

The Wider Circle

Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / October 2006 Vol. 2, Issue 10



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

Of Special Interest

GA Stated Clerk Message

Presbytery Youth Retreat

Nov. 14 Presbytery Meeting

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Always Being Reformed



by Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick

is GA Stated Clerk PC(USA) and President of

the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

Reformation Sunday is a time each year for Presbyterians to reclaim our heritage in the

Protestant Reformation and to draw upon its strengths for our contemporary witness. It is typically the last Sunday in October (this year, Oct. 29), the Sunday closest to Oct. 31 (1517), when Martin Luther posted his *95 Theses* on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. That dramatic event marked the

beginning of a movement of reformation in the churches and set forth a spirit of reform that is at the heart of the gospel and the experience of the New Testament church.

Reformed churches affirm the great motto of the Protestant Reformation: *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*—

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Phil's Corner



Dear Friends, October is a month bringing us many changes –

temperatures are becoming cooler, leaves are changing colors and disappearing from trees, crops change from green to brown and then are harvested leaving behind dark earth, daylight hours are fewer so drivers have to re-discover the headlight switch when heading to or from work, and the end of the month brings a time change as we return to Standard

Time, Oct. 29. For some folks, this is a traumatic time because they don't like much change, and here's a month full of it. It's no wonder that we can observe an irritability increase in some people and places.

One place I have observed this is in the increasing tendency to label someone else as "one of those idiot drivers," or a person who's choice of clothing "certainly shows no taste," or, even more strongly, deciding that someone else is "dead wrong." We all could think of other examples, but my real

thought here is that we are making judgments about others, and many times we make these without much, if any, information.

Our practicing of ready judgment make us really a product of our culture. Just look at all the court shows and the "reality TV" and other shows where we make our own judgments about the winners and losers and how we could have done better. However, as my colleague Steve Yamaguchi, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos,

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Did You Know...

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network provides packets with worship and educational materials to help plan a special Sunday in the life of your congregation. Go to: www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn.htm.

Or visit the following websites for information and resources about this issue:

- Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Abuse www.icadv.org
- Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault www.iowacasa.org
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence www.ncadv.org
- Family Violence Prevention Fund www.endabuse.org
- Women's Institute for Financial Education www.wife.org
- Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation www.mkacf.org

Events Calendar

2006

Oct. 28 – *Make A Difference Day* with the DMARC Food Pantry. They'll be collecting food donations at area Dahl's, Fareway, and HyVee stores from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They are looking for groups or individuals who can volunteer in two-hour shifts on Saturday, Oct. 28. If you are interested in volunteering on Make A Difference Day, please call Paul Knupp at 515-277-7173.

Nov. 6-13 – Ankeny Presbyterian Church is sending a delegation to El Salvador.

Nov. 14 – Presbytery Meeting, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 321 Euclid Ave., Des Moines

Nov. 17-18 – Transformation Workshop on Spirituality, sponsored by North Central Iowa Presbytery and held at First Presbyterian Church in Mason City, Ia. All churches, pastors and leaders are invited to attend this workshop presented by Rev. Kristine Haig, entitled: *On Beginning from Within: Church Transformation from the Inside Out*. Cost to attend for a congregation is \$30 (plus \$15 for meals per person). Registration

deadline is Friday, Nov. 10. If you have questions, contact Vicki Thordsen at the North Central Iowa Presbytery office, vthordsen@presbynciowa.org or 800-383-3617.

Nov. 21 – *Stop Stewing and Start Doing... Stewardship*, a conference sponsored by CORE Ministries and in affiliation with Missouri School of Religion. Increase active involvement in the life of your congregation, bringing members into ministry and building the financial base you need to better serve in witness to Christ. This conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rickman Center, Jefferson City. Cost is: \$50 (includes lunch). To register contact: MSR Center for Rural Ministry, P.O. Box 104685, Jefferson City, Mo. 65110-4685. Phone: 573-635-1187. E-mail: krystalmsr@earthlink.net or visit the Web site at: www.mrs-crm.org.

Nov. 23 & 24 – Thanksgiving Day and Day After Thanksgiving (Holiday) Presbytery office is closed.

Dec. 25-Jan. 2 – Christmas and New Year's (Holidays) Presbytery office is closed this week.

Dec. 27-29 – *Wintertainment* to be held at Camp Wyoming Wednesday

starting at 1 p.m. through Friday, 1 p.m. Cost is \$75.00/camper for 3rd through 12th graders. Come join us for Camp Jam, Bible Studies, Campfires, Morning Worship, Cross country skiing, Tubing, Broom Ball, and Camp Wyoming's Famous Winter Olympics. To register contact: campwyo@netins.net or 563-488-3893

2007

Feb. 23-25 – Camp Wyoming 2007 Confirmation Retreat. Confirmation students and their Pastors or leaders are invited to join us for a weekend of creative teaching and learning. Youth will explore the sacrament of Communion while experiencing the beauty of God's World. This weekend will provide a great opportunity for everyone to grow in their faith. Starts Friday at 7:30 p.m. through Sunday, 1 p.m. Cost is \$75 per student. Adult chaperones are FREE. To register, go to the Web site at: www.campwyoming.net. Or contact the camp registrar at: campwyo@netins.net or 563-488-3893.

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reminds us in an article in the April 2004 issue of *Presbyterians Today*, "But some kinds of judging put our souls in great jeopardy."

"Jesus warns us about judging others. There is great danger in acting as the judge for another's soul. In the first place, Jesus warns that by judging others we make tougher the standard by which we ourselves are judged. And in the second place, we might judge wrongly because our judgment is imperfect. We have a log in our own eye. How can we judge another?"

"We can also see in Romans 2:1-16 and I Corinthians 4:1-5, the Bible's clear warnings about judging one another. God alone is the judge – the righteous judge with perfect judgment. We have no business usurping God's work of judging humans.

We do need to make judgments about right and wrong, good and evil. The Bible is clear that we are to cling to God's righteousness and do battle against evil.

Sometimes evil is obvious to all people of good faith, as in the stories of child sacrifice in the Old Testament (e.g., Jeremiah 7:31; 19:5; 32:35).

Sometimes people of good faith disagree and struggle to judge what is right, as we see regarding matters of worship and sacrifice in the book of Acts and the New Testament letters. So we struggle to make judgments about right and wrong – but that can easily slip into judging another's soul."

Steve's words came back to me as I continue to grieve over the harsh, attacking, and at times un-Christian ways people in our denomination (and our presbytery) have treated each other as we deal with issues of faith and experience.

He continues: "People of good faith who love Christ can disagree and argue about things. But it is costly to Christ's witness when the members of his body cannibalize one another because of their disagreements.

"First remove the log in your own eye," says

Jesus. My first response is to reach for a mirror and do this myself. But in Jesus' day most mirrors were polished metal. Glass mirrors were only introduced in the first century, and they were optically challenged (remember I Corinthians 13:12). To clear your eye just might mean you must submit to examination by another.

"I once again pray and work toward the end that we will be able to disagree thoughtfully as we together seek the mind and heart of Christ. And I pray that we will be able to leave to God the judging of one another.

"Psalm 50:6 is always a good reminder: 'The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.'

As the month of October brings change, may we find ways to bring about personal change in judging others so that we may not be of this world but be of Christ's world.

Peace, Phil

October is Ministry Appreciation Month

To Pastors and Certified Lay Persons, The Presbytery of Des Moines office personnel wants you to know how thankful we are that He has allowed us to be here at the same time you are. Your ministry is greatly appreciated!

Just think,

You're here not by chance,

But by God's choosing.

His hand formed you,

And made you the person you are.

He compares you to no one else—

You are one of a kind.

You lack nothing that His grace can't give you.

He has allowed you to be here at this time in history,

To fulfill His special purpose for this generation.

—Roy Lessin



Synod of Lakes and Prairies Highlighted in 2006 Mission Yearbook

The 2006 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study offers daily inspirational messages about the mission work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Readers are able to learn more about the mission work being done by the church, learn about the areas being served and offer intercessory prayers.

Starting Tuesday, October 17, through Nov. 4, The Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the 16 presbyteries are highlighted in the 2006 Mission Yearbook.

View these online at:

www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/intro.htm. *The Presbytery of Des Moines story can be found on page 295 of the printed publication, or in the online version look for the Friday, Oct. 20 link.*

PHP Grants Help Build More Just and Healthy Food System

THREE PROGRAMS IN SYNOD OF LAKES AND PRAIRIES AMONG RECIPIENTS

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) has awarded grants totaling \$177,975 to 32 organizations around the country working to alleviate hunger by creating a more just and healthier food system. Funding for the grants 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, and community organizing, education and advocacy around food issues.

Three programs in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies that received grants are:

- Dakota Resource Council, Dickinson, N.D. (Northern Plains Presbytery): \$4,150 to advocate for greater justice in the marketplace and in U.S. trade policy for the benefit of farm workers.
- Dakota Rural Action, Brookings, S.D. (South Dakota Presbytery):

\$2,500 to protect or improve on farm policies that impact family farms, ranches, rural communities and the environment.

- Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Des Moines, Ia. (Des Moines Presbytery): \$3,750 to support economic viability of independent family farmers and to promote fair wages for their products.

Read more about this story at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06411.htm.

Synod Welcomes New Communicator

Adapted from Synod's Sept. 8, 2006, e-newsletter:

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies in August hired Duane Sweep as Director of Communications. He will work with the Synod staff, Presbyteries and other stakeholders to create and improve communications as a strategic management tool within the church.

Duane joins the Synod staff with a substantial background in communications work including: director of media research at Minnesota Opinion Research Inc.,

editor of an award-winning weekly newspaper in Crosby, N.D., Director of university relations at Minot (N.D.) State University, and instructor of journalism and public relations at Colorado State University and University of Northern Colorado.

Duane holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of North Dakota and a master's degree in journalism the University of Georgia. He has also made a variety of presentations at academic and professional conferences.

Raised and confirmed in Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church in Bejou, Minnesota, Duane has been a member of several Presbyterian churches since 1981. He currently serves on the personnel committee at Presbyterian Church of the Apostles in Burnsville, Minn. He has been ordained an elder, served on a board of trustees and filled a variety of committee positions during his Presbyterian years.

Duane can be reached at: dsweep@lakesandprairies.org or 651-357-1140, ext. 206, or at the Synod of Lakes and Prairies office.

Employment Opportunities

Storybook Project seeks Part-Time Coordinator

Storybook Project of Iowa is seeking a part-time coordinator for the Storybook Project twelve to fifteen hours per week. This position provides flexible part time hours, while providing challenging and meaningful work. Major duties include:

- Volunteer coordination
- Parent education
- Maintaining financial records and data bases
- Fundraising and event planning
- Public speaking

**Computer skills are a plus.

Send letter of interest with resume to: Harry Hinrichs, Chairman, Storybook Project of Iowa
3816 36th St. Suite 202
Des Moines, IA 50310

Pastor/Head of Staff

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn., is searching for an experienced individual who preaches provocative and intellectually stimulating sermons. Contact Sue Haigh, 612-331-0604 or

susan.haigh@tchabitat.org.

President

The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation in Omaha, Neb., is seeking someone to administer the Foundation's programs and business affairs, as well as develop strategic plans, fundraising and help the board of directors with future initiatives. Contact The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation at 2120 S. 72nd St., Ste. 630, Omaha, NE 68124 or 402-397-5138 or opsf@omaha-sem-found.org.



High School Retreat Registration Deadline Nears

The official registration deadline for the upcoming High School "Light it Up!" Fall Retreat is Wednesday, Nov. 1. Money, registrations and release forms are due in Presbytery Office. Any registrations received after this date will go on a waiting list.

This year's theme, *Christian Encounters of the Third Kind*, focuses on living in a world where it is hard sometimes to figure out where we "fit in." Looking at Jesus Christ and His peace assures us that God is always with us. Keynote speaker, **Jason Taylor** and worship music leader **Troy Kooima** will guide us during the all-night retreat.

Get your registrations into Registrar **Dennis Britton** by Nov. 1. Forms are online at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org or call 515-276-4991.

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The church reformed, always reforming ("according to the Word of God and the call of the Spirit," as our Book of Order states in G-2.0200.)

While Reformation Sunday is indeed a time to look back to such great truths and insights as articulated by the reformers almost 500 years ago, it is much more importantly a time to look forward as we face the challenges of our life and witness today.

The spirit of the Reformation calls each new age to work for the renewal to which God is calling churches. On this Reformation Sunday, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches is calling us in

particular to remember and celebrate the remarkable way the Reformed movement has literally circled the globe. There are now some 75 million Reformed Christians, two thirds of which are now in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Find out more at the World Alliance of Reformed Churches Web site: www.warc.ch/.

Reformed Christians from all over the world will be joining us to re-appropriate the great themes of the Reformation that are at the core of faithful Christian living:

- faith alone, grace alone, Scripture alone
- the priesthood of all believers

- the sovereignty of God over the whole creation
- the church as a covenant community

These callings are at the core of what it means for Presbyterian churches to live out the Reformation in our day. May this year's observance be a real time of renewal and reformation for you, for your church, and for the global movement we share through the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

To read more on the bi-monthly column featuring the Moderator and the Stated Clerk's messages, go to: www.pcusa.org/oga/newsstories/clerk-mod-oct06.htm#mod.

There's Still Time to Apply for Grants

MISSION PROGRAM GRANTS

Applications are available in Word format and may be downloaded from the Web at: www.pcusa.org/missionprogramgrants or by e-mail from the Mission Program Grants office of the Mission Development Resources Committee (MDRC). Application deadline is March 1 and Sept. 1 of each year. Committee application review is: Nov. 9-10, 2006, May 3-4 and Nov. 8-9, 2007.

EXPLORATION AND FEASIBILITY GRANT

Proposals can be submitted for consideration at any time during the remainder of 2006. Note: beginning Jan. 1, 2007, the *Exploration and Feasibility Grant* program will be suspended.

SAM & HELEN R. WALTON FUND AWARDS

Deadline for nominations to be received is Jan. 31 of each year. Committee application review is May 3-4, 2007.

For details, contact the Office of Mission Program Grants, Tim McCallister, Associate, at: tmccalli@ctr.pcusa.org, 888-728-7228, ext. 5230 or Bill Moore, Administrative Assistant, at: bmoore@ctr.pcusa.org, ext. 5251.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Update

UNCOLLECTIBLE GA PER CAPITA CREEPS UP

Uncollectible General Assembly per capita is projected to exceed \$400,000 for the first time in more than a decade, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) was told Oct. 12.

Office of the General Assembly financial officer Christopher Nicholas said uncollectible per capita payments for 2005 now stand at \$430,000 "with a maximum of about \$10,000 expected to be received by the end of the year."

The uncollectible amount equals about 3% of the total GA per capita billed to the presbyteries for last year. The actual uncollected amount in 2004 was \$270,000. COGA budgets \$350,000 annually to cover uncollectible per capita.

To read the entire article, go online to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06517.htm.

FORMER GA MODERATOR, FOUR PC(USA) CLERGY ARRESTED PROTESTING IRAQ WAR

A former Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly moderator and four Presbyterian ministers were among 71 people arrested in Washington, D.C., during a series of peaceful protests against

the Iraq war on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Rick Ufford-Chase, 42, moderator of the PC(USA)'s 216th General Assembly in 2004, confirmed by cell phone that he was taken into custody while leading an interfaith anti-war procession on Capitol Hill.

"This one is really personal," said Ufford-Chase, an elder at Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, AZ. "It just feels like I've spent three years trying to find proactive ways to insist on our (Christian) values about war and the situation in Iraq is getting worse. I finally decided it's time I have to do something to say no."

Ufford-Chase said he was attending the event in his official capacity as executive director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF), a position he accepted last summer after his two-year term as moderator expired.

Read more on this story at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06489.htm

NEW LAW MAKES POSSIBLE TAX-FREE GIFTS FROM IRAS

The Presbyterian Foundation encourages those 70+ to take advantage of a new federal law giving investors more flexibility with their individual retirement accounts.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed into law Aug. 17, allows Individual Retirement Account (IRA) owners age 70½ and older to make direct gifts to public charities from IRA accounts without reporting the gift as income. Up to \$100,000 can be given in 2006 and 2007.

IRA holders age 70½ and older are required by the Internal Revenue Service each year to withdraw at least a minimum amount – a Required Minimum Distribution – from their retirement accounts.

Historically, if you had an IRA you could only withdraw it, pay taxes and then make a gift, said Mark Klemm, senior vice president of development for the Presbyterian Foundation. Now, "you can give money directly out of your IRA and it won't be taxed. It acts as if you never earned the money."

What the new law means for the Foundation, and for the scores of other charitable organizations out there including individual PC(USA) congregation, is the potential to yield considerably more donations by the time the law expires on Dec. 31, 2007.

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"The potential is huge," Klemm said. "That enhances the Foundation's ability to support mission."

He said the Foundation is the best vehicle for giving particularly for those who want to restrict their giving. "We can help them work though what is the best vehicle and venue. No one has done it longer than we have," which is nearly 200 years. "I would encourage everyone to do this," Klemm said.

For questions about the new law and how to give to the Foundation, call Pat Ohlmann, assistant vice president for gift planning, at 800-858-6127, ext. 5957.

Read the entire article at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06483.htm

IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR MISSISSIPPI HURRICANE AREA

The National Health Ministries (NHM) office is a part of the Evangelism and Witness Goal area in the National Ministries Division of the PC(USA). If you wish to be added to the NHM e-mail list and receive periodic health updates, go to the following form and complete it: www.pcusa.org/form2mail/form2mail.jsp?f2name=Health+Ministries&subject=Join+elist.

Patricia K. Gleich, EdS,
Associate for National Health

Ministries and George and Linda Bates, Disaster Recovery Coordinators for the Presbytery of Mississippi are requesting help with the following items.

BLANKETS

There is a need for blankets in Mississippi Presbytery. Many people will be going into a second winter in very substandard or temporary housing and blankets will be needed.

A blanket collection would make a great service opportunity for your people in your congregation. George Bates asks that the blankets be either new or nearly new and clean. If you want to send a supply of blankets, please contact George and Linda Bates directly at 228-604-2424, or e-mail presbyrecovery@bellsouth.net and they will tell you where the blankets should be shipped.

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

There is a grave shortage of mental health professionals in Southern Mississippi, and, a great number of folks who have depression, PTSD, and generally are living in the midst of a nightmare that has no end in sight. For many, the nearest mental health treatment centers are vastly understaffed and over an hour away. For many, transportation is non-

existent – even if they could get an appointment to be seen. Mental health issues for people who are homeless or displaced are mounting.

The request is for mental health professionals who can practice independently and who are willing to commit to 3-6 months. Work of shorter duration is apparently not effective.

FIRST AID KITS

Another shortage item in South Mississippi is First Aid Kits, or items that can be used to refill kits. With many volunteers coming and doing manual labor as well as needs of the residents, bandage supplies apparently go quite quickly. If you or a group from your church is willing to be helpful and supply these times, please get in touch with George or Linda Bates at 228-604-2424 or e-mail presbyrecovery@bellsouth.net.

OTHER STORIES OF INTEREST

- Valentine unveils new GAC structure – Three deputies, six program directors will be core leadership, www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06449.htm and www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06494.htm.
- PC(USA) names new CFO among other staff moves Bailey's appointment subject to GAC approval www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06476.htm.

Certificate in Lay Ministry

Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith & Learning at Whitworth College has a Certificate in Lay Ministry program. It's designed to help train, equip, and support men and women to serve more effectively as commissioned lay pastors, Christian education directors, lay ministry coordinators, youth leaders, church administrators, church elders and deacons, church office managers, and a variety of other paid and unpaid leadership positions in local congregations. To learn more, contact Rev. Tim Dolan, 509-777-4676, tdolan@whitworth.edu; or Michelle Seefried, 509-777-3275, mseefried@whitworth.edu.

For more information about The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith & Learning, go to: www.whitworth.edu/FaithCenter/ClergyLay/Certificates/LayMinistry.htm.

The center is dedicated to providing innovative programs designed to promote Christian scholarship, greater spiritual depth in students, renewal of clergy and laity, and a better understanding of the dynamics between religion and culture in the Pacific Northwest.

Transformation Workshop on Spirituality

Sponsored by the North Central Iowa Presbytery Vital Ministries Initiative Board, this workshop is entitled: *On Beginning from Within: Church Transformation from the Inside Out*, and will be held Nov. 17-18, at First Presbyterian Church, Mason City, Ia. Starting at 7 p.m., we will examine how our own spiritual lives are the foundation for our spiritual vitality as congregations. There will be worship and personal centering, spiritual formation and development, as well as the compendium notebook on spirituality *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*, which will be available for purchase.

Presenter **Rev. Kristine A. Haig** will lead the workshop. She is currently pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown, W.V., and former editor of the denominational newsletter of spiritual formation *HungryHearts*. Kris continues to write a column for *Presbyterians Today*.

The cost is \$30 per congregation (as many as wish to attend may do so) and \$15 per person for the meal package (continental breakfast, lunch and break options). Questions? Contact Vicki Thordsen, at: 800-383-3617 or vthordsen@presbynciowa.org.

Parking Lot Evangelism



by **Steve Boots, Synod of Lakes and Prairies**

What happens when a large congregation, First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Ala., and a small country church, Big Cove Presbyterian Church in Brownsboro, Ala., develop a partnership that is intended to help the small congregation grow in membership and discipleship? Transformation...

Two years ago the congregation of Big Cove called Rosemary McMahan, a Commissioned Lay Pastor to preach and serve the congregation on a part time basis. The hope was the congregation would be able to keep their doors open. God had other plans.

Worship attendance grew from an average of 18 to 50. The Sunday school grew from seven children to 15. The average age of the membership was 60-65, now it is 45-50. They have added a choir that now fills their choir loft. They started women's and men's prayer and share group. New and old members are actively involved in the ministry and mission of the congregation with the community.

The spiritual energy for the transformation grew when the session committed to a two month long process of daily prayer. Out of that process came the vision of a scriptural mandate based on Galatians 6:10: "Let us work for the good of all."

Along the way the presbytery helped the congregation develop a specific ministry plan for the congregation and helped

the partnership develop between the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville and the Big Cove Congregation. The plan included the development of a presbytery-wide prayer group and some members from the larger congregation got involved in the life of the Big Cove Church.

Now, what does this have to do with a parking lot? The congregation had a gravel parking lot, inadequate in many ways. The decision to pave the parking lot in order to be more welcoming to visitors was a leap a faith for them. It was a symbol of their commitment to grow. They raised the necessary money in one week, dedicated and celebrated one of the first visible signs of their transformation.

God works in wondrous ways.

Congregational Connections

Presbytery congregations have a reason to celebrate:

Melinda and Aaron Bryan, daughter of **Rev. Ann and Mike Rouse** of **Monroe Presbyterian Church**, were married on Oct. 14. Congratulations!

The following is a letter from the **Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola:**

Dear Ann Rouse and the Des Moines Presbytery, In August, our WeLIFT ministry received your generous initiative grant of \$2,000 to assist us in equipping its offices with technology. We are grateful that our own Presbytery was an instrument in God's provision for His vision for community outreach at

Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola. His faithfulness in this endeavor has been overly abundant and we look forward to the transformation WeLIFT will bring to those individuals seeking independence who come through our doors and to those who serve them.

– With gratitude, Sue Kimball (facilitator) and the WeLIFT Steering Committee

Prayers and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Rev. Giles Card, HR, First Presbyterian Church of Centerville, is recuperating after having surgery to remove a fast-growing brain tumor and is currently taking radiation treatments. To contact Giles, call 641-842-4056 or gcard@iowatele.com.net.

Irene Bosman and their family on the death of **Rev. Andy Bosman**, honorably retired pastor and member of our presbytery. He passed away Sept. 17 at the age of 91. A memorial service was held Oct. 21.

Rev. Tom Conrey, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Perry, has been deployed as chaplain for the

National Guard. He'll be overseas at an undisclosed location for nine months.

During this time, Tom plans to keep contact through his blog: www.tomconrey.com. Please offer up your prayers for his wife **Sue** and their family.

We have received word that **Norma Mason**, spouse of **Rev. George Mason** (a former pastor of this presbytery), has developed cancer of the brain and is not doing well. For those wishing to make contact with the Masons, their address is: 2940 Wheatfield Farms Dr., O'Fallon, Mo. 63366 or gmason@mail.win.org.

Thanks to our friends in the Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford for this information.

Rev. Tom Bower, HR, is back from Malaysia and is transferring his membership to the North Central Iowa Presbytery. He and his wife will be residing in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Rev. Daniel Ogata, HR, has moved to Bloomington, Ill., and has transferred membership to the Great River Presbytery.

David Hay, Joseph E. McCabe Professor Emeritus of Religion at Coe College, died in August of a heart attack while mowing the lawn. David Hay served as chaplain at Coe College for many years as well. Thanks to **Rev. Denise Group**, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Chariton for this information.

Don't Miss Nov. 14 Presbytery Meeting

The Presbytery Council is inviting your committee, task force or regional partnership, to participate with a display, at the Nov. 14 Presbytery meeting at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. We will have a *Mission Fair* highlighting all the wonderful things that we do as a Presbytery, whether it is committee work, youth retreats, mission trips or stewardship and regional partnerships. You are invited to put together a brochure or display, bring pictures, be creative. Browsing time for

displays will be prior to lunch. Passports will be provided to attendees to have checked at the different displays. For more information and to make your reservation for a table, contact **Emily Seeger (Atlantic First United)**, at: 712-243-2195 or seeger@metc.net.

Also, during the November meeting, 11 female clergy will be recognized with stoles, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women to the

office of Word and Sacrament. Those being recognized are: **Rev. Amy Miracle, Rev. Kay Steddum, Rev. Ann Rouse, Rev. Denise Group, Rev. MaryBeth Mardis-LeCroy, Rev. Kirsten Klepfer, Rev. Linda O'Connell, Rev. Barbara Nish, Rev. Tiare Mathison-Bowie, Rev. Kate Stangl and Rev. Sue Babovec**. Retired clergywomen **Rev. Sara Speer Palmer** and **Rev. Beverly Leonard** will also be recognized.



Singers from across the Metro and Central Iowa area are invited to join *Jingle Bell Bash*, Dec. 6-10, at Scottish Rite Temple, downtown Des Moines. J. Mark McVey, best known for his leading role in *Les Miserables* on Broadway will be joined by his wife Christy as guest artists for the event.

All music and robe expense is provided for by the sponsors: Star 102.5, Lite 104, The Summit Associates and Iowa Farm Bureau.

Auditions are open to singers and dancers 18 and up. Call 515-953-2355 to audition.

Practices are: Oct. 31, Nov. 7, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, and Nov. 28 at **Heartland Presbyterian Church**, 14300 Hickman in Clive. A dress rehearsal will be held Dec. 6, with performances Dec. 7-10 at Scottish Rite.

Proceeds support Star 102.5's Christmas Wish, a charity that has been granting holiday wishes for more than 15 years.

Older Adults Ministry

The following was compiled by Older Adult Ministry Coordinator **Darlene Shepard** for **First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa**. If you have questions, contact Darlene Shepard at: dshep@mahaska.org.

NEEDED: REPS FOR OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES (PROAMS)

PROAMs are the individuals in each Presbytery who have volunteered (or been nominated) to be the voice, ears, and arms for Older Adult Ministries in their area. A packet of helpful information is available for each PROAM, and each

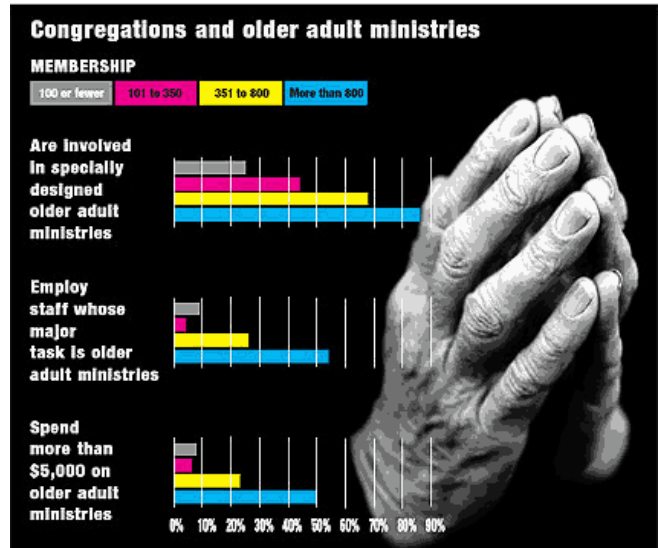
Presbytery may have two. The latest list of PROAMs will be included in the December issue of *AGenda*. For more information, contact PROAM Executive Committee, Susie Johnson, at: 214-240-0110, auntsmj1@aol.com or sjohnson@faithhospice.org.

SUPERLATIVE SENIORS: SENIOR CITIZENS WITH A PURPOSE, THESE PRESBYTERIANS LIVE TO SERVE.

The Presbyterian Today publication asked readers to tell them about "superlative seniors" — folks 75 and older who keep the wheels of ministry turning across the PC(USA). More than 130 people were nominated, all

of them worthy of being featured in *Presbyterians Today*. The publication highlights a few of the ones that impressed them. Also, you'll find a complete list of

the nominees online at: www.pcusa.org/today/cover/cover.htm. If their stories are any indication, the graying of the church may not be such a bad thing!



Older Americans and the Implications for Ministry

Facts and Figures:

- In 1900, 4% (1 out of 25) or 3 million Americans were 65 or older.
- In 2000, 13% (1 out of 8) or 37 million Americans were 65 or older. (These Americans, 65+, number more than the total population of Canada).
- In 2040, there will be 20-25% (1 out of 5, or 1 out of 4) or 80 million Americans that will be 65 or older.
- If you are 65 today, you can expect to live another 20 years or ¼ of your lifespan.
- The graying of the church extends from the pulpit to the pew:

67% of PCUSA is over 45

35% of PCUSA is over 65

Median age in USA is 36

57% of PCUSA is over 50

Median age of PCUSA is 54

We are an old church in an aging society!

- The sheer number of Baby Boomers, the decrease in birth rate, and the increase in longevity all combine for crisis.
- 1 of 5 (aged 75-84) will develop Alzheimer's' Disease. After 85, the chance of developing AD is 49%.
- 80% of elder care is provided by family members. Only 1 in 20 goes to a nursing home for permanent care.
- Currently, those 65+ have the highest divorce rate. The highest rate of suicides is now among those 65+, replacing teenagers.

Implications for Ministry:

- The "Club Sandwich Generation" will have many needs as they care for children, parents and grandparents.
- The church has become "family" to many with broken family systems.
- With the great number of Baby Boomers and beyond, it is predicted that if we focused on recruiting for membership (evangelizing) only those 65+, our church growth would be 4-5% annually.
- Partnering with local agencies and government (local, state & federal) to increase benefits to all involved.
- We need a major shift in the way we perceive aging. We must not classify, label and separate by age. We are all aging. We must acknowledge aging and develop a healthy response to it.

Presbytery Happenings

GULF COAST MISSION TRIP UPDATE

The **First Presbyterian Church in Creston** is currently on a mission trip to Pascagula, Mississippi where they have established a sister church relationship. But the **SW Regional Partnership** will be updating the Presbytery on more trips being scheduled yet this year. If you are interested in joining a mission teams, contact **Marion Hargin** of **First Presbyterian Church in Creston** at 641-782-7265 or by e-mail at: bphargin@iowatelecom.net or **Rev. Randy Allman** of **United Christian Presbyterian Church in Bedford** at 712-523-2811 or by e-mail at dianeware@gmail.com. These work teams are opened to anyone 16 or older, and are not limited to the SW Regional Partnership congregations.

Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive is organizing another trip to the gulf coast Nov. 27-Dec. 1 (plus travel time). The group will be staying in the Gulfport, Miss. area and doing mostly finishing work on houses: drywall mudding, painting, etc. Volunteers of any skill level are welcome and you must be at least 18. The cost to stay in the Presbyterian

Disaster Assistance village is \$20/day and includes all meals. Contact **Jeff** or **Sharon Gumm** for more information or to register for this rewarding mission experience: 515-987-2326 or jsgumm@yahoo.com. Or contact the Heartland church office at 515-987-4246.

EGYPT VISITORS TOUR PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES

Dr. Rafik Nagy, Deputy Manager of Cairo Development Communities for the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (**CEOSS**) and Rev. Emil Zaki of the Coptic Evangelical Church of Kolali District visited the Des Moines Presbytery in early September. The Presbytery's Joining Hands coordinating team and our Egyptian visitors attended the third and final advocacy workshop training on Sept. 9, at Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. Kari Carstens from Citizen's for Community Improvement and Bev Shroeder from Senator Tom Harkin's office were the presenters.

While visiting our presbytery, Emil preached at **Des Moines Central** and **Guthrie Center churches**. Both did presentations at **Atlantic, Guthrie Center** and **Perry churches**. They also visited

Audubon and Corning churches and their communities. Thanks to all who hosted and provided transportation for the visitors. For details on their trip, you can go online to the Presbytery's Joining Hands Web site at: www.desmoineswithegypt.org/.

EGYPT DELEGATION TO LEAVE OCTOBER 28

A delegation from our Presbytery will be visiting Egypt during the first week in November. Members include: **Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center First), Elizabeth Smith (Des Moines Central), Laura Smith, Gary and Diane Badgett (Corning First) and Dave Best (Atlantic First)**. Follow this link to see their itinerary for the trip: www.desmoineswithegypt.org/delegation.pdf.

EL SALVADOR DELEGATION LEAVES NOVEMBER 6

The **Ankeny Presbyterian Church** is sending a delegation to El Salvador Nov. 6-13. The team includes **Al and Emily Wyckhoff, Sue and Ken Nelson, Brenda Schumann, Mary Kohlsdorf and Marcia Justice**. One focus of their trip is the partnership with the community of Corozal. They will provide support for the school which has classes up through 3rd Grade.



REGGIE'S SLEEPOUT

Nov. 10: Mark Your Calendar

The Des Moines Area Religious

Council (DMARC) and Iowa

Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC)

have teamed up to sponsor

Reggie's Sleepout on Nov. 10, at

Drake Stadium. The event will

promote awareness about

homelessness and hunger in the

community and raise funds for

DMARC and IHYC. There will be

food, music, games and contest

and educational activities all

night long. There are several

ways to become involved:

- *commit to sleeping out at the event*
- *pledge a camper or donate to the event*
- *develop a team and participate in the event as a team donate prizes and food for the event*

For details go to:

www.reggiesleepout.org or call

Amy Knudsen at 515-262-1291.

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Final PW Fall Workshop in Des Moines

The Presbyterian Women's last Fall Workshop will be held on Friday, Oct. 27, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4114 Allison Ave. in Des Moines. *Light for the Journey* is the theme this fall and cost is \$5.

Speakers **Chris and Melissa Schnucker** will talk about their experiences with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Katrina Hurricane relief.

The workshop beginning at 8:45 a.m. with registration and a closing prayer at 2:45 p.m. The agenda includes:

- Bible study of "In the Beginning: Genesis"
- New mission giving design
- PW Churchwide Gathering reports
- *HORIZONS*: A treasury of programs.

To make your reservation, call **Kate Dukelow** (Des Moines Westminster) at 515-334-9441. Don't forget this is your last opportunity this year to attend!

Presbytery Happenings continued from page 11



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Mark your calendars – July 17-22, 2007 will be the youth event of the year! *Hope is In Our Midst* is the theme for this triennial gathering at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. If you'd like more information on becoming an adult leader or if you know of youth in your church that

would be interested, contact our Presbytery Registrar

Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson.

She will be delighted to answer questions or help you through the application process. Lisa can be reached at: Lefty-Lizard@juno.com [Subject Line: Triennium 2007], or 7207 S.W. 16th St., Des Moines, IA 50315-6030, or 515-287-1288. Both adult and youth applications for our presbytery are now available online at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/resources.htm.

BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE

Two PC(USA) booklets are currently available in the presbytery office: *The Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the PC(USA)* and the *Serious Mental Illness: Seeking a Comprehensive Christian Response* (A Churchwide Study Document). To get your copy, contact Office Manager Betty Dyer, at 515-276-4991 or pbydesmoines@qwest.net.

Calvin Community Promotes Life-Long Learning

COLLEGE WITHOUT TUITION, HOMEWORK – OPTIONAL

Calvin Community, located at 4210 Hickman Rd. in Des Moines, is hosting free "college" history classes Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., taught by retired professor, **Bob Himes**. The classes are part of the "third-age college at the Heartland" program, offered through **Heartland Presbyterian Church of Clive**.

All of the learning materials are provided by Brown University as part of their life-long learning program. For more information, contact Ann

Scallon at: 515-277-6141 or info@calvincommunity.org.

The five classes will be offered through Spring 2007. Date and topics include the following:

- Oct. 3- Nov. 7 – South America
- Nov. 14-Dec. 19 – The United Nations
- Jan. 9-Feb. 13 – Asia
- Feb. 20-March 27 – The Far East
- April 3-May 7 – The Indo-Pacific

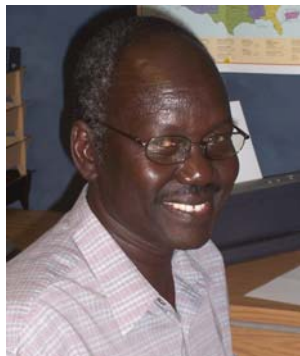
Bob Himes is director of the Third Age College, a program at Heartland. He submits a monthly article

titled, *Views & News from Our World Village*, for the churches' newsletter.

ABOUT CALVIN COMMUNITY

Calvin Community, officially dedicated on Sept. 25, 1965, by the Presbytery of Des Moines, has been a faith-based, not-for-profit retirement community providing individualized care for more than 200 residents by a team of dedicated professionals in Des Moines' Beaverdale neighborhood. Visit their Web site at: www.calvincommunity.org or call 515-277-6141 for more information.

Pastor on Mission Trip to Sudan



Sudanese Ministries Coordinator, Rev. Goanar Chol,

is currently in Southern Sudan on a mission trip to bring water to the area. He met with pastors the first week of his visit.

On Sept. 23, Rev. Chol writes from Nairobi, Kenya:

"It is very exciting even for the people of my (old) presbytery since they now have the same government system of the Presbyterian Church (USA). They will approve the water project mission soon for the Jonglei Presbytery. The Presbyterian Church of the Sudan has been divided by war and I do not want to complicate things further by this mission. I am going to try to meet different factions in Nairobi to reconcile. This division is different from the other one that was caused by war. The two are planning to unite after peace and I am working with the side that is interested in peace. But will try to talk to the one that does not so that peace

will help the developments in Sudan. I have to learn more about the new system before coming back. The pastors of Jonglei Presbytery are excited about these developments and they welcome the water project mission. Please pray for the Government of Sudan and the people."

On Oct. 6, he writes from the capitol of South Sudan, Juba:

"Thank you for your prayers, concern and the e-mails. I have been without internet or phone in South Sudan and I rarely get to communicate because of that. Life has been made very difficult here in Juba, South Sudan. A small tent to sleep in is \$120 U.S. dollars per day – without food. I believe Juba is more expensive even than Lokichokio, Sudan or New York City. The budget I came with is no where close from what I've found. I depend on loans which I have to come and send. Please be aware that I did not reach Lokichokio, Sudan, because it is very expensive! This morning, I met the Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon and may meet him again later to connect me with the president of South Sudan, but if it doesn't work that will be understandable

because the nation is merging from many years of war. God bless you all."

On Oct. 16 Goanar writes:

I am still alive even though I disappear from the (computer) screens! I have not given up. I hope to see you the first week of November. There are so many needs here for children after the war. I am feeling so sad about them but cannot do much. When I go back to Nairobi, I will buy and send the Nuer hymnals and bibles back to the USA for the Sudanese there. The check card was the best decision, when I go back to Nairobi, I can get money from the ATM in Kenya currency to pay the Literature Center. Juba is very expensive, there is only one bank that takes about 7% of any \$100 dollars one is changing and so it makes it very hard to change money. My computer worked here for the first time today as wireless (is) provided by the United Nations Development Program. I will leave for one of the rural areas for the Peace meeting Oct. 18. Pass my warmest greetings to all!"

If you'd like to contribute, send your donations marked, "Sudan Mission Project" to: The Presbytery of Des Moines, 2400 86th St., Ste. 20, Urbandale, IA 50322.



African Children's Choir to Perform Oct. 29

The African Children's Choir, an internationally acclaimed choir of 25 children from Uganda, will perform at Walnut Hills United Methodist Church, 12321 Hickman Road in Urbandale on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m.

These are all children who have been displaced from their homes due to AIDS or conflict. For more information about the group, go to www.africanchildrenschoir.com.

For details about this concert, contact Walnut Hills United Methodist Church at www.whumc.org or 515-270-9226.

There is no admission fee for this event. A free-will offering will be taken for the choir.



Nominate Your Hero of the Heartland

Do you know a person who has performed an extraordinary act of courage to save someone's life? Or maybe you know someone who has dedicated countless hours to a special cause?

The Red Cross wants to honor and celebrate heroic deeds at a *Heroes of the Heartland* breakfast, March 8, 2007.

CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- Fire & Rescue
- Law Enforcement
- Health Care Worker
- 911 Dispatcher
- Adult Good Samaritan (18 years – 62)
- Senior Good Samaritan (63 & older)
- Youth Good Samaritan (Under 18 years)
- Community Impact (Person involved in project or on-going effort that directly impacts the community)
- Military

For a nomination form, visit: www.desmoines-redcross.org or call 515-246-6307. Nominations must be received by Nov. 15, 2006.

Special thanks to HyVee Food Stores, this year's Presenting Sponsor.

C.R.O.S.S. Ministries: Homelessness

The two fundamental reasons for homelessness are 1) the inability to pay rent, and 2) the inability to pay utilities. With the cold weather just around the corner, I have witnessed an increased number of households desperate to maintain utility service or have their services restored. Many of these households have not had service since last spring.

One such household belongs to an older, single woman living in a trailer home. Her social security benefits were not sufficient to get her through a series of financial crises. The result: a loss of her utility service and the potential for eviction.

Since she was two months behind on her lot rent, she held a garage sale. By selling various items including a piece of furniture and a family clock, she was able to pay for the months of August and September; but she still needed utility service. She explained that a kind neighbor had run an extension cord from her own home into the older woman's home to keep her refrigerator running. CROSS Ministries was able to help with the funds needed to have her utilities restored.

This woman's situation is not unique. The same day I

saw her, two other older women came in, both had never asked for help before. One woman had lived in her home for 30 years, and the other 40 years. Each woman's comment was similar, stating that she never imagined being in a situation where she was forced to ask for money to keep from being homeless.

More and more often, families are faced with a juggling act in which they must decide whether to pay rent or utilities. Additionally, they must make decisions about spending limited resources on food, car gas, prescription medicine, clothing or other basic necessities. These situations are symptoms of the root cause of homelessness: poverty. By acknowledging poverty as a root cause, comes a responsibility to create change. For many of the poor, the majority who are women and children, there is a lack of opportunity to improve their circumstances. By only stressing development and prosperity, the children and families who are denied resources to develop or prosper continue to live in generational poverty.

God instructed the Israelites: "Don't charge interest when you lend money to any of my people

who are in need. Before sunset you must return any coat taken as security for a loan, because that is the only cover the poor have when they sleep at night. I am a merciful God, and when they call out to me, I will come to help them. Don't speak evil of me or of the ruler of your people" (Exodus 22:25-28).

Like a poor person's coat in the scripture, a family's heating utilities are key to protecting them from the consequences of the cold. A home without heat can lead to illness, and sometimes death. Children who live in homes without heat can become sick and miss school. Sick parents miss work, and lose the paychecks that support the family.

God's concern for the poor and His message of social responsibility resound throughout the Bible. The message is still timely today as individuals and families continue to live in poverty. CROSS Ministries serves as your hands to help the poor. As the cold weather approaches, *donate generously*. The funds that you give go to households in crisis whether they are single individuals such as the women mentioned previously, or households with children.

— Roberta Victor,
Director of CROSS Ministries

Talking to Kids about Fear and Violence

The Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Associate for National Health Ministries, Patricia K. Gleich, EdS, sends regular updates via e-mail to anyone who signs up on the listserv. If you are interested in receiving this information visit their website at www.pcusa.org/health/usa or contact them at 888-728-7228.

"We learned yesterday that the families in the Amish Community that lost 5 children last week razed the schoolhouse so that it would not be a reminder of the tragedy that struck there. I believe that we have many children and parents, far from the sight of that school house, who have not erased the

memories and who feel increasingly vulnerable as violence in our society touches so many. Perhaps within our congregations we can provide places where these fears can be expressed and calmed. Suggestions can be found at www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/resources/truma-stress/page6.htm.



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Suggestions for Parents and Churches Addressing Children's Feelings:

- **Encourage children to talk** about their concerns and to express their feelings. Some children may be hesitant to initiate such conversation, so you may want to prompt them by asking if they feel safe at school, in their neighborhood, or in public places. When talking with younger children remember to talk on their level. For example, they may not understand the term "violence" but can talk to you about being afraid or a classmate who is mean to them. Encourage them to express their feelings through talking, drawing or playing.
- **Validate the child's feelings.** Do not minimize a child's concerns. Let him/her know that serious acts of violence are not common, which is why incidents such as these shootings and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks attract so much media attention.
- **Talk honestly about your own feelings regarding violence.** It is important for children to recognize they are not dealing with their fears alone. Don't be afraid to say "I don't know." Part of keeping discussion open is not being afraid to say you don't know how to answer a child's question. When such an occasion arises, explain to your child that these acts of violence are rare, and they cause feelings that even adults have trouble dealing with. Temper this by explaining that, even so, adults will always work very hard to keep children safe and secure.
- **Discuss the safety procedures** that are in place at your child's school, in your neighborhood, and in other public places. Arrange a presentation by McGruff the Crime Dog, a member of the local police force, or a neighborhood watch captain.
- **Create safety plans with your child.** Help identify which adults (a friendly secretary, trusted neighbor or security guard) your child can talk to if they should feel threatened. Also ensure that your child knows how to reach you (or another family member or friend) in case of crisis. Remind your child that they can talk to you anytime they feel threatened.
- **Recognize behavior that may indicate your child is concerned about their safety.** Younger children may react to violence by not wanting to attend school or go out in public. Behavior such as bed-wetting, thumb sucking, baby talk, or a fear of sleeping alone may intensify in some younger children, or reappear in children who had previously outgrown them. Teens and adolescents may minimize their concerns outwardly, but may become argumentative, withdrawn, or allow their school performance to decline.
- **Empower children to take action regarding their safety.** Encourage them to report specific incidents (such as bullying, threats or talk of suicide) and to develop problem solving and conflict resolution skills. Encourage older children to actively participate in student-run anti-violence programs.
- **Keep the dialogue going** and make safety a common topic in family discussions rather than just a response to an immediate crisis. Open dialogue will encourage children to share their concerns.
- **Seek help when necessary.** If you are worried about a child's reaction or have ongoing concerns about his/her behavior or emotions, contact your pediatrician or a mental health professional at school or at your community mental health center. Your local Mental Health Association or the National Mental Health Association's Information Center can direct you to resources in your community.

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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.

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Talking to Kids continued from page 15

The previous box of information was taken from a National Mental Health Association article, *Talking to Kids about Fear and Violence: NMHA Offers Suggestions on Addressing Feelings of Anxiety and Fear Brought on by Violent Acts in Our Schools and Communities.*

It was shared with us by one of our list-serve members and should be very helpful as you broach this topic with parents and children.

Recent acts of violence in Colorado, Pennsylvania

and Wisconsin schools have stunned the nation. Children, in particular, may experience anxiety, fear, and a sense of personal risk. They may also sense anxiety and tension in those around them— friends, family members, loved ones, caregivers and other adults who have a direct impact on the well-being of children.

In the days and weeks to come, knowing how to talk with your child about violence will play an important role in easing fear and anxieties about

their personal safety in these tenuous times as well as helping them to manage rising concerns.”

To help guide parents through discussions about fear and violence, the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) offers the following suggestions:

For more information, contact your local Mental Health Association (www.nmha.org/affiliates/directory/index.cfm) or the National Mental Health Association at 800-969-NMHA, or www.nmha.org.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org