



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

## Of Special Interest

Women Elders Honored  
PDA Team Visits Des Moines  
2006 Per Capita Due

## Contents

Women Elders Honored	1
Phil's Corner	1
Events Calendar	2
Eastside Cluster Dinner Invite	2
PC(USA) Update	3
Congregation Connect	4
Prayer Concerns	4
Employment Opportunities	4
Human Rights Day	4
PDA Visits Presbytery	5
Summer Collegium Announcement	5
Presbytery Happenings	6
Bound4Him Concert	6
2006 Per Capita Due	7
Antique Critique Thanks You	7
E-mail Users Tip	7
CROSS Ministries Needs You!	8

## Women Elders Honored by Presbytery

At the Presbytery of Des Moines' 462<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting held at the First Presbyterian Church in Corning, Nov. 8, **Dianne Van Gorp**, moderator for the Women's Advocacy Taskforce, recognized those women ruling elders who were first ordained in our churches.

**Elizabeth King Parsons**, was reported to be the first woman, ruling elder in the Des Moines Presbytery and the State of Iowa, was ordained April 1, 1931, at Union Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

## Phil's Corner



Although the weather hasn't really told us so, it is November:

for many of us, a time to think about giving thanks. Given how the weather has been, we can give thanks for the glory of fall and the great harvest weather.

But all of us have lists of things for which to give thanks. We probably even have some similar thanksgivings – family, home, friends, church, freedom,

From childhood, Elizabeth King Parsons had the true missionary spirit. As a girl in her teens she was interested in ministering to the underprivileged children and young people of her community. Later when she became the wife of a pastor of a Home Missionary church, she gathered into the church school young girls from the families where poverty was depressing and taught them the way of life. She awakened in them an ambition to rise above

God's love and blessing, and Christ's gift of life.

My personal list includes you – the churches, members and pastors of our Presbytery. I am very thankful to be with you, to be part of God's creation, to be sharing in ministry. This is a great place to be and you are great people to be with. I find my gratitude for this affirmed when I travel around Iowa and our country.

Unfortunately, many of my colleagues face daily



*Elder Norma Francis, Platte Center Presbyterian Church was presented with a certificate by Dianne Van Gorp.*

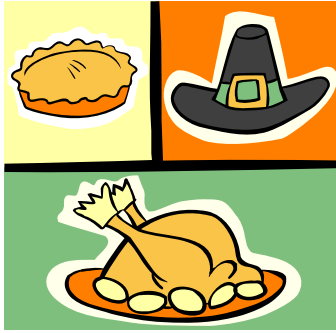
their circumstances and live at their best and be helpful to others.

*continued on page 7*

battles, lack of support and other diversions to doing Christ's work. Many deal with bitter quarrels, inappropriate behavior by leaders and pastors, and limited hope.

We have a sense of respect for each other, a basic awareness of appropriate activity and behavior, the ability to honor our differences and not let them get in the way of our ministry, a general commitment to our work together, a sense of humor, and a joy of being together.

*continued on page 5*



## Attend the Eastside Cluster Dinner Nov. 24

The **Annual Eastside Cluster**

**Thanksgiving Dinner** is being held on Thanksgiving Day,

Thursday, Nov. 24, from 11:30

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A family-style sit-down meal will be

served at the St. Joseph's Gym,

at 3300 Easton Boulevard in

Des Moines. Eastside shut-ins

may call 515-266-5284 for

home delivery. For questions

on Thanksgiving Day, call 515-266-8348.

This meal is sponsored by the

**Eastside Cluster of**

**Churches:** Capitol Hill

Christian Church, 3322 East

25<sup>th</sup> St.; St. Joseph Catholic

Church, 3300 Easton

Boulevard; and First

Presbyterian Church, 3100

Easton Boulevard.

## Events Calendar

### 2005

**Nov. 15** – *Common Faith, Common Mission Conference*, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill. Co-sponsored by McCormick Seminary and the Office of the General Assembly. Focus is on Reformed faith core values, as stated in our Constitution. Discern how these values might shape the future mission of the denomination and serve as a resource for the renewal of our congregations. Register online at: [www.pcusa.org/gameetingservice/other.htm#mccormick](http://www.pcusa.org/gameetingservice/other.htm#mccormick).

**Nov. 18-19** – *Light It Up! Fall Retreat*, 9- thru 12-grade students are invited to this Presbytery-wide event at Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 321 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines. To register contact **Dennis Britson**, at 515-282-9139 or [dnbritson@mchsi.com](mailto:dnbritson@mchsi.com).

**Nov. 24-27** – Des Moines Presbytery Office is closed.

**Dec. 3** – Rural Life Day 2005, *Changes and Challenges to Rural Community* at Lincoln University's, George Washington Carver Research Farm, Jefferson City, Mo. For details contact Barbara Ross at 573-635-9127, ext. 225 or by e-mail at: [socconcerns@diojeffcity.org](mailto:socconcerns@diojeffcity.org)

**Dec. 15** – Coordinating Council Meeting, Des Moines

**Dec. 15** – Applications are due for the *Small Church Clergy Conference*, June 21-29, 2006 in Alexandria Va., All expenses paid.

Sponsored by Virginia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifetime Theological Education.

### 2006

**Jan. 15-17** – Synod of Lakes and Prairies Meeting

**Jan. 20-27** – *Pastors Familiarization Tour to Israel*, sponsored by Coral Travel and Tours. The 8-day tour acquaints pastors with the land of the Bible so they can someday lead their own tour. Cost is \$1,495 and spouses may attend for a slightly more. Those deciding to bring a tour group within a year receive a full refund. Due to cancellations, there is still room available. Participants need to be ordained pastors or the spouse of a pastor in order to go. For details, contact Rev. Tim Dolan, Ph.D., Whitworth College, 509-777-4676.

**Jan. 20-27** – *Compañeros* El Salvador Delegation

**Jan. 21** – **Presbytery Meeting**, Windsor Presbyterian Church, Windsor Heights

**Jan. 27-Feb. 3** – El Salvador Delegation from Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive. Contact Kathy Mahler or Scott Valentine if you are interested by Nov. 30.

**Feb. 1-4** – *Association of Presbyterian Church Educator's Conference*, St. Louis, Mo. More than 1,000 educators, pastors, middle-governing body and national staff representing four denominations from North America will participate with key leaders who carry out various educational tasks in PC(USA) congregations, as well as regional, national and ecumenical agencies. More information is available at [www.APCEnet.org](http://www.APCEnet.org).

**March 22-24** – *Exploring a Call to Ministry*, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Overnight accommodations are free. For more information, e-mail [udtsadms@dbq.edu](mailto:udtsadms@dbq.edu) or go online to: <http://udts.dbq.edu/prospective/exploring.htm>.

**April 22** – *The Core* by Youth Specialties, Des Moines, Iowa, Sponsored by Group Publishing, go online for more information: <http://events.grouppublishing.com/public/index.cfm?action=chooselocation&intanceid=19&state=IA>.

## Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Update

### **PASTORS CAN TAKE A FEW TESTS AND COLLECT \$100 FROM BOP**

The Board of Pensions (BOP) of the PC(USA) has announced that it will give \$100 to every installed PC(USA) pastor age 50 or older who submits to a preventive-health examination and appropriate medical tests and screenings before Dec. 31, 2006.

This pilot program, "Preventive Incentive," is meant to emphasize the importance of personal health stewardship.

A list of the recommended exams and screenings is available online at [www.pensions.org/preventiveincentive](http://www.pensions.org/preventiveincentive).

The purpose of the program is two-fold, BOP officials say: to help medical- and pension-plan members stay healthy and to help control rapidly escalating healthcare costs. Experts say 60% of any medical plan's expenses are related to conditions caused by lifestyle and behavior choices, many of which can be detected or prevented by proper exams and screenings.

The board says the program will be evaluated and, if it proves successful for the initial group, will be extended to other plan members.

For more information about BOP programs, go online to: [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org).

### **PHEWA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIAL-JUSTICE MINISTRY AWARDS**

The Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), a ministry of the PC(USA)'s National Ministry Division, is seeking nominations for five social-justice ministry awards to be presented during next summer's 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Birmingham, Ala.

"There are a lot of good people out there doing remarkable work with folks that find themselves marginalized or forgotten," PHEWA Executive Director Nancy Troy said. "These five awards recognize those ministries, and by doing so help remind us of God's call to love kindness and to do justice."

The deadline for nominations is Jan. 1 for awards to be presented during General Assembly.

Nominations of individuals and congregations, should include the nominee's or group's name; contact information for the person making the nomination, with address, phone number and e-mail

address; and a two-page description of the ministry. Mail nominations to PHEWA, 100 Witherspoon Street, Room 4617, Louisville, KY 40202; or fax them to 502-569-8034.

For award criteria and more information about PHEWA, visit its Web site at [www.pcusa.org/phewa](http://www.pcusa.org/phewa).

### **HURRICANE RELIEF BILL CREATES RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT**

The Presbyterian Foundation encourages Presbyterians to discuss with their financial advisors a window of opportunity to provide support to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the Church. The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act, signed into law in September, created extraordinary tax benefits for charitable gifts. Under a provision of the bill, the contribution limit for outright cash gifts to public (but not private) charities made between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31, 2005 has increased from 50-100% of adjusted gross income (AGI). Also, cash gifts made during this period are exempt from the 3% reduction in itemized deductions for individuals with AGIs over \$145,950.

An outright cash gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which is helping hurricane victims, would meet the law's requirements. So, too, would a contribution to PDA's endowment, or to an existing or new endowment for a Church or ministry.

For details, contact Pat Ohlmann at Presbyterian Foundation, 800-858-6127, option 2 or visit online: [www.presbyterianfoundation.org](http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org).

### **GIVE TO CHURCH STAFF SALARIES**

The two synod offices with presbyteries most affected by the Hurricane Katrina, are assigned to receive and disburse funds to support the salaries of church staff members.

To assist with the salaries, send checks made to either: Synod of the Sun or Synod of the Living Waters. State in the memo "Emergency Salaries," and mail to either: Synod of the Sun, 1925 E Belt Line Rd. #220, Carrollton, Texas 75006, Phone: 877-748-6777; or Synod of Living Waters, 318 Seaboard Lane, Suite 205, Franklin, Tenn. 37067-8242, Phone: 615/261-4008.



## Human Rights Day is Dec. 10

*Although "human rights" may not be a biblical phrase itself, its basic components of freedom, justice and peace are central biblical themes. They underline the basis for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1948.*

*The Scriptures deal with the ways humans treat each other, and how they treat, with special concern the poor, the widow, the orphan, the marginalized, and the powerless.*

*For worship resources go*

*online to:*

<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/worship/humanrightsday.htm#2>.

## Congregational Connection

Presbytery congregations have a reason to celebrate:

Welcome to **Rev. Barry Anderson** who began duties Oct. 11, as interim pastor at

### First Presbyterian

**Church in Creston.** Barry comes from Olathe, Kansas where he's been Interim and in the past has been at **Clifton Heights**

### Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

**Rev. Melvin Roblee** is interim pastor at **First Presbyterian Church in Guthrie Center.**

## Prayer Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Coordinating Council Moderator **David Boyd** and his family, whose mother, Eva Jen Boyd, widow of Ken Boyd, a Presbyterian minister, died in California in October. Condolences can be sent to Dave's home address, 4810 65<sup>th</sup> Street,

Des Moines, IA 50310-3398.

### Rev. Tim Maxa, Lenox and Sharpsburg

**Presbyterian churches and David Stipp-Bethune, Park Avenue Presbyterian Church**, who traveled to the Gulf Coast region helping with disaster relief and exploring future sister church relationships. They met with

Presbyterian churches to discern how the Presbytery of Des Moines can connect our congregations with churches in their Presbytery.

Our **Social Ministries Egypt Delegation** which left Nov. 3 and will return Nov. 13.

Over 2,000 U.S. service members who've died in Iraq.

## Employment Opportunities

### Christian Education/Youth Director—

Full-time person to direct all phases of nursery through grade 12 CE youth program. For details, contact Jim Wallace at Central Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, Iowa, 515-279-3658, [jwallace@dmcentralpresbyterian.com](mailto:jwallace@dmcentralpresbyterian.com). If interested, send resume to: Christian Education Search Committee.

### Christian Youth Coordinator—

Full-time person to take leadership role with middle through High School youth programs. If interested, contact Personnel Committee, St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Johnston, Iowa, 515-276-2818, [jw.gilmore@att.net](mailto:jw.gilmore@att.net).

### Part-time Choir Director—

If interested, contact Don Seeger, First United Presbyterian Church, Atlantic, Iowa, [atpcusa@metc.net](mailto:atpcusa@metc.net) or 712-243-2195.

### Part-time Choir Director—

For a job description, contact Nicole at 515-965-3818 or Joyce at [joycerash@hotmail.com](mailto:joycerash@hotmail.com), Union Park Presbyterian, Des Moines, Iowa.

### Executive Director Position—Shalom Zone Ministries

Full-time position to coordinate, administer and direct inner city children program, supervise staff, volunteers, fundraisers. Grant writing experience preferred. Education, health, social work, or child development degree

required. Send resume to: Sherrie Spooner, Gatchel United Methodist Church, 1909 Martin Luther King Parkway, Des Moines, Iowa 50314.

### Choir Accompanist and Part-time Nursery Care Coordinator—

If interested in one of these two positions, contact Rev. Duane Miller, Ankeny Presbyterian Church, Ankeny, Iowa, 515-964-0264.

### Montreat Summer Staff—

Applications for 2006 will be on the website in November. To request an application go to: [http://www.montreat.org/brochure\\_requests.htm](http://www.montreat.org/brochure_requests.htm).

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

## PDA Visits Des Moines Presbytery

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Advisory Committee and staff of the PC (USA) held a board meeting in Des Moines and invited our Presbytery members to attend a town meeting Oct. 13. Over 10 churches from our presbytery were represented to learn more about PDA and their mission. During the evening, PDA's coordinator, Susan Ryan and others shared insights on the extent of devastation and the challenges of rebuilding after recent disasters.

In a normal year, the PDA team would be deployed to assess the loss or damage

of 5-7 churches. Hurricane Katrina, alone, took out 30 churches in the south, including Florida. In the past, the PDA has gone in and assessed, and then helped fund the Presbytery of that particular region.

The disaster in the south has created a whole new dimension to the PDA's job description. The requests from those in need and the outpouring from those wishing to help, has brought about a National Call Center, in which they can set up a church to help those in need and then track the progress.

Volunteer Villages now

accommodate those helping at different locations around the South where the volunteer pays around \$24.00 a night to stay there while working. Altogether, the evening's discussion was enlightening and helpful to those considering financial donations and future mission work teams.

On Saturday, the PDA Team traveled to Conrad Presbyterian Church for their Harvest Festival celebration with partners of the Foods Resource Bank program. On Sunday, the PDA Team members gave "Minute for Mission" presentations at local congregations.

## Summer Collegium Announcement

*Small-church Clergy are invited to apply now for **The Summer***

***Collegium**, an ecumenical project of Virginia Theological*

*Seminary's Center for Lifetime*

*Theological Education. **All***

***transportation, housing,***

***meals, books, and other***

***expenses are paid** by the*

*seminary through a grant from*

*the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The*

*Summer Collegium seeks to*

*celebrate ministry in smaller*

*congregations (fewer than 100*

*average Sunday attendance) by*

*hosting a 9-day conference for*

*25 small-church clergy and*

*their spouses/partners. The*

*conference will bring small-*

*church experts from a variety*

*of denominations to the*

*Alexandria campus for*

*education, encouragement,*

*refreshment and renewal. For*

*details (application deadline is*

*Dec. 15), go to: [www.vts.edu/](http://www.vts.edu/)*

*[education/collegium](http://education/collegium), e-mail*

*[SummerCollegium@vts.edu](mailto:SummerCollegium@vts.edu), or*

*call 703-461-1752.*

## Phil's Corner continued from page 1

I want you to know that I give thanks to God for you and ask God to be with each one of you on a daily basis. In other words, you are in my daily prayers.

As I was thinking about this, it occurred to me that thanksgiving is a wonderful attitude for daily living. Some folks limit their thanksgiving to November, then spend the rest of the year griping or simply forgetting to be thankful for all they have. My guess is that I wasn't alone, and I was right.

Jane Merchant has written

a poem about this very thing:

*One day for giving thanks;  
and yet the sun,  
Sends abundant  
reassurance with each day*

*Through all the year; and  
seeds select no one*

*From earth; there is no  
stipulated hour*

*Alone of one brief season  
when eyes may see*

*The intricate slow opening  
of a flower*

*And the long rhythms of a  
wind-blown tree,*

*And since there are no set  
specific times*

*When birds wake sudden  
music from still air*

*And children's lilting  
laughter soars and climbs,*

*How shall we set a time for  
thankful prayer?*

*How shall we pay in one  
short interlude*

*Our year-long debt of joyous  
gratitude?*

I find that pausing daily to give thanks puts a different perspective on the day. May all of us keep each other in prayer 365 days as we thank God for what we have and where we are.

May God bless you in all you do, and may the special holiday of this month be a time of growing closer to God.

Peace, **Phil**



## Bound4Him Concert, Nov. 20

*In a return engagement, Park Avenue Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a Bound4Him Concert, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2005, 5 p.m. at the Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, 3120 S.W. 9th Street, Des Moines.*

*This uplifting, exciting, toe tapping, feel good Gospel music is one of the best 60-90 minutes you could spend to hear the praises of Jesus Christ.*

*Bound4Him is a not-for-profit gospel quartet. All proceeds from offerings at their concerts return directly to the group for recording projects and equipment. Individual group members receive no financial compensation, just the spiritual uplift that comes from sharing the gospel through music.*

## Presbytery Happenings

### 9-12 GRADERS LIGHT IT UP! WITH NARNIA

Discover the wondrous world that exists in a Christ-like life beyond the Chronicles of Narnia! The Presbytery of Des Moines is sponsoring the Third Annual *Light it Up!* Fall Retreat, Nov. 18-19, 2005. The 24-hour event will be held at Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 321 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines.

*Light it Up!* is for middle and high school students and youth leaders. Contact your church's youth leader or pastor for registration and permission/ medical treatment forms.

To enter the wardrobe or for registration forms contact Registrar **Dennis Britson**, at 515-282-9139 or [dnbritson@mchsi.com](mailto:dnbritson@mchsi.com).

### CHURCH UPDATE OF HURRICANE RESPONSE

Doug Kohlsdorf from the Ankeny Presbyterian Church reports that six members went to Thibodaux, La., in October to help with hurricane relief efforts. During the trip they established a good relationship with Bill Crawford at the Thibodaux First Presbyterian Church relief operation.

The Ankeny group is sending another delegation Nov. 27 through Dec. 3, to help close the Thibodaux

operation. The trip is a small one, as they can only take eight persons in their church van. If you are interested in joining the trip, contact leader **Erin Gumm** at 515-289-2835 or by e-mail at: [egumm@honnold.org](mailto:egumm@honnold.org).

Doug reported that it is "humble work," and there's lots to do, and no way to gauge exactly what you'll be asked to do.

There may be a number of congregations interested in helping our sister churches, but are be unable to get a mission trip going on your own. This is one way for the Presbytery to network work teams to the Gulf Coast region.

### REV. BOB BURNETT VOLUNTEERS FOR RED CROSS

Jeanne and I (Rev. Bob Burnett, HR) returned Oct. 7, from Baton Rouge where we worked for three weeks in one of the largest Red Cross shelters. There were 132 shelters established to help the evacuees of Katrina and Rita. Red Cross sponsors 90 of the 132 shelters. Over 190,000 Red Cross volunteers were working in four states (Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) to respond to hurricane needs.

We were assigned to the shelter in Baton Rouge's River Center Centreplex. It

is both a convention complex and sports arena combined into one large building where 6,700 evacuees were living before we arrived. Our assignment was to register and interview evacuees as they arrived at the center.

By the time we started there were only 1,300 residents living in the two large areas. They were provided a cot, blanket, and three meals a day. Portable showers and a medical clinic were also available.

At the urging of the mayor of Baton Rouge the shelter is prompting residents to leave so the building can be closed. FEMA is there giving some financial aid and providing trailers for many. Red Cross is providing debit cards for families to enable them to move into apartments, or with friends or with family. However, Baton Rouge does not have any apartments or hotel rooms available.

This was an eye-opening experience for us. We heard heart-wrenching stories from families who have been stripped of all their worldly possessions. In spite of the severity of their loss, many are holding fast to their faith and hope. Most people anticipate returning home and starting over!

## Women Elders Honored by Presbytery continued...

During the early years of Elizabeth's residence in Des Moines, she was a member of the Plymouth Congregational Church and was president of the Women's Missionary Society. When Union Park Presbyterian Church was organized on the east side of Des Moines where she lived, she transferred her membership there in order to be of service to the immediate community around her. While at Union Park, she was ordained and installed as an elder, the

first Presbyterian woman elder in the State of Iowa, on April 1, 1931.

Nearly 80 women were recognized with certificates for presentation in their own churches. If you would like a copy of the list, or if you'd like to submit an elders name, contact the Presbytery office. If you are planning a worship service to recognize the first women elders, resources are available online at: <http://www.pcusa.org/women/ordination/resources.htm>.

On another note: **Rev. Denise Group**, First Presbyterian Church in Chariton and clergy rep for the presbytery's PW group, participated in the Nov. 5 Women's Ordination Conference, held at the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. A *Flame in Our Heart* event celebrated the ordained leadership of women in the church, honoring 100 years as deacons, 75 years of elders and 50 years as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

## E-mail Users Be Wary of Viruses

Have you received an e-mail from an unknown source lately, claiming to have information on hurricane support? Maybe there was an attachment?

Unfortunately, people will take advantage of a tragic disaster and use it as bait to get people to read e-mails and open up any viruses that may be attached.

Because of unknown sources combined with the attachment, be wary. Don't open, and mark it as potential spam and delete. Many of us, with the best intentions, forward e-mails to others thinking we are helping. But if we are forwarding a virus, many computers may be negatively affected.

Since so many of our pastors and involved members are sending and reading e-mails regarding our mission efforts, be wary of potential viruses.

Clues are pretty simple:

1. Unknown source
2. An attachment (usually ending in ".exe")
3. A request to forward to as many people as possible. A good anti-virus and e-mail scan should catch most.

### 2006 Per Capita Is Due

Statements will be going out later this month to all churches with their **per capita** assessment based on membership counts as of December 31, 2004. This payment is due January 2006.

Presbytery	14.90
Synod	4.53
<u>General Assembly</u>	<u>5.57</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>

## Antique Critique Fundraiser is a Success

**Roberta Victor, Marge Lowry and The CROSS Committee** would like to thank everyone for the wonderful team effort at the recent *Antique Critique*. The fundraising event netted \$1,500. It was fun, inclusive, profitable and a great example of "walking the walk."

CROSS Ministries funding can be defined in three parts:

1. The Presbytery of Des Moines from the contribution of Mission Funds covers administrative expenses.

2. Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church by the support of its congregation pays for location and overhead expenses.
3. Donations and fundraising money are used for direct assistance to families who come to CROSS Ministries for help with basic needs.

Dollars from this event will go to help families in our community facing crisis situations. This includes preventing a family from being evicted, avoiding a utility disconnect, supplying gas for getting to work, a

laundry voucher or hygiene items to maintain personal dignity.

When you sit across the desk from someone who bursts into tears of gratitude when they learn we can help, it is not routine. It is the ultimate expression of hope and faith in God's love in action.

Knowing the generosity of all of you who keep supporting this ministry confirms and strengthens the ongoing mission to "love your neighbor" as God commands us to do.

**Presbytery of Des Moines  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

2400 86<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 20  
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306  
**Phone:** 515-276-4991

**Fax:** 515-276-7596

**E-mail:**

[pbycommunication@qwest.net](mailto:pbycommunication@qwest.net)

**Editor:** Kim Coulter

**General Presbyter:**

Rev. Philip W. Barrett

**Office Manager:** Betty Dyer

**Coordinator of Sudanese**

**Ministries:** Rev. Goanar J. Chol

**Hunger Action Enabler:**

Nancy Lister-Settle

**Designated Missionary**

**to El Salvador:** Rev. Bob Cook

The Wider Circle *is published monthly by the Presbytery of Des Moines, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). To learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines, contact the office or go online to [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org).*

*Copy deadline is the last day of the month. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word or compatible format; digital images and photos are both acceptable.*

**PREBYTERY OF DES MOINES**

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

2400 86<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 20  
URBANDALE, IA 50322-4306

## Donor Fatigue Sets In; CROSS Needs You!

With the onset of fall comes colder weather, increasing the cost of utilities and the demand for assistance from low and no-income households in our community. Families who have been camping, living in their cars, or staying with friends or relatives are attempting to secure more permanent housing.

Unfortunately, with the many disasters that have occurred worldwide, the faith community is experiencing donor fatigue. The demand is up at a time when donations are down and CROSS Ministries needs your help.

First, financial resources are needed to help with basic survival needs such as rent, deposits, or mortgage payments, utility bills, laundry vouchers, bus tokens, and car gas.

Second, help is needed maintaining the CROSS personal pantry which provides basic items such as diapers, shampoo, toilet tissue, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, cleaning supplies, etc. Your church, Sunday school class, or group can sign-up to adopt the CROSS personal pantry for one month in 2006.

What would that involve?

Once a week representatives from your church group would stop by and monitor the level of supplies in the pantry and seek out donations to re-stock the pantry as needed. To kick off this new program, **Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** has volunteered for December.

Contact **Roberta Victor** at 515-279-8877 to adopt the CROSS Pantry for one month. Also, as you plan your giving allotments for 2006, look in your heart and remember the tragedies of poverty our own community is experiencing every day.

---

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org)

---