



## The Wider Circle E-News

### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Sept. 1** – CCD Meeting, 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Sept. 1** – PCD Meeting, 4 p.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Sept. 1** – Compañeros Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Sept. 2-4** – Synod-wide Communicators Conference *Doing More with Less*, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1975 Rahncliff Ct., Eagan, Minn. Registration is \$100 and includes all sessions, accommodations, opening dinner, two breakfasts and a lunch. If you'd like to attend, contact **Communications Director Kim Coulter** for carpool arrangements at 515-276-4991.
- **Sept. 3** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m. at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Sept. 4-11** – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines Delegation is in El Salvador

August 25, 2009

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



#### We are located at:

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515-276-4991

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

#### Office Hours are:

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

### Joys and Concerns

On August 30th, the Presbytery of Des Moines will celebrate the Ordination of **Cyndy Ripperger** to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament at a 4 p.m. service at **First Presbyterian Church in Creston, Ia**. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

**Tom Stroope**, husband of long time Social Ministries Task Force member **Susan Lister Stroope**, passed away August 16 of brain cancer. Tom is the father of the **Rev. Annika Lister Stroope**, a daughter of this presbytery, and brother-in-law of **Nancy Lister-Settle**. Condolences can be sent to Susan and the family at: 4233 E. Madison, Des Moines, IA 50317 or by phone at: 515-988-7261.

Members of **First Presbyterian Church in Grimes** are mourning the loss of their **Choir Director Bonnie Lull**. She died Wednesday, Aug. 19, following cancer surgery complications. Bonnie is also the sister-in-law of **Russ Lull**, treasurer and book keeper for **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. Their family has had a rough time lately, Russ' mother, Leota Lull of the Winterset, passed away Aug. 14 after being in hospice. Prayers are needed for both churches and the family.

**The Rev. Ann Johnson (formerly Ann Rouse), Monroe Presbyterian Church**, is a grandma again! Evie was born Tuesday, Aug. 18 to Ann's daughter and son-in-law, Melanie and Aaron Bryan. Big brother Aidan is pretty excited too!

### Highlights on Next Page:

- Visit Visual Meditation and Fresh Worship Blogs
- Introducing an Inspirational Web Site
- PC(USA) Update

### PC(USA) YAV Gives Talk on Year-Long Mission Trip to Peru

**Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** invites you to attend their Summer Sunday Seminar August 30 from 10:30-11:30 a.m., following the 9:30 a.m. worship, downstairs in Westminster Hall. Join a question and answer session with **Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer Michael Sinklier**. He'll talk about his missionary experience living in Lima, Peru and show slides of his travels across one of the most diverse countries in the world.



### Puppets Bring Ministry to Ankeny

The **Ankeny Presbyterian Church** enjoyed a Visual Scriptures puppet ministry earlier in August. The story was discovered on the Facebook account of Ankeny's pastor David Braak. Even *The Des Moines Register* has posted snapshots from the event on their Web site at: [www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/tngallery?Avis=D2&Dato=20090810&Kategori=COMM&Lopenr=908100808&Ref=PH&Item=13&Params=Itemnr=13](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/tngallery?Avis=D2&Dato=20090810&Kategori=COMM&Lopenr=908100808&Ref=PH&Item=13&Params=Itemnr=13). Thanks to

**Steve Gibbons**, member of the church, for posting the photos and sharing the Good News with the Register!

### Order 2010 Mission Yearbook and new Book of Order Today!

The **2010 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study** has brought the Presbyterian family together daily for prayer and study for over 117 years. The 2010 edition features stories collected around the theme, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38), and will be available in November at our Presbytery meeting in Earlham. Deadline to order this or the **2010 Children's Mission Yearbook**, through the Presbytery Office is Monday, Aug. 31. Contact **Betty Dyer** at: [pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org) or 515-276-4991.



Also, the **2009-2011 Book of Order** is now available. An order has been placed through the Presbytery Office. If you or your church session members are in need of a new one, contact **Betty Dyer**. Cost is \$10.

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## Visit Visual Meditation and Fresh Worship Blogs

Look at the photograph and listen for what God is saying to you, [www.centervillevisualmeditations.blogspot.com/](http://www.centervillevisualmeditations.blogspot.com/). The First Presbyterian Church in Centerville has begun a new ministry. With each new photograph that is posted, look at it, sit with it for a while, see what thoughts and prayers arise, and then, if you would like add a comment or prayer to the blog.



The Fresh Worship blog is up

and running. The Rev. Suzanne Gorhau is blogging to help with worship ideas. The address is: [www.freshworship.wordpress.com](http://www.freshworship.wordpress.com). Pastors and worship lay leaders looking for creative worship inspiration, can post your needs and comments so all may benefit.

## Introducing an Inspirational Web Site

This new Web site is for people looking to read and share their own positive stories about how they have been encouraged and blessed during the day. Go to [www.lgotBlessed.com](http://www.lgotBlessed.com) and register as a member on the far right. Click "submit" at the top to post your story. Remember to begin each post with "today" and end each with "IGB".



## PC(USA) Update

### Vice Moderator Enjoys Staying Connected

Writing in his monthly column, the Rev. Byron Wade, vice moderator of the 218th General Assembly, wrote: "I enjoy the opportunity to keep in touch and stay connected to others. I am a part of virtual social networking sites such as Twitter, Dopplr, Classmates and Flickr, to name a few. The one that occupies most of my time is Facebook because it's there that I hear from people who are part of my present and past." The rest of the column can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09616.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09616.htm). Wade's blog can be found at <http://presbyterian.typepad.com/vicemodblog/>.



### Parsons Calls on Presbyterians to Greet Strangers

Writing in his monthly column, the Rev. Gradye Parsons, stated clerk of the General Assembly, wrote: "Here is my suggestion for celebrating John Calvin's 500th birthday: Greet a stranger. Let me explain." Parson's complete column can be found at [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09626.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09626.htm).

### Witness in Washington Weekly, Aug. 6, 2009

The House and Senate are in recess. Both chambers will return to work in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 8, right after Labor Day. The August recess is a great time for constituents to be in contact with their elected officials. Most Members return home to their states and districts during August, and many will hold public events and town hall meetings. Visit your Members' websites to find out where they will be and what events they will attend this month. If you don't know who your Representative and Senators are, find out at: <http://capwiz.com/pcusa/dbq/officials/>.

## Presbyterians Invited to Participate in Washington Office Review, Witness to Faith A Public Affair

**Louisville, Ky. (July 31, 2009)** – The Washington Office of the PC(USA) is "a central and important instrument through which Presbyterians make witness to their faith of matters of public affairs," says Sara Lisherness, Director for Compassion, Peace and Justice ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council. (*Editor's Note:* Sara Lisherness was the convocation speaker for the 2009 Synod School held at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Ia., this summer.)

In 2008, Rev. Eileen Lindner, A Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pastor, presbytery executive and social research specialist, was engaged to lead a study of the role and purpose of the Washington Office. Presbyterians are now invited to provide feedback and responses to the study. The study includes a provisional mission statement, eight principles to guide the work of the office in the future, and a request for input from Presbyterians. The mission study and feedback will be reported to the General Assembly Mission Council during the September 2009 meeting.

The effort that culminated in the initial report included analyzing previous research; assessing the work of ecumenical partners' Washington presence; scrutinizing all correspondence regarding the office received over the last several years; empanelling a distinguished group of Presbyterians for additional consultation; conferring with leading secular partners in public witness activities; and reviewing related literature.

In preparation for the presentation of the report to the General Assembly Mission Council, the guidelines and comment section are now posted on the PC(USA) Web site at [www.pcusa.org/washington/missionstatement.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/washington/missionstatement.htm).

Lindner stated, "The public voice and public witness of the PC(USA) is the business of all Presbyterians in keeping with our reformed theology. As we move closer to making decisions about the future of our public witness we will be strengthened in our discernment by the shared thoughts of a diversity of Presbyterians sharing their views."

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.