

The Wider Circle



Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / October 2007 Vol. 3, Issue 10



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

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- Phil's Corner
- Fall Youth Retreat Invite
- Join *Prayer in America* Taping
- Presbytery's PW Palm Project

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Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick Won't Seek 4th Term

THIS POSITION HAS BEEN "A WONDERFUL WAY TO LIVE OUT MY CALL TO MINISTRY"
September 10, 2007

**by Sharon K. Youngs,
Communications Coordinator,
Office of the General Assembly**

LOUISVILLE – The Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, stated clerk of the General Assembly of the PCUSA, announced Sept. 10, that he has decided not to seek another term as stated clerk. Kirkpatrick's current term will conclude at the end of the 218th GA (2008) in San Jose, Calif., next June.

"Serving as Stated Clerk has offered me a platform I would never have dreamed

possible-to serve the church I love and to give expression to my passions, my sense of call, and my gifts for the things that really matter," said Kirkpatrick in a written statement.

He continued, "At the same time, I am also eager to have more quality time with my family, to be able to devote myself more fully to the responsibility I have undertaken since 2004 to serve as president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and to share in the life of the church, both locally and globally, in new and creative ways."

Kirkpatrick's successor will be determined through an elec-

tion at next year's GA. The Stated Clerk Nominating Committee, already at work for the past few months, will present their nominee to the assembly. Their timeline and materials for applicants will be available soon on the PCUSA's national Web site www.pcusa.org.

Kirkpatrick has served three four-year terms as stated clerk. He was first elected by the 208th GA in 1996. Kirkpatrick is only the second elected stated clerk since 1984, the year following Presbyterian Reunion. The full text of Kirkpatrick's Sept. 10 statement can be found online at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07568.htm.

Phil's Corner



September was a busy month for our churches and our Presbytery – and this

busyness was really exciting. Our brothers and sisters at **First Presbyterian Church in Grimes** celebrated 125 years of ministry.

The **Rev. Nathan Lamb** was installed as pastor of the **Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford**.

The **Rev. Shamaine Chambers King** was ordained in Tyler, Texas, and is now the full-fledged temporary supply pastor at the **Windsor Presbyterian Church**.

The Presbytery's Nominating Committee has received favorable responses to requests for service. A group of us met with folks from three other presbyteries to connect and learn about some of the creative thinking going on related to ministry in our churches.

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Designated Bread Sunday: Oct. 21

LOUISVILLE — Bread for the World (BFW), a Christian anti-hunger group, supported in part by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, has produced new worship resources to help congregations renew their commitment to fighting hunger during the annual *Bread for the World Sunday*. Most observances this year will take place Oct. 21, although congregations are encouraged to choose any Sunday between World Food Day (Oct. 16) and Thanksgiving (Nov. 22).

During autumn harvest, hundreds of churches across the nation take part in the event, which is sponsored by BFW, a lobbying group based in Washington, D.C. The new worship materials include: a bulletin insert, a reflection resource, a responsive prayer and liturgy, a reflection resource for children, and examples of how churches have observed the day in the past. To request the materials, call 800-822-7323. The complete Aug. 16 story is at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07511.htm.

Phil's Corner continued from page 1

Carrying on into early October, the **Rev. Dale O'Connell** began his work as pastor of the parish involving **First Presbyterian Church in LeRoy** and the Humeston Christian (Disciples)/Methodist Church. The **Rev. Scott Vandenheuvell** was installed as the pastor of **First Presbyterian Church in Creston**. And this doesn't count all the new fall programs, special activities and "normal" excitement going on in our churches. Wow! Wouldn't it be wonderful if more people were able to share in this fun with us? I don't know many congregations who are not checking out ways to increase attendance and/or membership. One constant concern is who exactly are we wanting to invite to our congregations and what is the best way to approach them. One of the pastors relatively new to our Presbytery, the **Rev. David Braak** at the **Ankeny Presbyterian Church**, shared

some information in a recent church newsletter about a group we don't read as much about: the "de-churched" What in the world are "de-churched" people? These are folks who used to attend church, but don't any longer. Here's what David shares about this group:

- While the majority of people don't belong to a local church, most still identify with their church roots.
- Those who have left churches are not mad at the Church.
- Many people who stopped attending church did so during a life transition, such as a move.
- The de-churched don't feel awkward about coming back to church.
- If they were to return to church, they would like to hear messages that are soundly Biblical as well as relevant to their lives.
- 60% of the de-churched are open to the idea of returning to church, though

they may not be actively seeking a church home.

- A similar number of 18-35 year olds would consider returning to church if someone they knew were to invite them.

David concludes his remarks about the "de-churched" in this way: "While many of us may be hesitant to invite our de-churched friends to join us for worship and Sunday School, the majority of them would welcome the invitation."

I am grateful to David for sharing this helpful information. Can you think of some de-churched folks whom you know? Knowing that they would welcome an invitation back to church, how about taking a shot at a welcoming invitation to them? You might be surprised.

I hope that all of you are able to celebrate the fun that being busy brings to our congregations.

—Peace, Rev. Phil Barrett
General Presbyter and
Stated Clerk

Events Calendar

Oct. 18 — *Prayer in America*, taping at IPTV studios in Johnston, Ia. (See ad on page 15 of this issue of *The Wider Circle*).

Oct. 19 — *Lead Like Jesus Now: The Leadership Revolution*, is being simulcast at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Altoona, Ia., in conjunction with Church Communication Network. The

event will take place on Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Speakers include Ken Blanchard, Erwin McManus, John Ortberg, Rosey Grier, and many others. For more information about this event, or to order tickets, visit www.lccaltoona.org, or call Gwen at the church office, 515-967-4818.

Oct. 20 & 27 — *Balaam's Ass* or Seeing the Divine through Nature's Eyes: The Challenge of Christian Mission in the 21st Century*, a workshop on the life and work of congregations in the contemporary world presented by the Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology and the Christian

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Events Calendar continued from page 2

Faith (www.pastcf.org) in collaboration with Central Iowa Chapter PASTCF, Collegiate Presbyterian Church, Ames, Ia., Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls, Ia. Workshop leader is Rev. Jim Miller, Ph.D. For details about the workshop, contact Rev. Miller, at: jmiller1776@gmail.com. For information about meeting arrangements, contact the host church or visit their web sites. Oct. 20 in Ames, 515-292-2063, www.cpcames.org, cpcames@cpcames.org, and Oct. 27 in Cedar Falls, 319-268-0153, www.cedarheights.org, chpreschurch@cfu.net. Cost: PASTCF members \$10; non-members \$30.

Oct. 21 – Domestic Violence Awareness

Oct. 22 – Deadline to register for *Journey of Faith: A Pilgrimage of Discernment for Ministry*, a unique spiritual renewal experience offered for mid-career pastors by Columbia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifelong Learning, Decatur, Ga. This class includes a two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land and two short retreats—one before and one after the pilgrimage. Participant costs are paid by a CF Foundation grant. The only cost is a registration fee of \$250. The pilgrimage is Feb. 17-March 2, 2008, with an orientation retreat Dec. 5-7,

2007, and a follow-up retreat scheduled for April 30-May 2, 2008. Both retreats will be held on the seminary's campus. *Journey of Faith* is open to pastors of any denomination who are between the ages of 35-55 and have 10 or more years in ordained ministry and who are currently in active service to a congregation. Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. For applications, go to: www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/continuing_education/pilgrimage.asp, or 404-687-4577, or e-mail journeyoffaith@ctsnet.edu.

Oct. 24 – UN Day (see ad on page 2 of this issue)

Oct. 24-31 – *The 2007 Unity & Reformed Heritage Seminar*, in Geneva, Switzerland, is designed to broaden understanding of the multiple issues that affect the church and how the Reformed tradition has been and continues to be shaped by mission and ministry. Organized by the General Assembly Council the seminar is limited to 12 participants. The complete schedule can be found at: www.pcusa.org/dear/unity-seminar.htm.

Oct. 25-28 – *Restoring Creation Conference*, the sixth National Eco-Justice Conference of Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, at Mo-Ranch Presbyterian Conference Center in Hunt, Texas. Participants will explore the themes of food and energy choices. Speakers will focus on several subjects

including biblical and theological foundations for eco-justice, social justice, and scientific and political issues. Details about the conference, *Earth Sabbath, Earth Justice: Protecting God's Gifts of Food and Fuel*, can be found at: www.prcweb.org.

Oct. 28 – Reformation Sunday

Nov. 1 – All Saints' Day

Nov. 2 – World Community Day



Nov. 2-5 – *National Youth Workers Convention*, at America's Center, 701 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, Mo. General session starts at 1 p.m. on Friday and the last one ends at 1 p.m. on Monday Register by phone: 888-346-4179, M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. PST or online at www.youthspecialties.com/NYWC/2007/content/register.

Nov. 4 – Christian and Citizen

Nov. 4 – Daylight Savings Time change

Nov. 5 – Attention clergy, chaplains, parish nurses, hospice workers, other pastoral care providers, and interested healthcare providers and consumers. *Is Healthcare a Spiritual Practice?*, seminar at Des Moines University, Student Education Center Audito-

rium, 3200 Grand Ave. in Des Moines (free parking available in DMU ramp), from 7-9 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, O.F.M., M.D., Ph.D., author of *The Rebirth of the Clinic: An Introduction to Spirituality in Health Care*, takes a closer look at the medical and ministering professionals. For details or to preregister, contact the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center in West Des Moines at 515-274-4006, www.dmpcc.org.

Nov. 11 – Stewardship Commitment

Nov. 18 – Care Giver Sunday

Nov. 25 – Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Church Pews for a Good Home

A Minnesota Church recently closed and has church pews available. If you are interested, contact Jim Oltman at jknan@bevcom.net or Bernie Saylor at 515-327-0618.



Celebrate United Nations Day: Oct. 24

Since 1945 the church has maintained a faithful presence at the United Nations to nurture and equip Presbyterians for discipleship in the global neighborhood and to bear witness to Jesus Christ by advocating concerns of the Presbyterian General Assembly. Worship liturgical resources are available online at: www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/worship/unday.htm. There is even a great children's sermon available that is sure to teach a lesson to the kids of your church involving UNICEF boxes and candy.

Congregational Connection

GRADUATION COMING UP

Congratulations to CROSS Ministries Director Roberta Victor, who graduated with a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Union Institute and University, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Although she graduated on her birthday, Aug. 31, the ceremony was held on Oct. 5 in Cincinnati.

DES MOINES WESTMINSTER OFFERS COFFEE HOUSE

Plans have been made for another sensational Anchor Coffee House season! The next scheduled event is Saturday, Nov. 3 with Chris McCallum, singer/songwriter from Golden, Colo. Join us for an evening of great entertainment and some great coffee and deserts. Tickets are on sale now in the church office (515-274-1534) or at Uptempo Music in Des Moines for \$8 in advanced, or \$10 at the door. Check out this season's Anchor Coffee House schedule

at: www.westpres.org/in_art_and_music/anchorhouseschedule.php.



NOTES OF JOY!

Presbytery volunteer, **H. Ted Coppock (DM, Westminster)** will be honored on Oct. 15 at the annual banquet for the Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Award. Ted was nominated because he is a business leader who was involved in advocating for the successful passage of SF 427 which expands the Iowa Civil Rights Code to include sexual orientation. Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization established to educate individuals and groups on civil rights,

assist civil rights efforts statewide, and recognize individuals and groups who have championed the cause of civil rights. Congratulations!

Pastor of the **Fort Des Moines Presbyterian Church, Rev. Don Elly**, continues his full-time work with Iowa Health-Des Moines group as lead chaplain. He recently switched ministry settings moving from Iowa Lutheran to Iowa Methodist Medical Center where he will be working with inpatient oncology patients and families and leading a weekly Rehabilitation Spirituality/Support group. (At Lutheran Hospital his major clinical responsibilities were with behavioral health.) If he needs to be reached the pager (515-245-0223) is still the best way to reach him. His office voice mail is 515-241-6412.

All-Iowa Gulf Coast Mission Trip: Jan. 19-26

So far, the Presbytery of Des Moines has two members going to the Gulf Coast region in January for the re-building of lives in post-Katrina New Orleans. Are you interested in making a difference? It only takes a week of your time and \$100.

The Multi-Presbytery group Iowa will depart on Jan. 19 and arrive Jan. 20 at a PDA Camps. If you decided to go,

you'll be working at area homes to re-build Monday, Jan. 21, through Friday, Jan. 26. Then the group will depart at Noon, Friday and arrive home Saturday night, Jan. 26.

If you or your church is interested, contact Presbytery **Office Manager Betty Dyer**, 515-276-4991, pbymdesmoines@qwest.net

for trip fact sheets and registration forms.

The Presbytery will also assist in coordinating transportation and lodging once the forms and fees are received. **Deadline is Friday, Oct. 26.** If you can't attend, and your church is looking to support the project financial, you may purchase Home Depot and Lowe's gift cards to send with our members.

Employment Opportunities

Clinical Pastoral Education – Iowa Methodist, Iowa Lutheran, and Blank Children's Hospitals, Des Moines, Ia.

Immediate openings for year-long CPE residents, starting 11/12/07 and 2/2/08. Ministry in a comprehensive, Level-1 trauma center with cardiology, behavioral health, oncology, gerontology, chemical dependency, rehabilitation, pediatrics & neonatology. Iowa Health – Des Moines is accredited for all levels of CPE by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., 1549 Clairmont Road, Suite 103, Decatur, Ga. 30033. Phone: 404-320-1472, www.acpe.edu. These are full-time positions, with a \$24,500 stipend + benefits. We prefer applicants to have a previous unit of CPE and a Master of Divinity or equivalent. Contact: Rev. Bob Green, Pastoral Care, Iowa Methodist, 1200 Pleasant St., Des Moines, IA 50309 Phone: 515-241-6411, Fax: 515-241-3442,

Email: pastoralcare@ihs.org

Web site:

www.ihsdesmoines.org

Pastor, Community Church of Hudson, Ia.

Pastor needed for our active congregation of over 200. We have a tolerant theology and are affiliated with the ICCC. We are in a growing community near the Cedar Falls/Waterloo metro area and the University of Northern Iowa. Please send resume to Pastoral Search Committee, Community Church, Box 60, Hudson, IA 50643, or via email to PastorHudsonIA@aol.com by 11/15/07. Visit our website at www.communitychurchofhudson.org.

Communications Coordinator – St Johns Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Ia.

The Communications Coordinator, working with staff and ministry teams, is responsible for transferring the Church's vision and mission, events and activities to the congregation and community through various

and appropriate media. Prepare and implement comprehensive publicity/media plan for major church events throughout the year; actively coordinate all internal church communications (bulletin, newsletter, annual brochures, periodic events series, some direct mail) and external communications (website, direct mail, radio, newspaper/periodical ads) with church staff. Send letter of interest/resume to: Denise Shadonix, Parish Administrator (no phone calls please), St. John's Lutheran Church, 600 Sixth Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309, www.stjohnsdsm.org

Human Resources Director – PCUSA, Louisville, Ky.

A shared services full-time position within General Assembly guidelines. Supervises six staff workers. Forward resume to: PCUSA, Attn: HR, Posting #H07-09-55, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, Kentucky 40202 or e-mail: jobs@pcusa.org.

Healthy Church Workshop is



Oct 26-27

Mark your calendars to attend the *Healthy Congregations Workshop* held at Ankeny Presbyterian Church, 317 S.E. Trilein Dr., on Friday, Oct. 26 (6:30-9:30 p.m.) and Saturday, Oct. 27 (8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) with **Lola Peters, LMHC**, a member of the **Ankeny Presbyterian Church**.

In this workshop you'll learn how you, as a leader, can have a positive influence on your congregation. The workshop is based on Bowen's family systems theory as applied to church congregations. It was developed by Dr. Peter Steinke and is based on the work of Dr. Edwin Friedman, author of *Generation to Generation: Family Process In Church and Synagogue*.

To register, go to:

www.lolapeters.com, or contact Lola Peters at RLP405@msn.com, 515-249-9182.

Send completed form and check made payable to:

Lola Peters, Healthy Congregations, 918 N.W. Irvinedale Dr., Ankeny, IA 50023, Allow 2 weeks for processing.

PCUSA's Scholarship Application is Available

The new National Presbyterian College Scholarship Application for students starting college Fall 2008 is now available online. These funds are offered through the Student Loans & Graduate Grant Programs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of Financial Aid for Studies.

The National Presbyterian College Scholarship Program is restricted to students planning to attend participating Presbyterian related colleges and universities.

If you have questions, contact Program Assistant

Laura A. Bryan, at 888-728-7228, ext. 5735 or laura.bryan@pcusa.org.

To get your copy of the application, go online and sign up at: <http://groups.google.com/group/npcsapplications?hl=en>.



Attend Tentmaker Conference Oct. 26-28

The 2007 Annual Tentmaking Conference will be held from 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, through, 1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 28, at The Grotto Conference Center in Portland, Oregon. Co-sponsored by The Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers (APT) and The National Association for the Self-Supporting Active Ministry (NASSAM — Episcopal Tentmakers), the annual conference theme is *Tentmaking in the Public Area: Appropriating the prophetic mantle, living out the servant role.*

Commissioned lay pastors, diaconal ministers, candidates, inquirers, fully-salaried ministers, judicial staff and officers are encouraged to attend. Key-note speaker is The Rev. Alcena Boozer and worship leaders are Rev. Tim and Elizabeth Winslea.

Cost is \$260-\$140; meals and shuttle transportation from Portland International Airport (PDX) are included.

PCUSA Update

FACTS ABOUT PCUSA MULTICULTURAL CHURCHES

Jack Marcum, associate for survey research in the Research Services office of the PCUSA, has put together an interesting summary of the current status of multicultural congregations. Go to: www.pcusa.org/today/departments/go-figure/go-figure.htm to read the details. This information may be valuable if your area is interested in growing multicultural churches.

LOUISVILLE STAFF HAS NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

The General Assembly Council staff, and staff in the Office of the General Assembly have been given new email addresses. The new address is `firstname.lastname@pcusa.org`. If you send to the old address (i.e. mmarchal@ctr.pcusa.org) you should receive a bounce back notification giving you the new address (i.e., mindy.marchal@pcusa.org).

NEW DVD TELLS STORIES OF GAC WORK

A new DVD *General Assembly Council Overview: A Visible Witness of Jesus Christ* is now available for presentation to your presbytery, synod or congregation. As one way of interpreting the work of the GAC staff the DVD tells seven different stories about ministries currently being done in partnership with groups across the U.S. and around

the world. The DVD contains two versions of the program, one is an auto run, and the other is a self play that allows the presenter the ability to be a more integral part of the presentation. If you would like to receive a copy contact me at mindy.marchal@ctr.pcusa.org

COMPARATIVE 2006 STATISTICS AVAILABLE

The book *Comparative Statistics 2006: A Look at What Others Are Doing* is now available. The book provides a variety of windows on church, where money or members or modes of leadership can be compared within and among particular populations. For more information go to www.pcusa.org/research/compstats/cs2006.htm.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE

The Form of Government Task Force, established by the 217th General Assembly (2006), was charged with presenting to the church by Sept. 1, 2007, a proposed revision of the Form of Government. Two documents are now ready for discussion, study, and comment by sessions, presbyteries, and synods:

- *The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity*
 - *Form of Government*
- Additional materials are also available:
- *Advisory Handbook for Councils for the Develop-*

ment of Policies and Procedures Required by the Form of Government – an integral component of the revised Form of Government

- *Side-by-Side Comparison of the Proposed to Current Form of Government*
- *Side-by-Side Comparison of the Current to Proposed Form of Government*
- *Study outlines* – for use in gathering and providing feedback to the task force

- for sessions
- for presbyteries

- *Sample Manual for Preparation for Ministry*
- *Sample Handbook for Committees on Ministry*

Background and Interpretative Resources:

- *The Revised Form of Government: An Introduction* – in-depth explanation of the revisions
- *Missional Polity* – what it is and how it shapes the revised Form of Government
- Frequently Asked Questions

SEARCH BEGINS FOR GA STATED CLERK NOMINEE October 5, 2007

by Jerry L. Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Stated Clerk Nomination Committee (SCNC), elected

(Continued on page 7)

PCUSA Update continued from page 6

at the 217th General Assembly in 2006 in Birmingham, AL, is now accepting applications for the position of GA stated clerk, the top ecclesiastical post in the 2.3-million-member denomination.

Next summer's 218th GA in San Jose, CA, will elect the successor to the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, who announced last month that he will not seek a fourth three-year term. Kirkpatrick was first elected stated clerk in 1996 and is only the second GA stated clerk elected since Presbyterian reunion in 1983. According to Stephen Grace, a Beulah, MI, elder who serves on the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and is chair of the SCNC, the stated clerk "is an officer of the General Assembly, serves as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) representative to ecumenical and interfaith bodies, and is the chief executive officer of the Office of General Assembly." Applicants must be a PCUSA Elder or Minister of Word and Sacrament. The committee will receive applications over a three-month period, Sept. 23 through Dec. 23 — the deadline set by the Standing Rules of the GA.

The committee will review applications and interview candidates for the stated clerk position from January-March 2008, and announce its nominee by April 22, 2008 — 60 days prior to the convening of the GA on June 21.

Only one candidate will be nominated by the committee, though applicants not selected as the committee's nominee may be "nominated from the floor" under procedures set forth in the Standing Rules.

An application form, Stated Clerk Position Description, GA Standing Rules and other information are available on the SCNC web page or by contacting the staff resource person to the committee, the Rev. Carol McDonald, co-executive of the Synod of Lincoln Trails, 1100 W. 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208 (phone: 800-566-5996).

This story maybe seen here: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07636.htm

PRESBYTERY & SYNOD NEWS
DES MOINES, IA – Presbyterian Women (PW) of Des Moines Presbytery has set a goal for each of its churches' PW group to contribute a minimum of \$20 to purchase palm plants for the national PW Palm Project. Twenty dollars purchases 10 plants.

The national project is supporting the development of palm plantations in the Congo, where war-related agricultural destruction has turned the country from a cooking oil-exporting country into an oil-importing one. The palm-planting project is being coordinated with the Presbyterian Community of the Congo.

News Index for October 1-11, 2007

- **U.S. modifies prison policy on religious books after protests** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07619.htm
- **Stated Clerk sends letter expressing concern about Myanmar violence** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07620.htm
- **Church nurses aim to fill in U.S. health care gaps** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07621.htm
- **Religious panel dialogues with Iran's Ahmadinejad** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07622.htm
- **Health ministries' mobile van featured in Missouri newspaper** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07625.htm
- **Kirkpatrick to Burger King: retract 'false' statements** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07626.htm
- **Up to the challenge: 48 PCUSA missionaries prepare** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07627.htm
- **Anti-torture group urging churches to show film about Abu Ghraib** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07630.htm
- **Moderator sees new energy across the PCUSA** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07631.htm
- **More than 600 help kick off Mission Celebration** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07632.htm
- **Missionaries in 'Mission Challenge '07' commissioned** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07633.htm
- **Presbytery tithes property sale to World Mission** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07634.htm
- **Search begins for Stated Clerk nominee** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07636.htm
- **Seminary news** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07637.htm
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- **Needed: a hand, not a handout** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07645.htm
- **World needs everyday heroes** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07646.htm
- **Faithful living** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07647.htm
- **Making connections** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07652.htm
- **World Mission sermon of humbleness, faithfulness** www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07653.htm



Share Your Stories With Us!

If you had the opportunity to hear Jonna Reeder speak and have time, please write-up a short news story about the experience and forward it to Kim Coulter, editor of The Wider Circle at: pbj@qwest.net or communication@qwest.net or 515-276-4991. This will allow us to spread the word about your church's mission and we may even get our Presbytery's news documented by the PCUSA's Presbyterian News Service as many of these visits are being shared with an even wider circle of Presbyterians. Accompanying pictures would be an added bonus. Thanks!

Support Mission Challenge '07

Mission Challenge '07 is underway during October and into November. It's an unprecedented mission itineration where 48 missionaries will visit 144 presbyteries during this time and share

the stories of God's work in the world today. Use this link www.pcusa.org/graphics/mission-giving.htm for graphics and photographs that you can use on your Web sites, in your newsletters and

bulletins in order to help spread the word about this great event. You can get more details about the event at www.pcusa.org including a list of the missionaries and their scheduled visits.

At a Crossroads

PRESBYTERIANS SEEK COOPERATIVE, CHURCHWIDE EFFORT FOR FUTURE MISSION
October 5, 2007

by Evan Silverstein,
Presbyterian News Service
LOUISVILLE – Recent advances in technology and changes in the economy and culture have triggered a paradigm shift forcing the PCUSA to once again decide "how to be engaged in God's mission in the world," the Rev. Hunter Farrell said Oct. 3.

The General Assembly Council's new director of World Mission said he believes "we are at a crossroads, a kairos moment when the very paradigm of our self-understanding as a church can shift from a membership organization, primarily concerned with providing needed services to our members, to that of a missional church."

Addressing those gathered for the four-day celebration of PCUSA global mission, Farrell said the PCUSA can become a church "that understands itself as being sent into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people

across the street and around the globe in ways that are passionate and respectful, and to serve the world's poor with compassion and justice." Or the church can fade away into extinction, he said, "like a dinosaur unable to adapt to a changed environment."

Farrell said the advent of Internet and a marked increase in international travel opens the door for more broad-based involvement in overseas mission throughout the church.

There has been a significant increase across the denomination in international mission both in financial contributions and in hands-on involvement through short-term mission experiences.

Presbyterians now contribute more dollars to international mission than at any other time in the past 40 years amid a dramatic increase in the number of ways Presbyterians can financially support mission in the world, said Farrell, a career PCUSA mission worker before taking his new position during the summer.

"Presbyterians are contributing hundreds of millions of dollars each year to parachurch mission agencies, Christian NGOs and other groups, many of which do good work building up Christ's church around the world," Farrell said.

There are other factors pushing the "paradigm-shift movement," he said, such as cultural trends in the U.S. regarding decentralization, increased individualism, and distrust of institutions and authorities. All of which have contributed to this "post-denominationalism," he said.

Also a decrease in church member identity and loyalty to the denomination, a heightened theological conflict within the PCUSA, and problems in mission funding that have played a major role in reducing financial support for General Assembly Council-related mission.

This crossroads follows a long tradition of mission work for which Presbyterians can be thankful, Farrell said.

To read the complete story to online to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07638.htm.

Use PCUSA's *Here and Now* Ads

The *Here and Now* messages appeal to youth and young adults through real-life situations, such as getting a first "real" job or starting out on your own. The materials reach out in an understanding and contemporary fashions, letting the viewer know that "... when you're ready, there's a church — Here and Now." To view sample TV kits (in English or Spanish) go online to: www.pcusa.org/media/hereandnow.htm.

Phase 1 of this marketing campaign includes two TV spots, one radio spot and

eight print messages. All messages can be used with the generic PCUSA ending, or customized to include local church or presbytery information. **Phase 2** of this campaign encourage the recipient of the message to not just celebrate Easter or Christmas, but to "take the complete journey" of Advent or Lent. This phase speaks to how meaningful these occasions are depending on what one worships, for instance a chocolate Easter bunny, or Jesus Christ. This phase includes one TV spot, one

radio spot and four print messages for Advent, and the same number of new materials for Lent.

Cost varies between \$40-65 per phase. Contact: Becky Trinkle 888-728-7228 x5210 or becky.trinkle@pcusa.org.

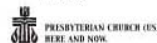
**HOW MEANINGFUL IS YOUR CHRISTMAS?
DEPENDS ON WHICH GUY YOU WORSHIP.**



It's easy to forget that Christmas is not only about toys and tinsel. So find out again for yourself and your family. Join us during the four weeks of Advent and explore the journey to Christ.

THE 4 WEEKS OF ADVENT

Service Time(s) here
Church Name
Church Address, City
Phone



Hunger Program Awards; 1 Iowa Recipient

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) has awarded grants totaling \$196,300 to 26 organizations around the country working to alleviate hunger by creating a more just and healthier food system. Funding for the grants, which represents a portion of awards given each year by PHP, comes from the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering. The grants will help support projects that focus on such issues as food accessibility for low-income families, justice for farm workers, strengthening local food economies, sustainable development, community organizing, and education and advocacy around food issues.

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference in Des Moines, received \$7,000 to support advocacy efforts regarding neglected social justice and corporate responsibility sections of the Farm Bill.

PHP has developed Web sites providing resources, study guides, and avenues for taking action to build a more just food system – the Food and Faith Web site:

www.pcusa.org/food;
the Food and Faith Blog: presbyterian.typepad.com/foodandfaith; and the Farm Bill Reform Web site: www.betterfarmbill.org.

PHP, a ministry of the General Assembly Council, has

provided about \$110 million over the last 38 years in the fight against hunger and its root causes in the United States and around the world.

Through PHP, Presbyterians support efforts in the five PHP program areas: direct hunger relief, development assistance, public policy advocacy, lifestyle integrity, and hunger education.

The PHP Advisory Committee approved the grant recipients last year.

To read the complete story written Aug. 31 by Evan Silverstein of the Presbyterian News Service, go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07539.htm.



Finance Tips From Des Moines

Westminster Presbyterian Church Business Administrator Jim Vandenberg:

I don't often promote a web site, but this one:

www.360financialliteracy.org/

This is a great site for any of your financial questions. It is sponsored by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. There are dozens of articles that are clear and concise on just about any financial topic. Feel free to forward the address to your children, friends or accountant.



Are you involved in the educational ministry of the church?

The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) invites you to the 2008 Annual Event to be held Feb. 13–16, 2008, in San Diego, Calif.

Through the leadership of Rodger Nishioka, Chip Andrus and Gail Ricciuti, attendees will explore the theme, "But God Says." Today's church leaders will wrestle with one of the greatest challenges facing Christians today: how to live in the world without being conformed to it.

Register early to receive a discount and guarantee your choice of workshops. Learn more and register online now at: <http://apcenet.org/events/annual-next.htm>.

Reaching Teens On Their Own Turf

By Bridget Starr

In an age when young people increasingly are found hanging out on the Web, instead of at the mall, faith groups eager to reach teens must tap the power of the Internet. It's time for congregations to embrace the tactics of the so-called "social media" and expand their youth groups with an online annex. It's time for a 'digital youth room.'

Most congregations will quite readily admit that one of their biggest challenges is to attract and retain youth. This was borne out by a recent survey of more than 1,000 group leaders at congregational, regional and national levels, conducted for Lightworks New Media by the respected research firm, Comscore. The top priority of respondents was "building community among congregational members." Also ranked as extremely important were:

- Youth involvement
- Supporting a family-centered environment
- Youth faith education

Providing congregants with web-based tools for building community and involvement can work towards meeting those expressed needs, especially with youth and young adults.

Typically, youth groups can manage to get together in person only once or twice a week at most, which may not

be enough to provide the kind of intensity and authentic relationship that teens demand. Online communities, on the other hand – with blogs, forums, articles of interest and other communication tools – can be a powerful way to draw those young people and keep them engaged, with no limits on the amount of interaction.

A "digital youth room" is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Through this online community, leaders and members can develop and express their spirituality and faith not only with each other, but also with their peers in other congregations who share interests, purposes or geographic locations. Youth leaders get a powerful community building and organizational tool, content distribution channel and messaging system. Teens get the kind of engagement they expect.

Before you use the web for online youth groups, however, keep in mind the following tips:

- **Young people are accustomed to using the web on a 24/7 basis**, so the content must be kept fresh and exciting to bring them back to the site frequently. If they're provided with ways to share their faith-based experiences in a chatty manner, they'll be hooked.

- Press reports of abuses in the social media have led **many parents to fear their own kids getting involved in online groups**. So make sure your site addresses these security concerns. What kind of safeguards can you put in place to ensure that people are who they say they are, and that your students are not exposed to inappropriate content or behavior? Can you ensure that the Group leader is always in control of what's going on?

It is a certainty that today's youth will use the Web extensively, including social media. By providing an appropriate forum, you can give your youth all the benefits of interacting on the Web, while keeping the hazards to a minimum. Even more to the point, with the 'digital youth room' established, youth leaders can use the online community to interact with, involve, and inspire deeper faith and connections for members of their congregations and communities.

– Bridget Starr, of Lightworks New Media is Senior Client Relationship Manager for FaithStreams Network Services, which offers congregations a turn-key solution for setting up web-based communities for youth groups at www.YouthRoots.com.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies Update

DUBUQUE SEMINARY FALL SCHOOL STARTS

DUBUQUE, IA – On Aug. 4 a full cohort of students representing three denominations and 12 presbyteries of the PCUSA enrolled as the inaugural class of the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary's (UDTS) Distance Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program. UDTS is the first seminary of the PCUSA to offer the five-year program which allows participants to take the majority of classes via the Internet. Two-thirds of the courses are taught online, while the remaining credits are earned in residency at the Dubuque campus. The curriculum and faculty for the Distance M.Div. are the same as those in the residential program. The program begins with a two-week residential intensive in Dubuque, followed by online courses for the fall semester. Students return to campus for two weeks in January prior to the spring semester's distance learning. For more information regarding admission to one of the seminary's distance theological education programs, contact Peggy Sell at 800-369-8387.

MYSAPCE BLOG CREATES NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies updated and added to its online presence during August, developing a new design for its Web site,

www.lakesandprairies.org, and uploading its own page on MySpace, a popular social networking online community. The Synod's MySpace page can be found at www.myspace.com/synodoflakesandprairies.

"Comments concerning the new design for the Web site have been positive to this point," Duane Sweep, associate for communications, said. "We are looking for ideas to replace the photograph on the home page," he added, noting comments have indicated the stained glass is "too old fashioned." The MySpace page is a new venture, too. "Too many people for us to ignore, both young and old, are on MySpace," Sweep said. "The denomination even has a MySpace page." During the past week, the blog – short for Web Log – on the synod's MySpace page has been devoted to the response to the recent flooding.

SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS' MINISTRY PROMOTED ON YOUTUBE

A Presbyterian ministry that helps provide clean water to places in the world that need it most has tapped the ultra-popular video Web site www.YouTube.com to increase the flow of its message. Living Waters for the World (LWW), a ministry of the Synod of Living Waters of the PCUSA based in

Franklin, Tenn., has posted a video on the site that explains the work it does and encourages others to join the effort. Those who visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LM-bP4gG-g, will hear LWW administrator Steve Young talk about the world's critical situation involving clean water, and how the LWW "trains and equips mission teams to share the gift of clean water with communities in need." The rest of the story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07458.htm.

REQUEST FOR SYNOD SCHOOL TEACHERS

If you are interested in leading a course next year at Synod School (July 27-August 1), contact **Carol Ferrell (Clive, Heartland)** at carolferrell@msn.com or Associate Synod Executive Diana Barber at dbarber@lakesandprairies.org. Send a paragraph or two describing the course you want to teach. You will have opportunity afterward to write out the actual course description; what's needed at this time is an idea of what you want to teach. Bear in mind that a variety of classes is best, from crafts to life skills, from Bible/Theology to current events! If your idea is accepted, as a teacher, you get a discount in the cost of Synod School.



Attention High School Seniors Interested in Ministry Scholarship

*Just a few hours west of Des Moines Presbytery, Hastings College is serving the Presbyterian church through a Christian Ministry Program. Inaugurated in 2002, the program includes full and partial tuition scholarships for six outstanding high school seniors who are considering ordained or lay ministry as their vocation. **Applications must be completed by Jan. 4**, and interviews with candidates will be conducted during January. For more information, contact Admissions Counselor Traci Boeve, (tboeve@hastings.edu) or Program Director Trace Haythorn, (thaythorn@hastings.edu), or go to: www.hastings.edu/v&v. Hastings College is a private, co-educational, residential, Presbyterian-related liberal arts college, founded in 1882.*

Reflections of New Interim Mission Co-Worker to El Salvador

By **Kathy Mahler**

It's been a busy summer... recently I gave the sermon at **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** where I was filling in for **Rev. David Stipp-Bethune** who was out of town. I often visit churches to do the Don Justo Coffee Minute for Mission or to do a Sunday School session, but this is only the second time I've actually filled the sermon time. I even had to write the prayers and chose my scriptures, basically everything. (Scary stuff, for me, anyway.) I can't imagine doing it every week. I think my brain would explode. My respect for the clergy is stronger than ever. But I hope I was able to convey my passion for the El Salvador mission work. It's also difficult sometimes to truly explain what it is I do for work... sell coffee? Yes, but it's a whole lot more!

I sent a draft of my 'sermon' to **Rev. Bob Cook, interim pastor at Highland Park Presbyterian Church** in Des Moines to verify my facts. Turns out I didn't have all my 'facts' right. I wanted to tell about the dire situation of employment. The government set the minimum wage at \$3 per day but in reality, the average wage is \$1 a day and there is no minimum wage for those working in agriculture. Keep in mind that 60% of the population in and surrounding Berlin is un-

employed or underemployed so not too many folk enjoy the luxury of those wages.

I wanted to explain canton life in El Salvador:

"There are 17 cantons that are a part of Berlin with roughly 17,000 people living in them. A canton is a dirt floor community. There is no running water, no electricity, no shops or businesses. Homes are made from scavenged materials mud, rocks, sticks, scrap tin and tarp. Windows are holes in the walls and a burlap sack may serve as a door. Typically, a one or two room dwelling will house a family of 2-12 people. Extended families often live in the same house. Water for cooking, laundry and bathing, needs to be fetched from the local stream or river and can entail a walk of 15 minutes or over 2 hours. This task usually falls to the young girls and firewood gathering

is for the young boys. These are children who cannot attend school – if their community is even lucky enough to have an elementary school. Children are a vital part in the survival of their families! And the water the people work so hard to obtain is bacteria and parasite laden.

Diarrhea is a huge factor in the mortality rate. Easily treatable diseases kill on an all too regular basis."

But, I wanted to lift people from the depressing things:

"With the partnership between the churches of Central Iowa, the Pastoral Team in Berlin and the 17 cantons surrounding Berlin – a partnership we call *Our Sister Parish*: the spark of hope is in the eyes of the poor on that mountainside.

- 10 of the 17 cantons have a sister partnership with an Iowa church
- Water collection tanks are being built for the cantons.
- Water purification systems for every home in the 17 cantons has begun (it will be 7- or 8-year process).
- Medical delegations visit regularly to help diagnose and provide basic treatments.

- Community centers are being built.
- Cantons are organizing and becoming legalized and therefore eligible for some governmental services.
- Schools are being built. One school has grown from a kdg-third grade building – to a school now serving children up to ninth grade!
- Scholarships are being provided. Classrooms are getting supplies.
- Jobs are being created.

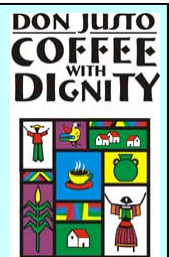
All because of the Presbytery's humble granting of a request for fertilizer in 1990 and Bob Cook's promise to return. Who would have thought in such a short time so much could be accomplished?

There is now hope on the mountainside. And we ALL can play a part in that hope."

– *en fe y con feliz*, Kathy

Kathy Mahler is also our **Don Justo Coffee** coordinator and she has been asked to be the interim mission co-worker in Berlin during the next 6 months. In her absence, several others are filling in for her responsibilities:

- Coffee will be delivered to and stored at the **Des Moines Presbytery Office**, 2400 86th St., Ste. 20, Urbandale, IA 50322, phone: 515-276-4991.
- Ann Henderson from St. Boniface Catholic Church in Waukee, will inventory and sort all your orders and mail to those outside of Des Moines.
- **Betty Dyer**, in the Presbytery office will be making all deposits **so send payments to the amended address on your invoices.**
- **Kathy will continue to take the orders, answer your questions, prepare the order for the coffee finca, create the invoices and inform you when your coffee is ready to pick up at the Presbytery office.**
- If you need a speaker, the folks in **Compañeros** are ready and willing.
- If you need extra coffee or supplies, they will be at the Presbytery office.



Presbytery Happenings

ATTENTION ORDINATION EXAM READERS

One requirement of those preparing to become Presbyterian pastors is the ordination examinations. Twice each year, candidates, usually seminary students, take four ordination exams in the areas of polity, worship & sacraments, theology, and biblical exegesis. These exams are provided by and managed by the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examination, housed at the Louisville, KY headquarters. Each year, presbyteries are asked to elect individuals to read those examinations and grade them. While the work is significant, training is provided, and those who serve provide a very valuable service to the broader church. Our Presbytery provides readers for the spring exam schedule, usually one week in early March.

The Presbytery's **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)** is responsible for identifying and nominating readers to be elected by the **Presbytery of Des Moines**. At the August presbytery meeting, CPM distributed a new procedure for that process. The procedure includes a request for nominations of potential readers. At its November meeting, CPM will review those nominations and compile a slate of nominations for presbytery vote. Elders and ministers of word

and sacrament are eligible to be nominated. Those with prior experience are particularly sought. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, or wish to obtain a nominations form, please contact **Rev. David Ewing, CPM Moderator and pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas Center**. E-mail: dewing@dwx.com or 515-992-3531. This year, nominations must be received by Nov. 1.

JOIN PRESBYTERY YOUTH WORKER'S MONTHLY

The next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 8 at 12:30 p.m. at **First Presbyterian Church in Winterset**. Bring a sack lunch for during the meeting. Contact **Sara Lamb (Winterset, First)** for details and directions to the church at 515-462-3261, or ymdsara@q.com. If you're in the Des Moines metro area, there is a carpool to meet at 11:45 a.m., Nov. 8, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4114 Allison Ave., Des Moines. Everyone is invited to attend these monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month for support and exchanging of ideas between church leaders working with youth.

Also, if anyone is interested in attending the Presbyterian Youth Workers Association Conference Nov. 12-15, 2007 in St. Louis, Mo., contact **Sara Lamb (Winterset, First)** at slamby@gmail.com

or **Sandi Stuckey (DM, Westminster)** at [sstuckey@westpres.org](mailto:ssuckey@westpres.org). Both are planning to attend the conference by carpool and invite others to join them.

ROGERS' BOOK RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery office has on hand one Study Kit Bag for Rev. Dr. Jack Rodgers' book, *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*. The bag has 10 study guides, pencils and notepads for use by the churches in our Presbytery, as well as six copies of the book.

Also available are six new copies of *Frequently Asked Questions About Tough Sexuality, the Bible and the Church—Plain Talk about Issues*.

These materials are on loan from the Presbytery Office by contacting **Office Manager Betty Dyer** at 515-276-4991 or pbydesmoines@qwest.net.

NEED ANY CHOIR ROBES?

For sale or free, 90 gold choir robes. These Collegiate Cap & Gown robes are approximately 30 years old, but in great shape. They come with white stoles trimmed in maroon with a music lyre.

For details or a picture, contact: Vocal Music Director Nicholas Oswald, Muscatine High School, 563-263-6141, ext. 1148 or njoswald@muscatine.k12.ia.us



Fall Youth Retreat to be in Hartford: Nov. 16 & 17

The Presbytery of Des Moines'

Fall Youth Retreat is Nov. 16-17

at the Community United

Presbyterian Church in Hart-

ford, Iowa. Learning Love is

this year's theme for this annual

event. Join leaders and youth

(9th-12th grade) while we de-

velop our understanding of how

genuine love works. Cost is only

\$20 to attend this overnight

retreat for our churches in the

Des Moines Presbytery. The

brochure, registration/

permission form and scholarship

application are available online

at: www.presbyteryof

desmoines.org/resources.htm.

Or contact the office for your

copy.

Missionaries to Visit Perry

The Perry Church is celebrating the **Mission Challenge '07** on Oct. 21 and are meeting at the Christian Church in Perry (a shared ministry with First Presbyterian Church in Perry) at 10:30 a.m. **Doug and Liz Searles**, missionaries in China who are on furlough, will be presenting the worship service, explaining their ministry, etc. and giving an informal presentation at the potluck following worship. Guests are welcome! Additional information about the Searles and their ministry is available at:

www.uppermidwestcc.org.

How is your church responding to the challenge?



Prayers and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Rev. Richard Harbart and Jennifer Hines on the death of Rich's mother, Wilma Harbart, who died at Hospice of Central Iowa, Kavanagh House on Oct. 6. She was 96.

The Rev. Dave Schneider, pastor at **Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines** had surgery on his hand early this month. He's home recovering and doing well.

Rev. Tom and Jean Bower and family on the death of Tom's father, Spencer Bower, who died on Oct. 6 at the age of 90.

He recently had been diagnosed with acute leukemia. The funeral was Oct. 13 at Minnetonka Community Church in Minnesota. Condolences may be sent to: 512 Eastview Rd., Marshalltown, IA 50158. Tom and Jean recently transferred from the **Des Moines Presbytery** to the North Central Iowa Presbytery and are now interim supply pastors at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Grundy Center. Tom is also parish associate in Marshalltown.

Rev. Kirsten Klepher, pastor at **First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell** had her Sept. 27th trip to

Viet Nam postponed because her baby, Lydia, is too ill to travel. So, prayers are needed for healing and safe travels for a later date. During Kirsten's paternity leave, **Presbytery candidate Nathan Williams**, will be temporary pulpit supply for the Grinnell church.

Mike Conn, CLP, pastor of the **Gibson and White Oak Presbyterian churches** who had cataract surgery in September (not in August as stated in the last newsletter). He reports that he'll be doing better once he can get his new glasses.

PW Palm Project: \$20-gift Buys 10 Plants

The Presbyterian Women Palm Project provides a new mission opportunity for individuals and groups to make donations for the development of palm plantations in Congo. Destruction of agriculture has forced Congo, once the world's largest producer of palm oil, to import cooking oil. This change has opened an opportunity for our Presbyterian partners to develop income generating projects that do not require huge financial investments, but can have great returns.

With funding from the PW Palm Project, women's groups and hospitals of the Presbyterian Community of Congo will

be able to plant new varieties of Costa Rican palms that produce three times more palm oil than the current stock. The plants grow low to the ground, allowing women to participate in the planting, maintenance and harvest. One \$20,000 investment from PW will fund 80 hectares of palms that will generate \$200,000/year for 30 years to subsidize educational programs, hospitals and clinics. A hectare equals 150 trees. A small plantation of 450 palms at a high school will cover tuition costs for 60 girls. Current plantations at hospitals in Bibanga and Bulape each produce from \$60,000 to

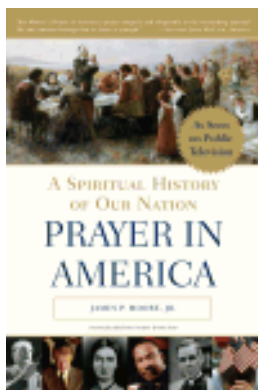
\$90,000/year. This is more than twice the subsidy PCUSA now gives these mission hospitals.

A \$20 gift to the Palm Project will purchase about 10 plants. A challenge is being made for each **local PW church group in the Des Moines Presbytery** to participate in making a donation of \$20 to purchase 10 plants for the PW Palm Project. Our goal is to have 100% participation in our 64 churches to help with this project. Send checks to: PCUSA, PW Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652, Write "PW Palm Project" on the memo line.

IPTV to Air Local Discussion on Prayer

A two-part television documentary, which will be broadcast on Iowa Public Television (www.iptv.org) in November 2007, was inspired by author James P. Moore, Jr.'s book, *One Nation Under God: The History of Prayer in America*. In his highly original approach to the history of the United States, Jim Moore suggests that prayer has historically, and through to the present day, been a significant influence on the political, cultural, and economic development of the United States. Producers Alison Rostankowski and Chip Duncan explore this thesis through interviews with a wide-ranging group of scholars, writers, and experts on the history of religion and prayer in America. The documentary reflects diverse, and some-

times conflicting, perspectives that inspire viewers to examine the role religion and prayer play in their personal lives, politics, and culture.



The outreach campaign will use *Prayer in America* as a catalyst to bring people – no matter what faith they espouse – together in interfaith dialogue. It will stimulate discussion about the role of prayer from contemporary perspectives. The

emphasis will be on inter-religious dialogue – respectful of the unique contributions different religious groups have made to the shaping of the religious history of the U.S. For faith leaders, the production offers a strategic opportunity to build bridges to interfaith community engagement – using media to open communication with today's media savvy audiences. Like the production, the campaign will be multi-faith and inclusive.

Prayer in America asks the question, what role has prayer played in shaping the development and history of America?

To participate in this Iowa outreach project, see the ad below about the pre-taped workshop on Oct. 18.



Fall Craft Show Time Begins!

Join **First Presbyterian Church**

in Des Moines at their 23rd Annual Craft Show and Bake Sale

on Saturday, Oct. 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held

downstairs in the church basement at First Presbyterian

Church, 3100 Easton Blvd., Des Moines, IA 50317. For details

contact the church office at 515-262-5679 or

firstpresdsm@netzero.com.

JOIN IPTV FOR A WORKSHOP OCTOBER 18...

PRAYER IN AMERICA

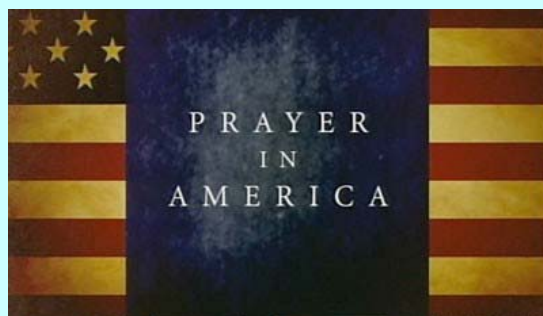
What: An Iowa outreach project, using the television broadcast of *Prayer in America* on Iowa Public Television, November 2007, as a springboard for interfaith dialogue (www.prayerinamerica.org)

When: Thursday, October 18, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Iowa Public Television Studios, Johnston

How: A Facilitated Workshop

Why: To build the capacity of Iowa community networks and institutions to address contemporary issues and reach conclusions through interfaith dialogue.



Register soon, so that your free lunch is prepared for you! Register online at: www.iptv.org/workshop or contact Mary Bracken, Coordinator at IPTV, e-mail: mary.bracken@iptv.org; phone: 515-242-3124 or 800-532-1290.

Presbytery of Des Moines
 Phone: 515-276-4991
 Fax: 515-276-7596
 E-mail: 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
 Summer Mission Co-Worker
 to El Salvador: Christine Carey
 Designated Missionary
 to Egypt: Denise England

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. 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.*

PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES
 OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
 2400 - 86th Street, Suite 20
 Urbandale, IA 50322-4306

PCUSA Mission Worker Assists With Peru Earthquake Relief

Even though his first full-time assignment as a PCUSA mission worker started just eight months ago, 24-year-old Jacob Goad has already been airlifted into an earthquake zone in Peru, slept amid the crumbling ruins of a city nearly shaken off the map, and helped to launch two feeding programs for hungry quake survivors. He is working with ecumenical partners in response to the deadly quake that struck off the Peruvian coast Aug. 15.

The earthquake was Peru's worst in 37 years, killing at least 540 people, injuring some 1,500 and leaving an

estimated 176,000 people homeless. Power supplies, telecommunications and road links were severely disrupted. Jacob is based in Lima, which was largely spared by the temblor. Plans are in place to team with Joining Hands, a ministry of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, to provide blankets to hundreds of earthquake survivors in the hard-hit city of Chincha. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working in cooperation with partners in the area and fellow members of Geneva-based Action by Churches Together (ACT)

Emergency Alliance. Susan Ryan, PDA's coordinator, reported: "Our partners are providing soup kitchens. They've carved out certain underserved areas and are feeding people there. There's been \$50,000 in rapid response money sent to initiate initial work in Peru from ACT."

Read more at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07528.htm and Jacob's letters linked to his "Mission Connections" Web page at www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/goadj.htm. Read about PDA's response at www.pcusa.org/pda/response/latinamerica/peru-index.htm.

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org