



## The Wider Circle E-News

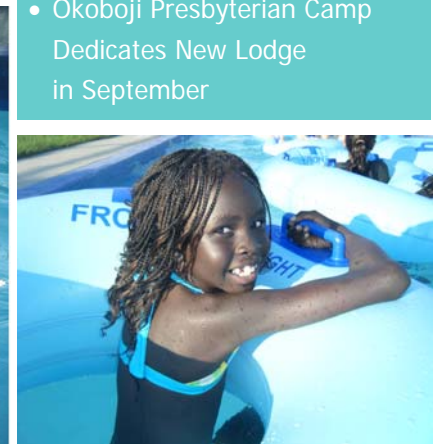
### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Aug. 11** – Lectionary Study, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office, Urbandale.
- **Aug. 11** – Staff Meeting, 1 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **Aug. 12** – Synod Task Force Meeting 8 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Aug. 15** – **Presbytery Stated Meeting**, First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, and co-hosted by the Malcom First United Presbyterian Church. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting to start at 9:30 a.m.
- **Aug. 20** – Lunch & Learn Series, *Social Networking Online with Youth*, Noon-1 p.m., Presbytery Office. Bring a brown bag lunch – beverages are provided. (If you'd like to join us by teleconference and/or Web-conference, contact Kim ASAP at: [pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org).)

### Joys and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the family of the honorably retired **Rev. Erasmo Vélez**, who's son, Arnaldo Vélez, 48, of Miami died Tuesday, August 4. He was riding his bicycle in Wellington, Fla., and was hit by a car around 9:30 p.m. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, daughter Amy, father and mother Erasmo and Cidalisa Vélez, brother Axel and sister Mildred. The interment was Monday, Aug. 10, 2009, at the South Florida VA National Cemetery in Lake Worth, Fl. Condolences can be sent to Erasmo and Cidalisa Vélez, 719 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Perry, IA 50220, [eavelez1236@aol.com](mailto:eavelez1236@aol.com).

Last week, 74 people from the Two Rivers Regional Partnership went swimming together at Valley View Aquatic Center in West Des Moines. Churches participating were: **Cottage Grove**, 23; **Clifton Heights**, 17; **Park Avenue**, 21; and **Union Park**, 13. A big thank-you goes to Organizer **Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson!**



### Attend a Contemporary Christian Music Concert in Humeston

A concert featuring *The Sondogs*, will be held 7 p.m., Sunday, August 16, at the Christian United Methodist Church, Hwy. 65, on the south edge of Humeston. This is part of the United Trinity Parish of which the LeRoy First Presbyterian Church belongs. A freewill offering will be taken and hospitality will be provided by Perk Teen Center Advisory Board.

### Employment Opportunities

**Choir Director, Christ Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Ia.** – Choir Director is needed for Sunday rehearsals at 9 a.m. and worship at 10 a.m. Once a month committee meetings are on the 2nd Thursday at 6 p.m. Send resume to Christ Lutheran Church, 6411 S.E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines 50315 or contact Jane White at 515-256-6437.

**Full Time Secretary, St. Augustin Catholic Church, Des Moines, Ia.** – Secretary is needed for general office, correspondence, publication and data base management and receptionist duties. Medical insurance and retirement benefits are included. Submit cover letter, resume and salary requirements to "Secretary Search," St. Augustin Church, 545 42<sup>nd</sup> St., Des Moines, IA 50312. No calls please.

**Feasibility Study Coordinator, Des Moines Catholic Diocese, Ia.** – Searching for someone who can conduct interviews and focus groups with community and school leaders, parents and students, and business leaders. Also coordinate meetings and activities of advisory committee that will assist with the project. Responsible for drafting a final report and business plan assessing the need and viability of a future school. Strong skills in writing, research and community relations are essential, and experience in education is helpful. The study begins September 2009 and will last 9 months to one year. Salary is negotiable. Contact Jason Kurth at [jkurth@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jkurth@dmdiocese.org) or call 515-237-5061.

August 11, 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:

- August Presbytery Meeting to Highlight Madagascar Mission
- Oakville Volunteer Opportunities for the Fall
- Schools, Faith-Based and Community Organizations Prepare for Pandemic
- Okoboji Presbyterian Camp Dedicates New Lodge in September

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## August Presbytery Meeting to Highlight Madagascar Mission

Madagascar is an island nation off the east coast of Africa with one of the lowest per capita income in the world. HIV-AIDS, malaria, and clean water are also big problems in this country which is about 60% Christian. Since March and April 2009, there has been a political coup d'état in which the elected president has been deposed and the military has supported Andry Rajoelina. The Constitution, the parliament and the courts were suspended. As of right now, August 8, 2009, he and the toppled president, Marc Ravalomanana, are meeting together for discussions. Please pray for a resolution of this crisis and for restoration of human rights.

The PC(USA) partner church is the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar. Working with the church in environmental and health projects are Dan and Elizabeth Turk. Dan is working with farmers to establish fruit orchards for nutrition as well as income. They work in HIV-AIDS education, malaria and have helped establish about 30 village wells. Read their latest blog at: [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/madagascar.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/madagascar.htm), in which they say they are safe and ask for prayers that the church find ways to sustain its vital ministries with creativity and optimism in the middle of this current turmoil.

At the August 15 Presbytery meeting we will welcome Edmund Razafimanantsoa, ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, to lead us in further study of the situation in Madagascar. He has been studying at Fuller Theological Seminary and will return to Madagascar upon completion of his studies.

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## Oakville Volunteer Opportunities for the Fall

The Oakville Volunteer Foundation has designated Phase II of their recovery operation and are looking for assistance from churches in the Presbytery of East Iowa (PEIA) in the following areas: 1) Please continue to pray for the efforts in Oakville; and 2) teams of highly skilled workers (drywallers, plumbers, electricians, framers, etc.) are needed who can commit for one week in either September or November. Contact Sarah Dyck, PEIA Disaster Recovery Coordinator, for more information, 319-321-4165 or [sdycck@peia.org](mailto:sdycck@peia.org).

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## Schools, Faith-Based and Community Organizations Prepare for Pandemic

The purpose of "Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools" is to provide basic information and communication resources to help school administrators implement recommendations from CDC's Guidance for State and Local Public Health Officials and School Administrators for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza during the 2009-2010 School Year ([www.flu.gov/plan/school/schoolflutoolkit.pdf](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/schoolflutoolkit.pdf)).

The Faith-Based & Community Organizations Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Checklist (PDF - 68.91 KB) is now available online [[En Español \(PDF\)](#) (268KB)], ([www.flu.gov/plan/pdf/faithbasedcommunitychecklist.pdf](http://www.flu.gov/plan/pdf/faithbasedcommunitychecklist.pdf)). The collaboration of Faith-Based and Community Organizations with public health agencies will be essential in protecting the public's health and safety if and when an influenza pandemic occurs. This checklist provides guidance for religious organizations (churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, etc.), social service agencies that are faith-based, and community organizations in developing and improving influenza pandemic response and preparedness plans. Many of the points suggested here can improve your organization's ability to protect your community during emergencies in general. You can find more information at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov).

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## Okoboji Presbyterian Camp Dedicates New Lodge in September

Come celebrate and dedicate the new addition to God's use. The "Lakeview Lodge" Dedication will be Saturday, Sept. 19. RSVP by Sept. 10 for meals and overnight lodging. Lodging (standard bunk room) \$15 per person (first-come, first-serve). 1864 Highway 86; Milford, IA 51351, 712-337-3313. Weekend schedule includes:

### Saturday, Sept. 19

9:30 – 1:30 – Camp Activities: swim/canoe/kayak, archery, challenge course, field games, memory recording  
11:00 a.m. - Lunch at the Recreation Hall  
2:00 p.m. - Ribbon Cutting  
2:30 p.m. - Dedication Celebration followed by Tours of Building  
5:00 p.m. - BBQ on the Patio  
6:30 p.m. - Camp Group Entertainment - Lakeview Lodge  
7:00 p.m. - Christian Rock Group (Willet)

### Sunday, Sept. 20

8:00 a.m. - Continental Breakfast - Lakeview Lodge  
10:00 a.m. - Worship at Lakeview Lodge

There's still plenty to do! Volunteers are needed for projects still incomplete: painting; clean up; donated talents from building trades, licensed plumbers, carpenters, electricians, and Carpet installers; plants to re-vegetate and landscape the construction areas; and finally donations for the kitchen shower, place settings \$15 each (Need 180), salad bar \$3,000, Food Carts \$175 (need 2) miscellaneous: Large serving bowls, pitchers, towels, etc. (Many people have come and planted their roots in the soul of the camp over the years, growing in spiritual maturity. Likewise, people who contribute landscaping resources, prepare the soil, plant and tend the new "fledglings" will share natural beauty with many campers and conferees who come in future years.) As soon as the site work is completed, volunteers will be needed in late August and September to rake and "sow seeds" to yield years of beauty and hospitality. There's plenty yet to do that need extra hands and energy. Call the camp now to offer what you can do, 712-337-3313 or [don.reed@presbycamp.org](mailto:don.reed@presbycamp.org).

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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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