



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Dec. 1** – Transformation Team meeting, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., AIB, 2500 Fleur Dr., Des Moines
- **Dec. 1** – Congregational Care & Development meeting, 2 p.m., **Ankeny Presbyterian Church**, 317 S.E. Trilein Dr., Ankeny
- **Dec. 1** – Committee on Preparation of Ministry meeting, 2:30 p.m. **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, 4114 Allison Ave., Des Moines
- **Dec. 1** – Professional Care & Development meeting, 4 p.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Dec. 1** – Compañeros meeting, 6:30 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Dec. 1** – Des Moines Area Religious Council's Fall Assembly, 7 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 600 6th Ave., Des Moines. This is for DMARC board members and delegates. Guest speaker is Rick Kozin, Program Manager of Health Planning and Education for the Polk County Health Department.
- **Dec. 3** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m., **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Dec. 4** – Retired Pastors Christmas Luncheon, Noon, **the Rev. Robert and Jeanne Burnett's home**
- **Dec. 4** – Nominating Committee meeting, 3:30 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **Dec. 5** – Social Ministries Task Force meeting, 10 a.m., Presbytery Office
- **Dec. 6** – An *Organ Recital* will be held on Sunday, 10:10 a.m., at **Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines**. Hear choir director and church organist **Julianne Lawrence** play Advent and Christmas music. For details, contact the church office at 515-225-2254 or covenantpres@iowalink.com.
- **Dec. 6** – Sunday Holiday Gift/Craft Bazaar, 2 p.m. at **First Presbyterian Church**, 3100 Easton Blvd., Des Moines, Iowa 50317. Questions? Contact the church office at 515-262-5679.
- **Dec. 8** – PUP Task Force, 3 p.m., Presbytery Office

December 1, 2009

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:

- Synod of Lakes and Prairies Update
- PC(USA) Update
- Life and Thankfulness

Youth 6-12 Grade, Join us for Youth and Leaders Retreat

Attention middle, junior and high schoolers (grades 6-12)! Join us for a wonderful time of fun and tubing at the Des Moines Presbytery's Winter Youth Retreat, Jan. 8-9, 2010. The event will be held at Sleepy Hollow, 4051 Dean Ave., Des Moines, with activities beginning Friday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. and pickup time is Saturday, Jan. 9, 2 p.m. If you would like to participate or have youth interested, contact **Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force Moderator Dennis Britson** at dnbritson@aol.com or 515-988-1360. The total cost of the trip is \$30 and includes meals and snow tubing.



Youth Triennium Takes Place Next Summer

Every three years the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America gather thousands of Presbyterian youth and adult youth leaders together for worship, play, music, community building, and Bible study. This is known as the [Presbyterian Youth Triennium](#) or PYT, and next summer it runs July 20-24 at Purdue University in Indiana. The Triennium is for young people entering or completed high school (approximately ages 14-19 years old by July 20, 2010). Adult advisors must be 21 years of age by this date. A work crew track is available for college-aged young people who would like to apply to attend and volunteer to work behind the scenes. Send your estimated number of participants to our Presbytery of Des Moines' PYT Registrar **Sara Lamb** as soon as possible, at yndsara@q.com or 515-462-3261.

Employment Opportunities

Secretary/Office Manager, First Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, Ia. – Part-time secretary is needed with computer knowledge to take worship attendance, produce weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. Total of 10 hours per/week. Questions? Call **Pastor Ken Stuber** at 515-262-5679 or call Personnel Chairperson **Loren Smith** at 515-490-2791. Or send resume with cover letter to 3100 Easton Blvd., Des Moines, IA 50317-3126.

Lunch & Learn Series Needs Topics for 2010

The Des Moines Presbytery's Lunch and Learn Series begins again January 21, 2010 and you're invited to send topic ideas for the coming years' series! Pastors, staff members, volunteers or lay leaders are invited to give us your input for these informal discussions and sharing sessions on a monthly basis. Send your ideas for future topics to Director of Communications **Kim Coulter** at pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies Update

Collegiate Ministry Requires Mission View: Campus ministry should be approached like the mission field, be carried out with passion and have a mission. And if the directive sounds simple, it's not. However, it is the message of Benson Hines, who has visited more than 200 campus ministries and more than 300 college ministers since 2007. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/091001.htm.

College Ministry Should Address 'Hookup Culture': The topic of sex may be popular among students on college campuses, but it isn't necessarily a topic found in collegiate ministry settings. But the Rev. Heather Godsey believes the topics of sex, sexuality and spirituality need to be a part of collegiate ministry. Godsey spoke in Cedar Falls, Ia., Nov. 10 at the Synod of Lakes and Prairies' second Collegiate Ministries Conference, *Making Connections in Times of Change*. The complete story can be found at "[Godsey](#)."

PC(USA) Update

College Scholarships Offered to First-Year Students: The [National Presbyterian College Scholarship Program](#), administered through [Financial Aid for Studies](#), a ministry of the [Office of Vocation](#), offers need-based scholarship assistance to full-time students entering their first year of college at one of the [participating colleges](#) related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Applicants must be confirmed members of the PC(USA) and carry a 3.0 cumulative high school grade point average. Applications for the 2010-11 academic year are due Jan. 31.

FTE Offers Fellowships for 2010-11 Academic Year: The Fund for Theological Education (FTE) has announced that it will provide \$1.5 million for the 2010-11 academic year to theological students across the United States and Canada who aspire to be pastoral leaders and professors. The fellowships support students who are preparing for pastoral ministry and doctoral students from underrepresented racial ethnic groups who plan to teach religion, theology or biblical studies. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09975.htm.

Stewardship Conferences Set in March, April: Two stewardship events are scheduled for spring 2010 in Indianapolis, Ind. The [Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference](#), is slated March 15-17 and will include numerous workshops on congregational stewardship. The other conference, the [North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy](#), runs April 14-16. Speakers will include John Wimmer of the Lilly Endowment and Una Olisi, director of research from the Indiana University Center of Philanthropy.

Christmas Joy Offering Celebrates God's Love: Presbyterians have long given an offering at Christmas in celebration of God's love shown in the gift of Jesus. Half of the offering supports students at the church's historic racial ethnic schools who are listening for God's call, and the other half helps the Board of Pensions' assistance programs meet unexpected financial needs of those who have spent their lives following that call. A new video, *What Child Is This*, highlights this year's theme. The video and other free resources can be found at www.pcusa.org/cjoffering/.

Senior Presbyterian Chaplain Addresses Fort Hood Tragedy: A top-ranking retired Presbyterian military chaplain wrote earlier this month to the head of the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel in the wake of the horrific mass killings at Fort Hood, Texas, rejecting "the natural and immediate response of retribution." Instead, said Brigadier General (Ret.) Wayne H. Hoffman in his letter to PCCMP director, the Rev. Ed Brogan, "the challenge is to respond as shepherds of a flock that has been raided, wounded, and some of them killed." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09962.htm.

Life and Thankfulness

A monthly column for the PC(USA) by the GA moderator, November's is written by the vice-moderator by the Rev. Byron A. Wade, Vice-moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008)

RALEIGH, N.C. — Over the past sixteen months, I have had the pleasure of serving as vice-moderator of the 218th (2008) General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is a great honor and privilege to listen, learn, and witness the great things our church is doing to uphold the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

In my role, I have traveled extensively. One aspect that has not been so great is airport travel. With security measures, overbooked flights, crowded planes, and potential delays, I can never tell if I will make it to my destination. Just a few weeks ago, I left a meeting in Louisville to return home to Raleigh. The trip included a long security line, a delayed flight due to weather that caused me to miss a connecting flight, and a re-booking on another airline through a different city. In all, I arrived home four hours later than expected.

On another level, people are facing many delays on the journey of life — financial hardships due to the present economy, the H1N1 virus or other similar illnesses, the deaths of loved ones, broken relationships, onset of depression, and more. It can make us wonder if the journey is worth the hassle.

In these times, I invite you to take assurance in the God who loves and never leaves us. God walks beside us in these situations and brings us through, so that we can give hope to others on the journey.

One of my favorite gospel songs is *I've Got a Testimony*, by Clay Evans:

As I look back over my life, and I think things over, I can truly say that I've been blessed. I've got a testimony.

As we enter into the season of Thanksgiving, I pray that you will be able to reflect upon the ways that God has brought you through the hardships, difficulties, and hassles on the journey of life and faith. Then may you give witness to others of a wonderful and gracious God!
