



## The Wider Circle E-News

### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Aug. 4** – Congregational Care and Development Committee meeting, 2 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Aug. 4** – Committee on Preparation of Ministry Special Committee on Alternative Exams, 4:30 p.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Aug. 4** – Compañeros Meeting, 6:30 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church**
- **Aug. 6** – El Salvador Mission Co-Worker **Kathy Mahler** to speak at a **Two Rivers Regional Partnership** meeting. Dinner is a 6 p.m. and 6:30 is the presentation, at **Knox United Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**. To RSVP for the dinner, contact **Sara Mapes**, [sm\\_lpn@hotmail.com](mailto:sm_lpn@hotmail.com) or 515-491-1920 or **Rev. Marcy Campbell**, [revmac@mchsi.com](mailto:revmac@mchsi.com) or 515-266-4700.
- **Aug. 6** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m. at **Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Aug. 6-7** – *17<sup>th</sup> Annual CROSS Ministries Back-to-School Giveaway* for the children of low and no income household. To volunteer or drop off donations, call **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church** Administrative Assistant **Ann McGowen** or CROSS Ministries Executive Director **Roberta Victor** in the CROSS Ministries office, 515-279-8877 or [info@crossministries.org](mailto:info@crossministries.org).

### Joys and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the family of the **Rev. Al Sturdevant**, who died last week of July. He was pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Des Moines from August 1979 to September 1987. Condolences can be sent to Al's wife, Sue Sturdevant, 53 Nolina Ln., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403, [barney1516@frontiernet.net](mailto:barney1516@frontiernet.net).

### Park Avenue Invites all to Ice Cream Social

**Des Moines Park Avenue Presbyterian Church** invites everyone to attend their Ice Cream Social, Sunday, August 9 at 4 p.m., to hear PC(USA) missionary and Des Moines Presbytery mission co-worker **Denise England** share her story of life and service in Egypt. A free-will offering will be received to help support Denise in her work.

### Employment Opportunities

**Executive Director, Catholic Peace Ministry, Des Moines, Ia.** – An Executive Director is wanted for a part time position with Catholic Peace Ministry, a nonprofit peace group. Technical skills, (i.e. web page creation and standard computer software knowledge) are a plus. Communication skills and fundraising will be a part of the job as well. But most of all a passion for peace advocacy is desired. Contact Bill LeMosy for more info or to apply for the job. The official job announcement is posted on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYofyzpT0G8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYofyzpT0G8).

### Free Hymnals and Sign available from Prospect Hill Presbytery Churches

Do you no of any one who would be interested in 75-100 of the old burgundy Presbyterian hymnals? We found them when we were spring cleaning the church, and it would be a shame if we couldn't find them a new HOME! If interested in these Presbyterian hymnals, contact Kathy Corey, Clerk/Treasurer at First Presbyterian Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Oak Sts., Lytton, IA 50561, 712-466-2221.

Lakeside Presbyterian Church would like to donate a lit sign (w/interchangeable letters) to an interested party. The measurements of the sign are 47w x 36h. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Kay Lenhart, Presbytery Communications, 712-732-2097, [thehill@prospecthillpresby.org](mailto:thehill@prospecthillpresby.org), Presbytery of Prospect Hill, P.O. Box 1405, 110 East Third St., Storm Lake, IA 50588, [www.prospecthillpresby.org](http://www.prospecthillpresby.org).

### Collegiate Ministries Conference in Planning Stages

A planning group, working on the second annual Collegiate Ministries Conference in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, has set Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 9-11, 2009, as the dates for this year's event. A location, however, has not been firmly established. Just as last year, the conference is targeted at campus ministry staff and chaplains of Presbyterian-related colleges and universities. Heather Libich, director of child, youth and young adult ministries at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls, Ia., along with Elona Street-Stewart, synod associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment, and Duane Sweep, synod associate for communications, have begun the planning work for the conference. If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, contact Duane Sweep at 800-328-1880 \*206, or [dsweep@lakesandprairies.org](mailto:dsweep@lakesandprairies.org).

August 4, 2009

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



#### We are located at:

2400 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 20  
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306  
515-276-4991

[officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org)

#### Office Hours are:

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

#### Highlights on Next Page:

- Peacemakers Team Up With World Mission Challenge
- Mark Your Calendars and Attend Communicator's Event, Sept. 2-4
- Eco-Stewards Midwest for Young Adults: August 9-16, 2009
- Why are you Presbyterian?

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## Peacemakers Team Up With World Mission Challenge

This year's World Mission Challenge will focus on partnership and it will put that idea into action in a new way. During World Mission Challenge, which runs Sept. 25-Oct. 18, mission co-workers visit presbyteries throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

This year some mission co-workers will be accompanied by International Peacemakers

from the same country. International Peacemakers are people engaged in peacemaking in their own areas of the world. They are invited to by the denomination to visit with Presbyterians in the United States to help explain peace and justice concerns of others around the world. Every presbytery within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies is a confirmed participant in World Mission Challenge. The complete story is at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09573.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09573.htm).



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## Mark Your Calendars and Attend Communicator's Event, Sept. 2-4

Congregational communicators (i.e., pastors, administrative assistants, church volunteers) and anyone else who might want to attend, are invited to the second Synod-wide Communicators Conference, Wednesday through Friday, Sept. 2-4, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Eagan, Minn. The conference will include informative sessions on Writing for the Web, and Doing More (or at least as much) with Less. Attendees are asked, if possible, to bring their own laptops.

Sarah Moore-Nokes, associate executive presbyter in Winnebago Presbytery, will lead the conference's first session Wednesday evening on Google Tools. Attendees are asked, if possible, to bring their own laptop computer. Shane Whisler, communications director in the Synod of the Sun, will provide details about working with *Presbyterian Neighbor News* on Thursday morning, and Bethany Furkin will also address the conference about the Presbyterian News Service during that time. There is also a possibility that the executive director for the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 2010 General Assembly will be on hand before Thursday's lunch.

Registration is \$100 and includes all sessions, accommodations, opening dinner, two breakfasts and a lunch. Commuter's registration is only \$50. To register, send an e-mail to Synod of Lakes and Prairies Associate for Communications **Duane Sweep** at [dsweep@lakesandprairies.org](mailto:dsweep@lakesandprairies.org). Include name, position, and contact information. The registration fee can be mailed to Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, 2115 Cliff Dr., Eagan, MN 55122.

The Communicators Conference brochure is available at: [www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFfiles/COMM-BROCHURE-09.pdf](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFfiles/COMM-BROCHURE-09.pdf).

This is your personal invitation to attend this event with me! I'll be going and am willing to car-pool in my 7-passenger van in order to take as many of you as is possible. If you are interested, let me know and we'll coordinate our road trip to the Minneapolis area.

– Kim Coulter

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## Eco-Stewards Midwest for Young Adults: August 9-16, 2009

An invitation has been extended to young adults age 18-24 to become trained as Eco-Stewards at an amazing event in the Midwest. Training begins at Stronghold Retreat Center in Oregon, Ill. and concludes at the Lake View Presbyterian Church in Chicago, Ill. To register, go to [www.presbyterianconservationcorps.org](http://www.presbyterianconservationcorps.org). Come explore the woodlands, meadows, and prairie of Illinois at Stronghold Retreat Center as we build a community of Eco-Stewards and examine eco-theology, environmental and social justice, systemic change, spirituality, lifestyle simplification, local watershed issues and consumption. Together we will complete a high ropes course, walk a labyrinth, and tour a cooperative organic farm, attend hands-on workshops and film discussions. We will travel to the Lake View neighborhood of Chicago, Ill., where we will design and implement an eco-project that responds to environmental justice issues facing an urban community. The group will collaborate with the Eco-Justice Task Force of Lake View Presbyterian Church and meet with local green community activists and leaders. As well as tour the Chicago Center for Green Technology, the Lake View Action Coalition, and the Eco-Justice Collaborative.

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## Why are you Presbyterian? Part I

*From PC(USA)'s 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Moderator the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow's blog, posted Aug. 1, 2009.*

In a few days, my monthly "Letter to the church" will be coming out. This month I chose to ask the question, "Why are we Presbyterian?" I raise this questions because I think that one of the things that we are struggling with as we continue to wrangle together to seek some collective understanding of our Christian faith within the context of being Presbyterian is how we go about this journey together. In other words... does being Presbyterian help us to discern and reaffirm who we are as a PC(USA) flavored body of Christ or is our Presbyterian-ness simply a by-product of our Christian faith. Sure, sort of a chicken/egg debate, but one worth engaging in.

First stop... *Why are you Presbyterian?*

My hope is to build up some collective discussions in order see if anything begins to bubble up. Here is the invitation to be a part of the journey: either add your voice to or respond to others in various social locations:

1. **TWITTER:** Add your response to the twitter feed. Simply twitter your reason/s why you are Presbyterian and be sure to include "#whypcusa" so it will get picked up by twitter searches. [[HERE](#)]
2. **FACEBOOK:** Add your response to a recent Facebook Status update. [[HERE](#)]
3. **BLOG:** If you are more adventurous, please feel free to blog about why you are Presbyterian and send me the link via [my twitter feed](#) or eMail me at [breyeschow@gmail.com](mailto:breyeschow@gmail.com) and I'll include it here.

I am not having any comments on this post, but will open it up on Part 2. I really hope that folks will engage in some conversations on other venues as listed above.

– Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

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

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