



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Aug. 1-3** – .P.L.A.T (Seek, Play, Learn, Act, Teach) Camp (Ages 6-9) held at Wesley Woods Camp in Indianola. Sponsored by the Des Moines Presbytery. Splash in the pool, participate in Bible studies, make ice cream, go on a horse ride, and experience worship. This is an excellent half-week camp for first-time campers. More dates: August 8-10. Cost is \$187.
- **Aug. 3** – Congregational Care & Development meeting, 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Aug. 3** – Compañeros meeting, 6:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church
- **Aug. 5** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m., Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Aug. 6** – *Hiroshima Day*
- **Aug 7** – Social Ministries Task Force meeting, 10 a.m.–Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Aug. 8-10** – S.P.L.A.T (Seek, Play, Learn, Act, Teach) Camp (Ages 6-9) held at Wesley Woods Camp in Indianola. Sponsored by the Des Moines Presbytery. Splash in the pool, participate in Bible studies, make ice cream, go on a horse ride, and experience worship. This is an excellent half-week camp for first-time campers. Cost is \$187.
- **Aug. 8** – *Homelessness/Affordable Housing Sunday*
- **Aug. 9** – Budget & Finance Committee, Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Aug. 14-15** – Scholar in Residence Weekend, First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant. [Dr. Walter Brueggemann](#), respected Biblical scholar and popular author, will be the featured lecturer on Saturday and the worship leader on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Joys and Concerns

Homestead Presbytery recently commissioned the **Rev. Karen Moritz**, who has been serving the ecumenical campus ministry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to serve as the PC(USA)'s ecumenical relations facilitator with the Ecumenical Church of the Czech Brethren in Prague, Czech Republic. She left for training in June. Karen was a former member of the Des Moines Presbytery.

Synod School Highlights are now on the Web

[Synod School 2010](#) "Grace Notes" is over, but there are a [few blog entries](#) from the Presbytery's Director of Communications **Kim Coulter** on her experiences July 25-30 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa.

THANK YOU! The Des Moines Presbytery staff would like to thank those who helped with the cost of tuition and accommodations to this annual educational and worship retreat of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. It was truly a joy to be at Synod School together!

New Book Study to Begin on Bishop Spong's Book

A new book study will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 3 prior to the Tuesday Lectionary Study group which meets at the Presbytery Office, 2400 86th St., Ste. #20, in Urbandale. The book is titled, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die: A Bishop Speaks to Believers In Exile*, by Bishop John Shelby Spong. The book can be purchase on [Amazon.com](#) for as little as a penny. The **honorably retired Rev. Gus Nelson**, wants to encourage all pastors and lay leaders to attend. Questions? Call Gus at 515-255-9592.

CROSS Ministries 18th Annual Back-to-School Giveaway is August 5 & 6

Last year, 1,200 children from low and no-income families were assisted with the supplies they needed to begin school. CROSS Ministries needs money to buy these supplies at a discount: New backpacks, wireless spirals, markers, glue sticks, Kleenex, notebook paper, 3-ring binders, crayons, colored pencils, white glue. Monetary donations can still be made through the Presbytery Office. For details, call the **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church** office at 515-279-8877.

Come to a Salad Luncheon at the Park Avenue Presbyterian Church!

Everyone is invited to attend the annual **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church** Women's Association Salad Luncheon on Wednesday, August 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The lunch includes hot chicken salad, taco salad, fresh fruit salads and 25 other salads! Cost is \$7 per person. The church is located at 3120 S.W. 9th St., Des Moines, Ia.

August 3, 2010

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

2400 86th Street, Suite 20
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306
515-276-4991

officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org

Office Hours are:

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

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- Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji Plans Summer Sing
- Social Media and Ministry, Fall 2010 at McCormick Theological Seminary
- BOP 2010 Salary Study is now Available
- *Presbyterians Today* wants Unsung Servants Stories by September 1!



Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji Plans Summer Sing

If you love to sing or help plan music for worship, this is the camp for you! This camp offers an experience for all who enjoy music and worship! The first annual SUMMER SING for Adults is August 27-29. It begins Friday at 4-6 p.m. with registration and ends Sunday at Noon. Check out the brochure at www.presbycamp.org for information on activities and workshops! Or call the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji Program Director Heather Stanek at: 712-337-3313 or 712-320-3314 (mobile), 1864 Hwy. 86, Milford, IA 51351, FAX: 712-337-0104, e-mail: info@presbycamp.org.

Our guest director is Armona Redenius. She directs for 140 vocalists that make up Sunshine Singers based in Fort Dodge. The mission statement for this choir is simple: "We are dedicated to providing, through contemporary sacred anthems, a "music ministry" revealing the power of God's love and grace so freely given to us all." Armona has been the director of the Trinity United Methodist choir Trinity Singers and the Fort Dodge Civic Glee Club. The Sunshine Singers have performed at the Iowa State Fair, the Gospel Fest at the Grotto in West Bend and each summer they provide a music ministry for about 1,500 people at the Oleson Park Bandshell in Fort Dodge.

Social Media and Ministry, Fall 2010 at McCormick Theological Seminary

Former moderator of the 218th General Assembly the Rev. Bruce Reyes Chow will be teaching a two-day class on Social Media and Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, October 15-16, 2010. As many of you know, the integration of Social Media and Ministry has been a passion of Bruce's for a while. Class objectives are to:

- Achieve a basic understanding of the technical and cultural foundations of social media;
- Learn basic skills on such social media platforms as: Twitter, Facebook, Blogger and others;
- Be able to articulate theological underpinnings in order to faithfully integrate social media into particular ministry contexts;
- Build a community of support and resources in and amongst the participants to last beyond the formal class time;

The class will begin Friday morning, Oct. 15 and end late afternoon on Saturday, Oct. 16. For more information, [contact Jeff Japinga](mailto:jjapinga@mccormick.edu) at: jjapinga@mccormick.edu. Church group rates and students bargains are available!

[Here is the proposed Class structure. Note to Tech Beadles](#) — Bruce needs 1-2 (or more depending on the class) to operate as Class assistants during the class. Your role would be to just help folks out as he leads them through the social media tools. This would be "work for food" as a volunteer. If you are in the Chicago area and might be interested, please let Bruce know. Again, there are more details that will come from McCormick soon, but just wanted to let people know. We hope to have a mix of seminary students, pastors and anyone else that is interested take part in this experience so if it works out, hope to see you in October.

BOP 2010 Salary Study is now Available

The Board annually tabulates the median and average effective salary information reported to it for minister members of the Benefits Plan who are serving U.S. congregations. The median salary is generally considered more representative than the average salary because it is less influenced by very high or very low salaries. The median is used to establish dues billing minimums and maximums and for certain benefit determinations.

The [median salaries and the dues minimums and maximums for 2011](#) and the [Salaries in the Parish Ministry 2010 Salary Study](#) with historical salary averages by Synod are now available on www.Pensions.org.

Presbyterians Today wants Unsung Servants Stories by September 1!

Every church has them — dedicated members or staff who don't seek praise or recognition, but whose work is essential to the life of the congregation. For example:

- The secretary who knows everyone's phone number and can print bulletins for Sunday worship while designing the monthly newsletter
- The custodian who makes sure the sanctuary carpets are vacuumed and the tables are set up for the Wednesday potluck dinner
- The church school teacher who has read Bible stories to three generations of children and remembers all their names
- The organist who practices for hours to play each Sunday's musical selections without missing a note
- The member with a green thumb, who grows and arranges the flowers for worship

Tell us about one of the UNSUNG SERVANTS in your congregation. Please send a description of 150 words or less, and we will publish as many essays as space allows. We need to hear from you by **September 1. Be sure to include:**

- The full name of your unsung servant and his/her role in the church
- How this person's faithful service has made a difference
- The name and address (city and state) of your congregation
- Your name, telephone number and email address
- If you have good photos of your unsung servant, please include them too! High-resolution (1.0 MB or larger) digital photos preferred!

E-mail your contributions, today@pcusa.org, or mail them to Unsung Servants, Presbyterians Today, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396.

To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org. Learn more at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org. Questions? Contact officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org or 515-276-4991.
