



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **April 24** – Fiesta Fundraiser sponsored by **Compañeros**, 6-10:30 p.m. at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Waukee. Tickets are \$20 per person.
- **April 25** – ***CANCELLED*** Personnel Committee Training, 9 a.m. to Noon, First Presbyterian Church, Creston
- **April 25** – PW Spring Gathering, registration begins at 8:45 a.m. and the day ends at 3:30 p.m. at **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**. **Note:** People are not to come early for touring or meeting of CROSS ministries or Sudanese people. Touring will take place during the Noon break.
- **April 30** – The **Southwest Regional Partnership** monthly meeting. They'll be working on Bedford's new building starting at 5 p.m. with supper served at 6:30 p.m. The **United Christian-Presbyterian Church** invites all to come early to work and eat. The SWRP meeting will begin after supper.
- **April 26-28** – The **Synod of Lakes and Prairies Spring Meeting** at Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn.
- **May 1-3** – *Phresh Workers for Christ*, Youth mission work weekend at Jericho Hills Camp, Lucas, Ia.
- **May 2** – Personnel Committee Training, 9 a.m. to Noon, **Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Indianola**

Order your 2009-2010 Planning Calendars Now!

It's time once again to order PC(USA)'s *2009-2010 Planning Calendars*. Contact **Presbytery Office Manager Betty Dyer** at 515-276-4991 or pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org. **Deadline to participate in this bulk order is May 1, 2009.** They will be available to pick up at the May 19 Presbytery Stated Meeting at the **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. The *Des Moines Presbytery Directory* will also be available for pickup.

Global Hunger's May Fast is for Haiti

Some of you have begun asking about the May fast materials. The materials topic this month is Haiti. With the Food Crisis Study Trip to Haiti in March, fast participants have included stories and reflections from their time there. Look for fast materials online at: www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/archive/may/ by April 24 or 27. Questions? Contact Ruth Farrell, coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program at 888-728-7228, ext. 5816, or ruth.farrell@pcusa.org. Find out what others are thinking, saying, and doing around the fast and the food crisis on the Facebook group "[Presbyterians Respond to Global Food Crisis.](#)" And share your own reflections.

Congregational Connection

For the second year, the Presbyterian congregations of **Allerton**, **Centerville**, and **Leon** joined together for a Maundy Thursday potluck meal and communion worship service. **Allerton United Presbyterian Church**, the central location, again hosted the event. **The Rev. Suzanne Gorhau** of **Centerville First Presbyterian Church** shared the message, *Do This in Remembrance of Me*. The evening closed with the tolling of the bells and stripping of the sanctuary.

April 21, 2009

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



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8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- Order Planning Calendars
- Global Hunger Fast in May
- Congregation Connection
- 2009 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Summary
- Apply now for the Student Opportunity Scholarship
- Prepare with SafeChurch.com Tips from GuideOne

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2009 Ecumenical Advocacy Days – Enough for All Creation

More than 700 advocates gathered in Washington, D.C., March 13-16, to lift their voices in an effort to protect the vulnerable and to care for God's earth. Out of those, more than 100 were Presbyterians. Two of our own, **Social Ministries Task Force Moderator Nancy Lister-Settle** and **Mary McKenzie (Indianola, Trinity United)** spent time participating in the Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference (www.advocacydays.org). Here is Nancy's summary:

"After three days of learning and discussion, we visited the Washington offices of Senators Harkin and Grassley, and Congressman Latham with this message:

God created the earth and declared it "good." As people of faith—called to protect the vulnerable and to the care and keeping of God's earth—we are gravely concerned that the impacts of climate change have and will dramatically and negatively alter God's gracious gift of creation. Because the effects of climate change are already impacting those least able to cope with them, addressing global climate change is also a justice issue.



"We asked our representatives to support climate change legislation that would reduce climate change emissions; support vulnerable communities around the world struggling to adapt their lives and livelihoods to shifts in weather and environment; provide adaptation assistance to communities here in the United States who are the affected first and hardest (low-income, coastal, and communities of color); and assist and welcome climate migrants forcibly displaced by natural disasters.

"We returned with lots of resources for congregations, study groups, women's groups and youth from Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, Church World Service, National Council of Churches, and Oxfam, to name a few. We would love to help you use them!"

Apply now for the Student Opportunity Scholarship

College juniors and seniors have a chance to receive up to \$3,000 towards your studies. Go to www.pcusa.org/financialaid/programs/studentopportunities.htm and apply now! You may be eligible if you are seeking a bachelor degree with emphasis on the missions of PC(USA) in the following disciplines: Education, Health Service/Science, Religious Studies, Sacred Music or Social Service/Science. Applicants must be a member of the PC(USA), be enrolled full time at an accredited college or university in the United States and have a GPA of 2.5 or greater. Students must also demonstrate financial need. In order to promote diversity, preference is extended to racial ethnic students.

Prepare with SafeChurch.com Tips from GuideOne

Utilize Proper Floor Mats to Reduce Slips and Falls in Your Church – Nearly 70% to 80% of all contaminants that enter a church come from foot traffic. Placing floor mats at the entrances into your church will effectively reduce the movement of contaminants, such as grease, dirt and water from spreading to other areas of the facility. Eliminating the spread of contaminants will cut down on cleaning costs and reduce the chances of an accidental slip or fall. However, a floor mat can become a slip and fall hazard if the correct type is not selected, installed and properly maintained. To obtain information about ways to prevent slips and falls, go to: www.safechurch.com/FacilitySafety/Pages/default.aspx?cat=Facility+Safety. Look under *Slips and Falls* in the *Resources* category.

Handling Suspicious Persons on Church Property – Churches are frequently faced with unfamiliar people who show up unannounced on church property for a variety of reasons, such as requesting financial assistance or prayer, looking for a particular person, or as a precursor to criminal activity, such as theft or fraud. Thankfully, the majority of such situations are non-violent. Responding to such persons can be a challenge for a church, as it seeks to be a welcoming and inviting place ministering to the needy, while also striving to maintain a safe and secure environment. For guidelines on how to respond to non-violent suspicious persons and safeguards your church can take, go to: www.safechurch.com/safeministry/Pages/default.aspx?cat=Starting+a+Safety+Ministry. For other considerations in dealing with violent persons at church, view the Church Violence Fact Sheet at www.safechurch.com/Resources/sc/EmergencyPreparedness/violence.pdf.

To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org or call 515-276-4991.

Learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org.
