



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Sept. 2** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m., Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Sept. 5** – *Christian Vocation Sunday*
- **Sept. 6** – *Labor Day Holiday*, Presbytery Office closed
- **Sept. 7** – Congregational Care & Development meeting, 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Sept. 7** – Professional Care & Development meeting, 4 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **Sept. 7** – Compañeros meeting, 6:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Sept. 9-12** – ARMSS Conference, Ellen Davis Chair, invites each of our retired Presbytery members to the Land of 10,000 Lakes! The Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors annual event will be held in Bloomington, Minn., at the Ramada Mall of America. Theme is *Called to a Lifetime of Service – God's Plan OR Ours*. See details at: www.pcusa.org/olderadults/armss.
- **Sept. 10-17** – Des Moines Westminster Presbyterian Churches' Delegation to El Salvador
- **Sept. 11** – Joining Hands meeting, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for the family of the **Rev. Goanar and Batul Chol** who are nearing the end of a two-year process to get Batul's mother, Haliema Koko Kody, to the United States. Goanar is currently in Cairo, Egypt with his mother-in-law where they are at the U.S. Embassy to obtain her visa so she can travel to the U.S. Here is an excerpt from his most recent correspondence: "...they said, 'we are ready to let her come with you if we get the two documents. We can issue the visa within ten days.' This is good news but it will take time to get the two letters necessary from Foreign Affairs. This is closer than ever now. Please pray that this is something we can do in a short time.

– *God bless you, Goanar*

Schedule Joining Hands Speakers in Your Church

Two members of the Presbytery's Joining Hands partner network in Egypt will be visiting our Presbytery, Sept. 1-10, 2010. **Dr. Nabil Sisostres** is the network coordinator, and **Raafat Nazmy** is the representative to the network from the Association for the Protection of the Environment, an organization working with the Zabaleen garbage workers community in Moqattam, Cairo.

The network is taking up a new campaign to address the needs of women-headed households. Nabil and Raafat would enjoy visiting places offering services to women here in Iowa, and are eager to speak about the work of Joining Hands with Egypt. If your church or organization is interested in hosting or hearing their story, contact Social Ministries Task Force Moderator **Nancy Lister-Settle** at: 515-992-3639 or neitherthecat@gmail.com.

CROSS Ministries Video is Now Available Online

The video played at the August Presbytery meeting on the *CROSS Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway* may be viewed and/or downloaded at: <http://gallery.me.com/cgpresby>. Click on "School Giveaway 2010." There are also a few DVD versions, if you'd like one, contact the Des Moines Presbytery Office or the **Rev. Dr. David Madsen, Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** at 515-279-8877 or cgpresby@mchsi.com.

Westminster Church Tai Chi Classes Begin September 9

An eight-week session of Tai Chi classes at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, begins Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010, *Beginning Tai Chi* is from 5:15-6:30 p.m.; *Intermediate Tai Chi* is from 7-8:15 p.m. The classes, taught by Ruth Kneile, will explore fan exercises, the basic set of 24 movements, warm-ups and stretching exercises. The cost is \$55/person or \$90/family. Register on the first night of class. For more information, call the Westminster Church office, 515-274-1534. Newcomers are welcome to try the class for one session at no charge before signing up.

August 31, 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

Highlights on Next Page: (click bullet to see article)

- Cleaning out Treasures— Free Bibles!
- Knox United's Garage Sale Items are Still Available
- IRMS has Multiple Drama Resources for your Sunday School Class!
- Attend Peacemaker Dialogue in Des Moines, October 2 & 3
- *The Shack* Author Talks about How Shame Shapes Society at Conference in Lincoln
- The 2010 Fall Stewardship Theme is "More Than Enough"
- The Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage is Waiting for You!
- Addressing Mental Illness within Congregations
- Lifelong Program is offered at UNI in Cedar Falls
- 2010 Midwest Regional APCE Conference to be in Missouri, October 24-26
- Attend Luther Seminary's 6th Annual Missional Church Consultation
- PC(USA) Update: Presbytery and Synod News

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Cleaning Out Treasures—Free Bibles!

Free for picking up: 58 *Good News Bibles*. Inquire at **Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines**, at: 515-225-2254 or janscott@wdmcovenant.org.

Knox United's Garage Sale Items are Still Available

Knox United Presbyterian Church, 2315 59th Street, Des Moines, still has bargains available from their Garage Sale this summer. The following items are available:

2-drawer file cabinets	diaper-changing station	B&W copier
3-drawer file cabinets	window air conditioner	choir music
4-drawer file cabinets	portable dishwasher	dishes/glasses
blackboard room dividers	50+ like-new Bibles	glass hostess sets
metal chairs in rack	baptismal font	

If you are interested in any of these items, contact Clerk of Session **Pat Aksamit** at: royaksamit@gmail.com.



IRMS has Drama Resources for Sunday School!

The Iowa Religious Media Services (IRMS) has multiple resources for Christian educators in Iowa and surrounding states. In their August "Meeting the Challenge" section of their e-newsletter, the following question was answered: *"I am a new Christian educator, and I want to liven things up in our Sunday school program with*

some plays or skits. Because I work with all ages, I need to review a range of options. What do you have in the way of skits or easy-to-prepare dramas that we could try?" Answer: *"The IRMS library contains a number of dramas and skits. We highlight some here, but you can see them all by searching the catalog by resource code DR for drama or subject 'Drama.'"* The IRMS catalog can be searched online at: www.irms.org/.

Holiday Skits (DR92) for Lower Elem.–Adult; *Open Hearts in Bethlehem: A Christmas Musical Drama* (DR93) for Upper Elem.–Adult; *The Grumpy Shepherd* (DR54) for Lower Elem.–Upper Elem.; *The Backward Christmas Pageant* (DR94) for Preschool–Jr. High; *Instant Christmas Pageant* (DR57) for Preschool–Adult; *Puppet Scripts for Sunday Mornings* (DR71) for Lower Elem.–Adult; *Instant Skits: Using Improv to Create Memorable Moments in Ministry* (BK1326) for Jr. High–Young Adult; *Ready-To-Go-Scripture Skits* (BK1177) and *Ready-To-Go-Scripture Skits: The Sequel* (BK1178) for Jr.–Sr. High; and *Spontaneous Melodramas* (BK895) and *Spontaneous Melodramas 2* (BK896) for Jr.–Sr. High.

Attend Peacemaker Dialogue in Des Moines, October 2 & 3

The Des Moines Presbytery is privileged to host **International Peacemaker Hilary Rantisi** who is a Palestine Christian, born in Jerusalem and grew up in Ramallah, West Bank. She has served as peacemaker with the PC(USA) Peacemaking Program and her message is that of integrating principles of Christian peacemaking with situations of conflict, especially in Israel/Palestine conflict. Hilary will be in Des Moines, October 2-3. The Presbytery's Social Ministries Task Force is inviting your congregation to two opportunities to hear her speak:



- **Saturday, Oct. 2, 6 p.m. – Westminster Presbyterian Church**, 4114 Allison Ave., Des Moines. Enjoy a middle Eastern meal; learn first hand the realities of life in Israel-Palestine; and dialogue with our International Peacemaker. RSVP to: **Office Manager Betty Dyer**, 515-276-4991, pbymdesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.
- **Sunday, Oct. 3, 10:15 a.m. – Central Presbyterian Church**, 3829 Grand Ave., Des Moines. Our International Peacemaker will take part in Worship and then lead discussion during Central Concerns learning time.

The Shack Author Talks about How Shame Shapes Society at Conference in Lincoln

We've all felt shame. Sometimes it's about something we've done. Sometimes it's about something done to us. Something we couldn't control, but still feel responsible for in some way. Shame sometimes seems less common in an era where popular culture pushes far beyond the boundaries of good taste. But shame is there, just below the surface; a feeling that somehow you're not good enough. A feeling that affects the way individuals behave, but has it affected the course of history?

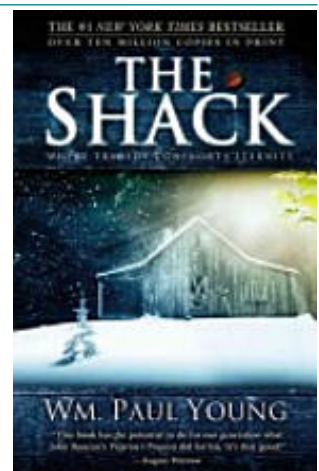
The Shame Factor examines the role of shame in our society during a 3-day conference, Oct. 24-26, 2010, at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 8550 Pioneers Blvd., in Lincoln, Neb. The conference will explore what the Bible has to say about shame, and how shame prevents individuals and groups from reaching their God-given potential.

Author of *The Shack*, William Paul Young will speak about the role of shame in his life, and how it led him to write his bestselling novel. Young will deliver the keynote address of the conference on Sunday, October 24, at 7 p.m. Individual tickets for Young's appearance are available. Preferred seating is \$30, general admission \$25.

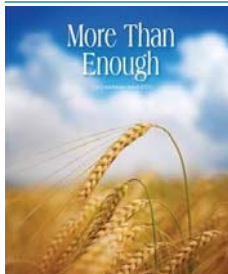
The conference continues October 25-26 with presentations by noted biblical scholars from around the nation.

The Shame Factor will challenge and enlighten mental health professionals, clergy, educators, psychologists, and human resources professionals. More information, including a list of conference participants, is available at:

www.shameconference.com/shameconference.com/. Or contact Brad Penner, St. Mark's UMC, bpenner@stmarks.org, 402-489-8885 x153.



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The 2010 Fall Stewardship Theme is "More Than Enough"

Based on 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, "God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others." Bulletin covers, four different bulletin inserts, commitment cards, pledge envelopes, letterhead paper and theme posters are available from the Ecumenical Stewardship Center, www.stewardshipresources.org. A Companion Resource is also available with sample letters to your congregation, Bible Stories, Children's sermons, Youth Ministry ideas, sermon notes, prayers and benedictions.

The Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage is Waiting for You!

Hey, weary travelers! As you travel down life's highway, it is good to stop and rest a while. On Oct. 21-24, 2010 attend the #8 Pilgrimage at Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center in Nebraska. This three-day renewal lasts a lifetime! Gather at the river with your fellow travelers. At that oasis, you can break bread, laugh, sing, worship, listen, and be heard. After lingering in sanctuary, you and your friends will emerge refreshed, rested, and ready to continue on your way, prepared once more to celebrate the journey of life and praise the Lord. For details on fees, including scholarship information and registration form, go to: www.gpppilgrimage.org.

Addressing Mental Illness within Congregations

Mental Health America of the Heartland and Alegent Health is offering a one-day conference, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010; 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at West Hills Presbyterian Church, 3015 S. 82nd Ave., Omaha, Neb., for clergy, seminarians, spiritual care providers, pastoral counselors, chaplains and lay leaders of faith-based communities. Persons with mental illness, their families and significant others, as well as healthcare and mental health professionals are also invited to attend. The fee is \$25 per person. For details, contact Beverly Miller: Beverly.Miller@alegent.org or 402-572-2164. To see the brochure and registration forms, go to: www.alegent.com/body.cfm?id=4803. Click the Community Events link or register by sending a check to: Pastoral Services Office Attn: Beverly, 6901 N. 72nd St., Omaha, NE 68122-1709.

Lifelong Program is Offered at UNI in Cedar Falls

For the past five years, the **University of Northern Iowa's Lifelong University Program** has been serving Iowans of all ages. The program, geared toward the lifelong learner, offers non-credit courses about interesting topics. The courses take place on the UNI campus and are taught by UNI faculty and staff. This fall's program will feature five fun and exciting non-credit courses:

- *Beethoven's Piano Music*
- *Religious Doubt and the Western Secular Tradition*
- *The Film Version of "The Laramie Project": Why, Who, What and How*
- *Forensic Science: Psychological Perspectives*
- *Lies and Lying in Personal and Public Life*

Costs range from \$20 to \$40, which covers parking passes and course handouts. For more information about the Lifelong University courses and to register, visit www.uni.edu/llu or call University Events Coordination at 319-273-5141. The classes are a great way to learn something new, so sign up for a class just for the fun of it today!



Annual APCE Conferences support Christian Educators

Here is a great opportunity close to Iowa (only 2 hours away), to learn and share ideas with other Christian educators through the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE). *Soul Tending*, the 2010 Mid-Central Regional Conference is October 24-26 at The Elms Resort and Spa in Excelsior Springs, Mo. [Registration](http://www.churchresourcecenter.org/29543%20Heartland%20Presbytery%20Oasis%20NL.pdf) is \$159 and is due by August 30. A brochure is available at: www.churchresourcecenter.org/29543%20Heartland%20Presbytery%20Oasis%20NL.pdf.

Or, attend *Walking in Balance*, APCE's 2011 Annual Event in Albuquerque, N.M., Feb. 2-5, 2011. Conference speakers are Rick Ufford-Chase who with his wife, Kitty, co-directors of Stony Point Center. Conference music director is Rev. Corry Nelson, associate pastor for mission at First Presbyterian Church, Lake Forest, IL. Register online after Oct. 1, 2010. Questions, contact the APCE registrar at: 866-338-7737 or apcenet@aol.com. Multiple scholarships are available to participants, however deadlines are coming up in mid-September. Most will cover the early bird registration fee plus a one-year APCE membership. Preference is given to new applicants. To learn more, see: <http://apcenet.org/>.

Attend Luther Seminary's 6th Annual Missional Church Consultation

Cultivating Sent Communities—Missional Spiritual Formation, will bring together pastors, mission directors, scholars and lay congregational leaders Nov. 12-13, 2010 in St. Paul, MN. Registration is now open! Additional information can be found at www.luthersem.edu/missional_consult. Those registering prior to Sept. 15 receive a discount.

PC(USA) Update: from Presbytery and Synod News

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Four congregations in the [Presbytery of East Iowa](http://www.presbyteryofeastiowa.org) recently received the [2010 Governor's Volunteer Award](http://www.governor.gov/volunteeraward) for their disaster relief-related ministries during 2008-2009. The recipients are:

- [Christ Church Presbyterian](http://www.christchurchpresbyterian.org), Cedar Rapids
- [Westminster Presbyterian Church](http://www.westminsterpresbyterianchurch.org), Cedar Rapids
- [Meet & Eat Program](http://www.meetandeatprogram.org), First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids
- [First Presbyterian Church](http://www.firstpresbyterianchurchmarion.org), Marion

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.