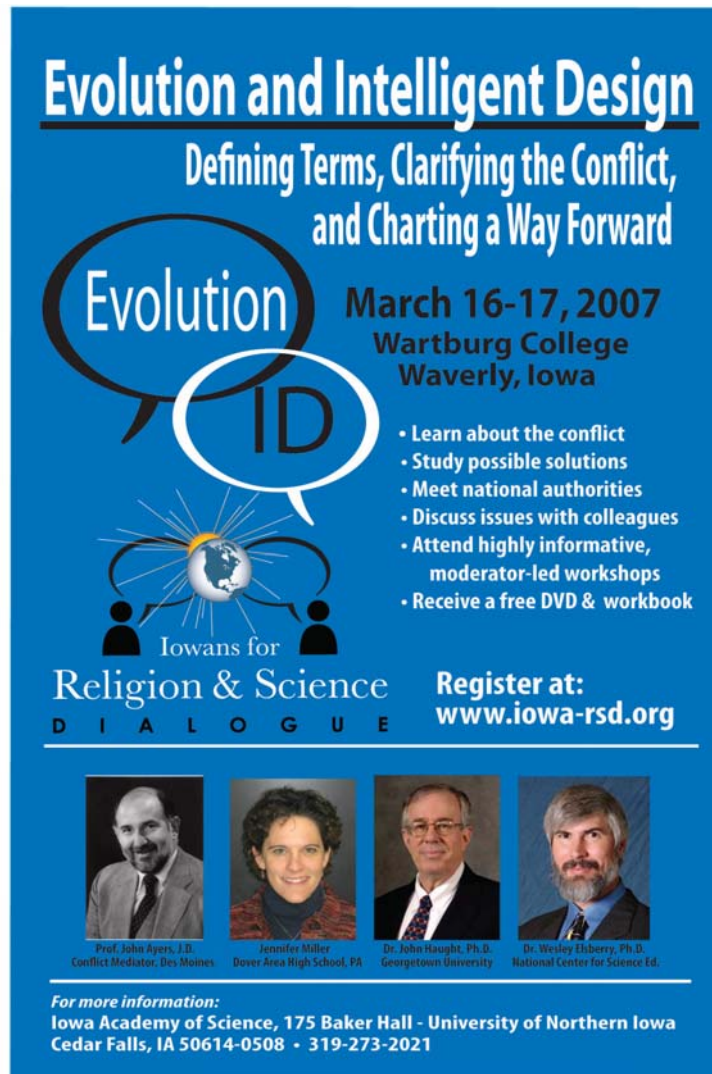
Events Calendar

2007

March 16-17 – *Spiritual Leadership for Becoming a Transformed Congregation* Workshop at **First Presbyterian Church in Marshalltown**, Register by March 9. Cost is \$30 per church plus \$15 per person for meals. For details, see page 2 *The Wider Circle*.

March 16-17 – *Evolution and Intelligent Design Conference*, at Neumann Auditorium, **Wartburg College, Waverly**. Go to:

www.iowa-rsd.org/Home.html. Each attendee will receive a DVD produced specifically for this symposium. Sponsored by Iowans for Religion and Science Dialogue, the John Templeton Foundation, Central Iowa PASTCF, Wartburg College, The Iowa Academy of Science, Wartburg College Center for Community Engagement, Waldorf College, Mission Committee of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa, National PASTCF, and Iowa Citizens for Science. Pre-registration cost is \$30, scholarships are available to the first 200 qualified applicants. Register at: www.iowa-rsd.org. For details contact: Iowa Academy of Science, University of Northern Iowa at: 319-273-2021 or www.iacad.org. See ad on page 3.



Evolution and Intelligent Design
 Defining Terms, Clarifying the Conflict,
 and Charting a Way Forward


Evolution **ID**

March 16-17, 2007
Wartburg College
Waverly, Iowa


- Learn about the conflict
- Study possible solutions
- Meet national authorities
- Discuss issues with colleagues
- Attend highly informative, moderator-led workshops
- Receive a free DVD & workbook

Iowans for
Religion & Science
 D I A L O G U E


Register at:
www.iowa-rsd.org




Prof. John Ayers, J.D.
Conflicts Mediator, Des Moines



Jennifer Miller
Dover Area High School, PA



Dr. John Haught, Ph.D.
Georgetown University



Dr. Wesley Elsberry, Ph.D.
National Center for Science Ed.

For more information:
 Iowa Academy of Science, 175 Baker Hall - University of Northern Iowa
 Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0508 • 319-273-2021

March 18-19 – *Spiritual Self-Understanding For Pastors: The Enneagram*, Iowa Conference of the **United Church of Christ, 600 42nd St., Des Moines**, Sunday 6-9 p.m. through Monday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Enneagram is a tool that combines both psychology and spirituality in the search for self-awareness and personal transformation. Based on an ancient understanding of spiritual consciousness, this approach describes nine different fundamental moti-

ations from which we operate. Studying the Enneagram can improve our relationships with others by bringing awareness to the barriers that we construct between ourselves and God's grace, becoming a powerful tool for self transformation and spiritual growth. Eric Wheeler is a certified teacher of the Enneagram and is on the graduate faculty of Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wis. Fee: \$100 *includes Sunday dinner and Monday lunch*. Registration deadline: Friday,

March 2. Scholarships are available for UCC authorized ministers. To inquire, call 515-277-6369. This event is co-sponsored by the Iowa Conference of the UCC and United Theological Seminary. For housing options see a list of local hotels at www.ucciaconf.org.

March 31 to April 10 – *The 2007 Congressional Accompaniment Project (CAP) Tour to Israel/Palestine*. Persons and groups interested in recruiting and accompanying their congress member or foreign policy aide should contact the CAP coordinators for more information: Sue and Darrell Yeaney at: sue-dy@Avalon.net or 319-354-7877.

April 16-19 – *Reaching the Generations in the Church & Community*, POAMN's Annual Conference at Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe, Nev. The first wave of Baby Boomers is turning 60. How can the church respond to this generation without alienating the generations both before and after the Boomers? Explore a variety of topics that will help your church minister to and with Baby Boomers and beyond! Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lyle Hillegas. Plenary Speaker: Dr. Charles Arn, Choose from seminars topics such as: Caregiving, Parish Nursing, Health Ministries, and more! Cost: \$350+.



Have You Read Our Latest Issue?

Dear Editor: I read Presbyweb every day almost in its entirety. It makes every possible emotion well up inside of me. I laugh and I cry. Sometimes I wonder why I bother to continue reading stuff that keeps me emotionally on edge. Yet, continue I do. Because, the truth is in there somewhere, if I can just find it. There seems to be good people on the many sides of every issue. Presbyweb exposes me to what people other than myself are thinking. Sometimes my own thinking is modified. Other times my thoughts are supported. Thank you Presbyweb for printing fairly the many sides on issues. I think you are as unbiased as possible in doing this. Signed, Claude U. Voils, Jr. First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, N.C.

For news, go online to: www.presbyweb.com.

Newcomers, get a trial subscription for an entire month, free!

Employment Opportunities

Christian Youth Coordinator St. Paul Presbyterian church in Johnston,

Iowa is seeking a full-time Youth Coordinator to work directly with Middle School through High School youth and take a leadership role in the church's mid-week inter-generational youth program, Sunday School, VBS and other on-going congregational and community youth activities. Candidates must have a strong personal commitment to Christ, as well as good organization and communication skills. The preferred background consists of either a Bachelor's degree in an education-related area, or a degree combined with one or more years of experience with leadership in church youth programs. Please submit a resume to: Personnel Committee, St. Paul Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 158, Johnston, Iowa 50131.

Volunteer 2007 Summer Worship Coordinator— Montreat Conference Center, N.C.

Is worship your passion in ministry? Would you like to spend your summer in Montreat? A person is needed to assist with the logistics of the summer worship service each week in Anderson Auditorium. Housing is provided as well

as a limited stipend for food. The position requires that you be in Montreat beginning the week of May 21, through Sunday, Aug. 5. Follow your passion! For a complete job description got to: www.montreat.org/volunteer.htm, scroll down to "Worship Coordinator". Or for more information on the Worship Coordinator position, contact Merri Bass, at: merrib@montreat.org, or call 800-572-2257, ext. 329.



Volunteers for National Health Ministries of the PC (USA)

Opportunity to become involved as 2007 mission trip volunteers with the NHM Health Van. Get on the van with Health Mission on the move today!

The schedule is as follows:

- March 24, Presbyterian Community Center, Louisville, KY
- April 27 and 28 Chicago, Illinois – Community Outreach (27th), Presbyterian

Women Spring Gathering (28th)

- May 19-26 New Orleans, Louisiana – Community Outreach, Health Fairs
- August 8-11 Martin, South Dakota – Community Health Fair at the Annual County Fair
- August 30-September 3 Nashville, Tennessee – Community Outreach, Evangelism and Witness/Church Growth Conference
- Tentative - September 28-30, in conjunction with the 2007 Westburg Symposium in St Louis, Missouri.
- Mid-November Tucson/Sells, Arizona

If you would like any more information about any of these trips, or would like to volunteer please contact National Health Ministries, Program and Resource Development Assistant Chandra Kearns at: cakearns@ctr.pcusa.org or phone: 888-728-7228, ext. 5267 or 502-569-5267.

For more information about these and other positions, contact the Presbytery Office at 515-274-1534 or pbydesmoines@gwest.net.

Congregational Connection

The congregation of the **First Presbyterian Church of Leon** together with **Rev. Jack DePond** invite everyone to help them celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the church's organization, Sunday, April 22, 2007. Activities include a coffee hour at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30, and a lunch at Noon for out-of-town guests. At 2 p.m. there will be a Celebration of Music, *Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*, followed by a cake and punch reception.

Prayers and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Rev. Melvin Roblee, HR, will be back at *On With Life* in Ankeny later this week, following surgery at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines on March 13 for a cancerous brain tumor. His wife Kathryn covets your prayers. Send correspondence to: Mel Roblee, 715 S.W. Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50023. Phone calls and visits are welcomed.

Rev. Giles Card is at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines after six hours of surgery early March for a ruptured bowel. Giles is on a respirator and expected to recover, but it will be a struggle. His wife, Glennice, and their family need our prayers.

Exciting news from **First Presbyterian Church in Chariton**. **Rev. Denise Group** and daughter **Jazelle Rose Anne** have something to celebrate. They got an early Valentine's present. The adoption of Jazelle was finalized this past month. Congratulations!

Welcome **Rev. LeRoy Kelderman** to the pulpit at **Union Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. He began serving Jan. 1 as full-time interim. Rev. Kelderman is a retired United Methodist minister who has served churches in eastern and northwest

Rev. John Gilmore of **St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Johnston** suffered a TIA on Feb. 25 and is now home from the hospital recuperating.

Rev. Beverly Leonard, HR, has transferred her membership to the Western Colorado Presbytery at the Rico Community Church, in Rico, Colo. We wish her all the best!

Interim Pastor, Rev. Ray Fancher is leaving the **Ankeny Presbyterian Church** for Wabash Valley Presbytery in Indiana to pursue another pastorate. Warm wishes and congratulations!

Rev. Terry Amann has left our presbytery effective Jan. 21. Our thoughts and prayers go with him and those mem-

Iowa, and for 25 years served various churches in central Iowa. He even worked at Anderson Erickson Dairy while he attended college! Rev. Kelderman and his wife, Lois, live in the Saydel area and have two sons.

Welcome to **Rev. Joan White**, temporary pastor at **First Presbyterian Church in Perry**. She is filling in for **Rev. Tom Conrey** while he is away on military leave.

Welcome to **Rev. Cathy Allen**, interim pastor at **LeRoy Presbyterian Church**. Cathy is from the originally from the Heartland Presbytery.

bers who left the **Windsor Presbyterian Church**.

Rev. Susan Banholzer, 60, of Wakefield, Neb. died on Feb. 21. Funeral services were held in February at the Wakefield Evangelical Covenant Church, and a memorial service was held at **Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** on March 4. Sue Selden Banholzer grew up at Central Church, attended Duquesne Seminary and was pastor of two churches in Wakefield. Our prayers go out to her son, Jeffrey Banholzer, and her family including her parents, Marvin and Jean Selden, sister, Nancy Bassett and a brother who are still members at Central. Memorials can be sent to **Central Presbyterian Church**.

21st Century Church Conference to be Held in Cedar Rapids

Prairie Woods presents Dr. Marcus Borg, during a two-day conference, April 27-28. Dr. Borg will present two lectures at St. Pius X Church in Cedar Rapids. Borg is a professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University and is widely recognized for his groundbreaking work on the historical Jesus and advocacy for progressive Christianity. Described by The New York Times as "a leading figure in his generation of Jesus scholars," Borg has appeared on NBC's *Today Show* and *Dateline*, PBS's *Newshour*, ABC's " and NPR's *Fresh Air*.

The first lecture is *A Tale of Two Christianities* on Friday, April 27, 7-9 p.m. Cost is: \$15, At the door: \$20.

The second lecture is *The Church in the 21st Century: Seeing Christianity Again* on Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cost: \$40, includes lunch. At the door: \$50.

Full conference fee by April 13 is \$50. Registration made during April 14-25 for both events is \$65. Tickets purchased at the door for both events: \$70

Get registration forms from Prairie Woods, 319-395-6700 or by downloading the brochure at:

www.prairiewoods.org.



... love one another as I have loved you
John 15.12

A week of Prayer and Witness with Christians in the Middle East

The 217th General Assembly invites all 11,000 Presbyterian congregations to participate between Easter and Pentecost, April 8 and May 27, 2007.

Excellent aids for celebrating this Week of Prayer and Witness have been created for you by the offices of the General Assembly Council that relate to our Christian partners in the Middle East in collaboration with volunteers from the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA).

To find resources for celebrating the week, go online to:

www.pcusa.org/worldwide/

[middleeast.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/middleeast.htm). *If you have*

questions about the Week of

Prayer and Witness, contact Mark

McCabe at 888-728-7228,

ext. 5324.

PC(USA) Update

DETAILS EMERGING FOR PCN AUGUST CONFERENCE

More details are now available about the Presbyterian Communicator's Network (PCN) conference to be held in Louisville August 1 – 4, 2007. Exciting worship, engaging plenary, and a myriad of informative workshops are being planned. Read the details available now at www.pcusa.org/comnet. More information will be posted as it becomes available.

TWO MORE EXTRAORDINARY MISSION EVENTS

Presbyterian Church (USA) mission network members and other supporters of international mission will gather in Louisville just before Mission

Challenge '07 representatives hit the road.

At the October 3-4 "World Mission Celebration '07: A Celebration of Grace," any who sense a call to support or work in international mission will be invited to participate in the event, which will include plenary sessions, workshops, worship, and informal conversation with the missionaries.

Mission leaders from around the world will present a vision of international mission and invite input from participants. The conference will celebrate mission efforts carried out by any part of the PC(USA). The celebration, which will be preceded and followed by mis-

sion network meetings, will include a commissioning of missionaries who are part of Mission Challenge '07.

Some of the PC(USA)'s mission networks will be meeting October 1-2 and others will convene October 5-6. The networks' event, titled "World Mission network Gathering '07: Gathered by Grace," will feature one day of network meetings and another day devoted to educational opportunities geared toward network members.

For more information on the event, contact Stanley de Voogd at: 888-728-7228 ext. 5835, or 502-419-7604, or sdevoogd@ctr.pcusa.org.

Stand With Us: One Grandmother's Story

The women of Ohio call upon the women of the world, from the day-old babies to our most senior elders, to stand with us to save the world.

Sharon Mehdi wrote a wonderful short story for her five-year old granddaughter, The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering that has inspired us. A quick summary of the story is:

Once there was a busboy who worked in a café whose window faced the public park noticed that two grandmoth-erly looking women had been standing in the park all day without moving at all and without talking. They were

dressed up in their Sunday best and they were just staring at the town hall. He asked the other patrons in the café what they thought the women were up to. They speculated on a variety of things.

Then, a five-year old year who was in the café spoke up and said "One of them is my grandmother and I know what they are doing. They are standing there to save the world." All of the men in the café hooted and howled and laughed.

On his way home the busboy decided to ask the women what they were doing and sure enough their answer was

"We are saving the world." Over dinner that evening the busboy told his parents and he and his father hooted and howled, but his mother was totally silent. After dinner, the mother called her best friends to tell them.

The next morning the busboy looked out the café window and the two women were back, along with his mother, her friends, and the women who had been in the café the day before. All were standing in silence staring at the town hall. Again, the men hooted and howled and said things like "You can't save the world by standing in the park. That

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Stand With Us continued from page 6

is what we have armies for," and "everyone knows you have to have banners and slogans to save the world – you can't do it by just standing in the park."

The next day the women were joined by the women who were in the café the day before and a number of their friends. This brought the local newspaper reporter to the scene. He wrote a mean article about the women.

The day after it appeared, hundreds of women showed

up to stand in the park in silence.

The mayor then told the police chief to make the women leave because they were making the town appear to be foolish. When the police chief told them they would have to disperse because they didn't have a permit, one of them responded that "we are just individuals standing in our public park and we are not giving speeches or having a demonstration so why would we need a permit." The police chief thought about this and

agreed with them and left the park.

The story ends with 2,223 women including the mayor's wife, the police chief's wife, and one five-year old girl were standing in the park to save the world.

The news quickly spread and soon women were standing all over the country. The story ended with women standing in every country throughout the globe, standing to save the world. Go to: www.grandmotherbook.com.

Demands on Our Time

For pastors, there is always one more visit to make, another meeting to attend, a sermon or program to plan, conflicts to resolve, and issues needing creative responses. Constant busyness may preclude the imaginative work necessary for effective pastoral ministry. Brain research shows that creativity comes during times of rest after periods of hard work and concentration. Pastors need uninterrupted blocks of time, creative space. Hard work is important to the creative process, but downtime is equally essential. Creativity emerges from alternating between the two.

In our noisy, fast-paced, consumerist society, congregations tend to view a pastor's long hours as a

confirmation of call and a sign of commitment. However, rather than being a sign of faithfulness, failure to take days off, to use continuing education weeks and money, to enjoy the full vacation time as true vacation, and to receive sabbatical leave when it is available, are important danger signs that the health of the pastor is at risk. This, in turn, jeopardizes the congregation's health.

Expectations about how pastors' time should be used often come from congregants' own work lives, the ways in which other pastors have been perceived, and the work ethic of congregants' families of origin. Assessing thoughts and feelings about work and clarifying the sources of ones beliefs are beneficial exercises for anyone. For personnel

committees, adopting structures for assuring creative space and genuine downtime for pastors provides a tremendous service to pastors and the congregations they serve. When the work of the pastor and session includes regular and realistic assessment of the most important priorities for the congregation at this time in its history, along with a clear statement of priorities in terms of expectations of the pastor, both congregation and pastor are likely to achieve a more focused, healthier ministry.

Excerpted from an article by Sharon Mook, a pastoral counselor, in *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Nov. 20, 2006, www.pres-outlook.com/tabid/1212/Article/3430/Default.aspx



WITNESS IN WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Presbyterian Witness in Washington Weekly – Feb. 5, 2007

You could say that the "P" in Presbyterian stands for passion. It could be noted that, while at the same time Presbyterians have been referred to as the 'frozen chosen' when it comes to worship style, we are also seen as passionate and dedicated to the issues of social justice. Passion has been evident in the response to our Jan. 29, 2007 weekly message on the Iraq troop surge called for by the President, federal budget issues, and voting representation in Congress for the residents of the District of Columbia. We in the Washington Office are delighted to see such passion and hope that you share the justice fervor with others.

This week's issues are:

- Support Habeas Corpus Restoration Act
- The Senate Passes the Minimum Wage
- Churches Urged to Discuss Race and the Environment- NCCC-USA

Older Adult Ministry Update

Older Adult Ministry covers a wide area of material, ages and situations. As (some of us) reach and are in retirement age, we might consider our family is concerned about areas that we had worried us about our parents and older relatives and friends.

WE NEED TO TALK...

The following websites can be helpful in determining the safety of driving, and our making decisions to ease the minds of our families. (AARP offers much the same information.) On the websites:

www.thehartford.com/alzheimers. there are information sheets on "Warning Signs for Drivers with Dementia" and a sheet to download of an "Agreement with My Family about Driving". This allows us to help our family make necessary decisions of wishes and directions while one is still able to make these decisions.

And on www.thehartford.com/talkwitholderdrivers, a sheet to download on "Warning Signs for Older Drivers". This allows tracking changes over time to get a clear picture of overall driving ability. There are also excellent, colorful brochures to order.

To order the free printed brochure go to:

www.thehartford.com/talkwitholderdrivers/brochure/brochure.htm.



If you provide the requested information then click the "submit" button at the bottom of the

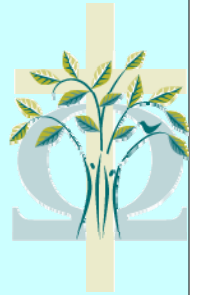
form. Please include a complete address and brochure quantity.

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., and the MIT AgeLab developed information to help families initiate productive and caring conversations with older adults about driving safety. These suggestions are based on research with drivers over the age of 50.

Mark Your Calendars for POAMN Events

BOOMERS AND BEYOND

Reaching the Generations in the Church and Community



is the theme of the 2007 Annual POAMN Conference April 16-19. Keynote and Workshop Speaker is Dr. Charles Arn. "Evangelizing the Babe Boomer Generation". Discover the principles of generational strategy while hearing Dr. Arn speak on how the church can reach the largest segment of society. Contact Cindy Wright at wright@solanapres.org for late registration, or dshep@mahaska.org for further information.


OLDER ADULT WEEK

May 6-12 is designated to honor this generation. Contact PDS for Older Adult Week Planning Guide, 2007, or you may download at pcusa.org/olderadults. You may decide to not plan an event every day. The planning guide has a wealth of material to give ideas on spotlighting this great group that is in all our congregations.

COMING SOON

A Website solely for POAMN (Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network.) www.pcusa.org/olderadults.

Synod School 2007



"People having so much fun while examining issues related to faith."

"Wonderful, thoughtful, energetic, fun-loving teachers, staff and leaders."

"A place where the needs of the entire family are considered."

"Gives me the incentive to try new things in my church"

"The 'connectedness' and warmth of Christian community."

● ● ● ● ●

July 22-27, 2007

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!

Go to www.lakesandprairies.org/events.html or phone 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.

Five Smooth Stones
Biblical Themes for Life & Ministry

Camp Wyoming Holds CE Workshop

A day to network with other church staff and volunteers, attend workshops that will help further your knowledge, and renew your spirit in God's creation.

For church staff and volunteers who work directly with youth and families, this workshop is sponsored by the Presbytery of East Iowa and Camp Wyoming. The one-day workshop will be held Thursday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Camp Wyoming, 9106 42nd Ave., Wyoming, Iowa.

Workshop topics include:

- Ideas for mission trips and service projects
- How to make worship services more kid-friendly and tips for parents to help their children more fully experience the worship service
- Rotation Workshop Model for Sunday School
- Group games that require few or no props
- Songs, and much more

Cost is \$25 (lunch is included in price). To register before March 29, go to:

www.campwyoming.net/.

Or phone: 563-488-3893 or e-mail: camp-wyo@netins.net for more information.

Youth Triennium Delegation Still has Openings

Presbytery of Des Moines young people are encouraged to apply soon for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT), to be held July 17-22, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. This is a great event for both high school youth and adults involved in youth ministry.

We are forming our Presbytery's delegation now! Application forms are online at the Presbytery's Web site:

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/resources.htm.

Completed applications and \$100 deposit are to be sent to: **Lisa Whitmarsh Pe-**

terson, PYT Registrar, Presbytery of Des Moines, 7207 S.W. 16th St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50315-6030



If you have questions or need trip details contact Lisa at 515-287-1288 or by e-mail at Lefty-Lizard@juno.com. The cost for the 5-day event is \$399 per participant.

For conference details go to the national Web site at: www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org.

NOTE: Adult advisors need to apply soon. The Des Moines Presbytery still needs 2-3 adult advisors. Individuals **must** be at least 21 years of age by July 17 and submit background checks necessary to accompany youth.

Adults who are 19-22 years of age are strongly encouraged to apply for Work Crew positions through the PYT event website.

Devotional Series to Help Study People of the Bible

A devotionals series is available to all Presbyterian churches – **free**. Some of you may have already received some of them. They are not intended to be a scholarly dissertation, but a simple story that may help all of us question what we believe and how we should respond to God's calling. They are written for the average person. Each has a few questions that the reader can ask himself or it may be used to lead into a small Bible study. If you are interested, these can be forwarded by either a letter or sent via e-mail.

They are done in Adobe Acrobat so you can transfer them to your church web site, or pass the information on to the people in your church who do the web site. A few local churches have asked for them and they are being used on some web sites, but some churches are also using them for a Bible study, or an insert in their newsletter. These are written by Gail Keffer, a member of the Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church in New Castle, Pa. Contact Gail at: gailkk@keffersoftware.com and she'll be happy to send or e-mail them to you. The only reward she gets is in knowing that someone is reading them, and perhaps we will touch one heart that is searching.

To date, the following sets are available.

- *"In the Beginning"* is a set of 12 devotionals including a short prayer and questions for study or discussion. These are written in third person and they are all from the book of Genesis.
- *"The Lenten Series"* is a set of 7 devotionals including a short prayer and questions for study or discussion. These are written in first person. I realize there is more than just one per week, but each had an important part, so you can use the ones you prefer!

Ten Commandments Education Idea for Kids!

Submitted by: Joan Boer,
Christian Education Director
at First Presbyterian
Church, Oskaloosa
presby3@mahaska.org
641-673-8879

I designed a Scavenger Hunt game to help children learn the Ten Commandments. By the end of the game, the children should be able to recite the Ten Commandments **in order** using only a bracelet with ten beads as a help. I used it with children ages 8 through 11, but it can be used for younger and older kids as well.

Set up involves making copies on the instruction sheet (Rules on the front and Commandments on the back), and hiding 10 cups of pony beads – one color in each cup. Before they start, give each participant strings (I used cotton

twine) about 12 inches long. Winners can get a ribbon, candy, juice bags or “1,000 points!” each – whatever you choose to use! Of course, the goal is that every single person will be a winner! Have fun!

- I. Teams are created by their birthday month.
- II. One team member needs to be “Moses” and keep this rule paper for every-one.
- III. Teams are to make a bracelet from the beads they find.
- IV. Beads must be found **IN the ORDER** given. If you locate the black beads, but you are ready for the red beads, you must LEAVE the black beads and come back later. (You can not carry them with you until you are ready for them.)

- V. Make your bracelet during your journey.
 - VI. **NO TALKING** – sign language is fine.
 - VII. You may help other teams, but remember, if they make it back to home base before you, they win, whether you helped them or not.
 - VIII. First team back to home base, with completed necklaces, and sitting down WINS! When your team is ready, yell, **“Promised Land!”**
 - IX. If your team isn't the first team back, you can still win a prize if you can recite the Ten Commandments, **in order**, without looking anytime today.
 - X. Stay together!
- HINT: You can use the bracelet to recite the commandments in order – the colors are your clues!



Making Summer VBS Plans?

The Presbytery of Des Moines'

P.O.I.N.T. Person, Sandi

Stuckey can help you find the summer vacation bible school curriculum that's right for your church.

Sandi, who is also Christian Education Director at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, has not only the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) curriculum and its associates, but she recently attended the Well-spring VBS preview and has samples of almost all the VBS curriculum offered this year. To see the materials, contact Sandi Stuckey at: [sstuckey@westpres.org](mailto:ssuckey@westpres.org) or 515-274-1534. Not all of the curriculum is reformed but she can help on teacher-friendly and easy-to-use ideas!

Ten Commandments Beads

1. Have no other gods, only God. (Purple bead = purple is the color for royalty)
2. Don't worship idols. (Clear bead = false gods are fake – you can see right through them)
3. Don't swear. (Blue bead = as in “He swears a blue streak”)
4. Go to church on Sunday. (White bead = means holy, clean and pure)
5. Obey your father and mother. (Pink bead = because they love you)
6. Don't kill people. (Red bead = like blood)
7. Stay faithful to your husband or wife. (Gold bead = like a wedding band)
8. Don't steal. (Black bead = burglars like prowling in the dark)
9. Don't lie. (Yellow bead = people often lie because they are afraid.
Yellow = coward)
10. Don't be jealous of what other people have. (Green bead = “she was green with envy”)



Des Moines PW To Meet April 21

It's Spring Gathering time for the Presbyterian Women in the Des Moines Presbytery and you're invited! The group will meet on April 21 at **Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, hosts for the annual event, and **St. Paul Presbyterian Church of Johnston** will be co-hosts. This year's theme is *Walking Together in Love and Hope* with guest speaker Gina Gustavson, Global Exchange participant to Brazil. Registration starts at 8:45 a.m. Meal cost is \$5. Make your reservations by April 16 to June Balch at: 515-225-4450.

A special music concert will be provided by the youth choir PraiSing from **First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa**.

Workshops topics include:

- Don Justo Coffee with Dignity Program and our Sister Parish – Kathy Mahler, (Clive, Heartland)
- CIPO School in Brazil – recipient of Birthday Offering money – Gil & Virginia Dietz
- Older Adult Ministries – Darlene Shepherd, (Oskaloosa, First)

Presbytery Happenings

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND WINDSOR CONCERT!

Windsor Presbyterian Church in Windsor Heights invites us to attend a concert by the *ReBELLion* handbell choir and the *PraiSing* vocal ensemble groups from **First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa**. They will be performing their talents from God at the Windsor church Saturday, March 24 at 4 p.m. Circle the date in your calendar and come to a great concert with your fellow Presbyterians and community!

GULF COAST REGION MISSION TRIPS PLANNED

A Hurricane Mission Team from **Ankeny Presbyterian Church** is scheduled to be in Luling, Louisiana,

March 10-17. This group consisting mainly of college students, will work on cleanup and stay in the Fish Camp Tent Village. Volunteers include: **Nick Bern, J.J. Gibbons, Marcia Justice, Amy Klinkefus, Andrew Kohlsdorf, Mary Kohlsdorf, Jamie Runde, Megan Stadlman, and Katie Wood**.

Another mission team is schedule to go the New Orleans, March 24-31. The **Southwest Regional Partnership** will be sending 15-18 skilled individuals to help with re-building homes. Those participating on this mission trip are:

Lenox United
Pete Brantner
David Pete Walter

Angie Combs
Rev. Tim Maxa
Sharpsburg
David Bender
Zonette Beemer
Daniel Breach
Melani Breach
Mary Lou Miller
Kiley Sherwood
Harold Spring

Corning First
Gary Badgett

Creston First
Marion Hargin

Bedford United Christian
Barbara Hannon

What a wonderful testament to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program and the ease of getting volunteer teams to the places in need. Our prayers go with all the individuals and mission churches.

Save the Date for a Grand Celebration!

The congregation of the **First Presbyterian Church of Leon** together with **Rev. Jack DePond** invite everyone to help them celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the church's organization, Sunday, April 22, 2007. Activities include a coffee hour at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30, and a lunch at Noon for out-of-town guests. At 2 p.m. there will be a Celebration of Music, *Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*, followed by a cake and punch reception.



Lectionary Study Meets on Tuesdays

On Tuesday of each week the pastors of the Presbytery meet at the Presbytery office, 2400 86th St., Suite 20, in Urbandale, to discuss and learn about the PC(USA) Lectionary for the week. All

are invited to attend this event, pastors, CLPs, pulpit supply and others interested in a lively discussion about the weekly lectionary scriptures. Prior to the lectionary discussion the group

has been meeting at 9 a.m. to discuss *The Last Week*, recently reviewed by **Rev. Richard Harbart** of the **Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford**.

Book Review: *The Worshipping Life*

Submitted by
**Rev. Ann Rouse, Monroe
 Presbyterian Church**

The Worshipping Life: Meditations on Order of Worship, written by Lisa Nichols Hickman.

Publisher is Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Lisa Nichols Hickman uses the structure of worship to reflect on the journey of faith.

Drawing on numerous references to popular movies and music, she connects the way in which these movies and music interpret the Gospel message.

As an example, using Stevie Wonder's tune, "Signed,

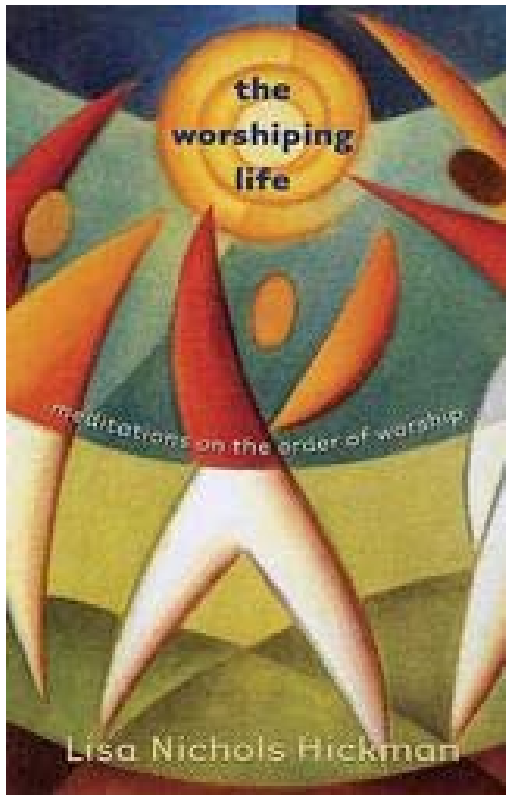
Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours," she suggests that

this is our experience in the sacraments.

The structure of worship in combination with a spiritual life reinforces that the central act of a church is found in its worship life.

The Worshipping Life is a helpful tool to use if one is looking for ways to bring references from all sorts

of media into one's practice of ministry.



Order 2007-2008 Planning Calendars Now!

This 19-month calendar that begins with June 2007 contains many planning aids for pastors and other church leaders. Building on the theme "Come All You People," the calendar calls Presbyterians to our life together. Photos, Scripture, and other reflections express our joy and common purpose: to share the love of God in Jesus Christ in word and deed.

The calendar also features:

- Monthly calendar pages from June 2007 through December 2008

- Lectionary for the Lord's Day and special days
- Colors for the liturgical seasons
- Liturgical days, programmatic emphases, and secular holidays
- Monthly planning suggestions and resources
- Synod, presbytery and GA staff directories
- Foldout synod, presbytery, and world maps in color

Individual calendars are \$10.50 each; copies will be available starting in May.

Order your calendars through the Des Moines Presbytery office and save \$4.50 per copy! The calendars should be available for pick-up at the May Presbytery meeting. The bulk price is \$6.00 if we order more than 50 calendars.

Use the form to the right or contact Office Manager **Betty Dyer** at: bydes-moines@qwest.net or 515-276-4991 if you are interested in ordering your new calendar!



2007-2008 PLANNING CALENDAR ORDER FORM

Church _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

2007-2008 Presbyterian Planning Calendar (Item #1-57153-082-7)

No. of copies _____

Please return order form by April 20, 2007.

An invoice will be available detailing your cost when you pick up your calendars at the May 15 Presbytery Meeting.

Call To Action

Iowa could soon become the seventh state to ensure that its public-pension money isn't funding the genocide that continues to ravage Darfur, Sudan.

A study bill introduced Jan. 26 by Sen. Michael Connolly, D-Dubuque, calls for the Iowa treasurer, the state Board of Regents, and the directors of the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System to withdraw state funds believed to be used by the Arab-dominated Sudanese government and its proxy Janjaweed militias to wage ethnic cleansing against the Darfuris. For details about the bill, go to: www.dailyiowan.com/home/index.cfm?event=displayArticle&uStory_id=6b0c2635-15fb-490e-89e3-b13a3f6e932f.

If you agree that public funds should not support genocide, please contact your state representative and state senator to urge them to cosponsor and support this divestment bill. E-mail addresses for both the Iowa House and Iowa Senate have the form `firstname.lastname@legis.state.ia.us`. Click on www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/Default.aspx for a list of Iowa legislators. Their e-mails can be found at: www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Legislators/SenateEmail.aspx. Please include iowa@chapters.genocideintervention.net in the bcc: field. If any legislators respond, please pass that info along as well.

Iowa Congress act on divestment to end genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

In the past few weeks, the coalition in Des Moines, (a body that advocates for the Darfur People being exterminated in a genocide by the Khartoum Government), has been putting pressure on U.S. President George Bush to help stop the genocide.

The coalition has been active in Des Moines and works with various organizations trying to do the same.

In the last week of February until now, there is a debate about the Divestment in Sudan mainly the Arab Khartoum Government and so the Divestment should target on the Khartoum but not South Sudan Govern-

ment where peace was signed between Northern Arab and Islamic extremist's Government and South Sudan Government. South Sudan advocates Democracy and is victimized by that Government popularly known as Government of Sudan (GOS). This Arab Islamic extremists Government carried out genocide about which the world is silent.

We would like the members of the Presbytery of Des Moines Churches to be aware of the situation so that they can pray for the situation in Darfur as well as in South Sudan.

The members of the Senate Government Committee for

the State of Iowa, has been debating SSB 1106 on targeted Sudan Divestment a bill that is intended to stop genocide in Darfur.

Please continue to support the coalition that includes many organizations and individuals. The question I asked was how will the intended Divestment affect the South Sudan community? That helped the senate to think of targeting the Khartoum Arab Islamic extremist Government but not to include South Sudan.

*Rev. Goanar Chol,
Coordinator of Sudanese
Ministries, Des Moines and
Missouri River Valley
Presbyteries.*

C.R.O.S.S. Ministries Update

Lent is one of the more introspective seasons of the church year. It is a time for reflecting upon Christ's tremendous sacrifice of love for us and for counting our blessings. Furthermore, counting our blessings makes us thankful but it also reminds us of our fundamental obligation to care for the poor and to work for a just society that improves their lives.

During this Lenten season, we will have more than 200 low and no income families who will turn to CROSS Min-

istries in their time of crisis. Some will come with a simple request for basic items such as toilet tissue, toothpaste, or laundry soap, while others will need even greater help with money to pay the rent so their family will not become homeless. Then sadly, toward the end of the month, still other families will be turned away as we run out of our allotted assistance funds for the month of March.

It is so easy to think of the poor as a whole group rather than as real people with real problems. Therefore, I would

like to introduce you to a family that received assistance from CROSS this February by telling you their story. They are just one of many families helped by CROSS Ministries through your donations. As you read their story, remember the words of Ephesians 4:25, "For we are members of one another."

A husband, wife and their two children, ages 3 and 6 years, came to CROSS Ministries to ask for assistance in paying their February

(Continued on page 15)

CROSS Ministries continued from page 14

(Continued from page 14)

rent. Just three years earlier, Steve and Mary Jo had been an ordinary middle class family, raising their children, working hard, and buying their own home. Mary Jo was running her own in-home daycare business so she could stay home with their son and new baby. Steve was a construction worker. Then on one terrifying day disaster struck and life would never be the same again. Steve severely injured his ankle and foot. Following the accident, he was rushed to the hospital where they had to perform emergency surgery. It turned out to be the first of eleven surgeries over the next three years culminating in the recent amputation of his foot and ankle. Through the blur of multiple surgeries, hospital visits, and caring for her

husband and children, Mary Jo attempted to maintain her daycare business, but eventually even that source of income failed. The parents of the daycare children did not want their little ones traveling back and forth to the hospital, spending hours in the waiting room. One by one, they removed their children. Without any income, Steve and Mary Jo began a spiral downward ultimately resulting in the loss of their home. In desperation, Steve applied for disability but was denied since they said he could still perform office work once he had adjusted to his prosthetic foot. Unfortunately, Steve had always been a construction worker and did not have the skills needed to engage in that type of work particularly while still dealing with the emotional and physical challenges before him. Mary Jo returned to school full time while also seeking employ-

ment. The family, now living in an apartment, was struggling to meet the cost of their month's rent. In spite of the frustration, anger, and sadness they often feel, the husband and wife remain committed to one another and their children. CROSS Ministries assisted this family with the necessary portion of their rent stabilizing their situation for thirty days.

Steve and Mary Jo are a very real family in our community who, without the assistance of CROSS, might have become homeless. During this Lenten season, remember the love that Christ showed for us by remembering the poor in our community and by renewing your commitment to serving those in need through your gifts and actions.

—Roberta Victor, Director,
CROSS Ministries

Iowans: Making a Difference Globally

An International Issues Forum will be held on April 14, at the Olmsted Center, Drake University. Sponsored by the Iowa Council for International Understanding (ICIU) and Drake University's Center for Global Citizenship, this is the first 2007 forum. The purpose is to showcase the efforts made by Iowans in addressing global challenges.

The conference will have displays by various organizations; incorporation of the religious, service, educational, and the medial groups; and a discussion held by a set of panelists. This is an opportunity for the public to learn about the efforts of local community members and ask questions concerning volunteerism, Iowa's involvement globally, lessons learned and the challenges.

You are encouraged to participate if you or someone you know is making a difference globally or participating in an international project impacting people's lives. There is no cost to participate or to attend. This forum is free and open to the public. If you're interested, contact Paritosh Kasotia at 515-282-8269, ext. 15 or paritosh.kasotia@iciu.org.

DEATH

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt.

Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin.

Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said:

"Glory be unto the Faather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes.

(I want this line used at my funeral!)

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PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES
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Urbandale, IA 50322-4306

Joining Hands Bulletin Inserts for Lent

The Social Ministries Task Force through the *Joining Hands* program is making available bulletin inserts during the Lent.

Bulletin inserts can be used from Ash Wednesday through Easter and can be used in any order or inter-mixed together using two at a time. Topics include: Egypt, Peru, Cameroon, Palestine, Lesotho, and South Africa. The India insert is for use on Good Friday. The prayer, written by the Rev. Dr. K.C. Abraham, is focused on Good Friday. The Bolivia insert is dated for Easter morning.

The Social Ministries Task Force would like feedback on how these bulletin inserts are being used and what needs to be changed to make them more user-friendly. Some of you have already sent along some good ideas; congregations seem to be using them differently in each presbytery.

Bulletins can be sent to you by e-mail as a cost-saving measure. There are no printed inserts in storage. To print and ship the inserts would require charging for both production and shipping. E-mail and a nearby Kinko's seemed the most cost-effective way. This is certainly a topic that is

open for more discussion should we choose to do Lenten resources next year.

Joining Hands

participating churches in the U.S. presbyteries should have the bulletin inserts. If not, and your church is interested in helping *Joining Hands*, contact **Task Force Moderator Nancy Lister-Settle** at: neitherthecat@aol.com or 515-992-3639.



WE'RE ON THE WEB:

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org