



The Wider Circle E-Newsletter

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Feb. 18 & 19**—F.O.G. Meetings (See article below for a location near you.)
- **Feb. 19**—*Lunch & Learn* at the Presbytery Office, topic is on Christian education and the curriculum that are available for our adult and youth classes and summer Vacation Bible School. **POINT Person Sara Lamb** will be here to give us tips and tricks on what curriculum work.
- **Feb. 19**—*South Central Regional Partnership's Annual Dinner* held on Thursday beginning at 6 p.m., at Carpenter Hall, 1200 Court Ave. in Chariton. Cost is \$15 per person. The **Rev. Suzanne Gorhau**, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Centerville, will be speaking on *What Is God Doing in Malawi, Africa?* Suzanne has gone on several mission trips to Malawi. RSVP to **Rev. Linda O'Connell** at 641-203-3660 or revlinda@iowatelecom.net.
- **Feb. 20-27** – **Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive's** delegation to El Salvador. Dedicating the new school in El Tablon Cerna.
- **Feb. 21**—*Fun in the Snow*, for Presbytery youth (grades 6-12) and their leaders at Sleepy Hollow Sports Park from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Youth participants must have their parents sign the liability release form. Download the event flier and liability form at www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/resources.htm. For details, contact **Task Force Moderator Dennis Britson** at: 515-988-1360 or dnbritson@aol.com.
- **Feb. 22**—The **Presbytery of Des Moines** and the Church family of the **Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, warmly invite you to the installation of **The Rev. Dr. Richard Harbart** as Designated Pastor, Sunday at 1:30 p.m., with refreshments following the service.
- **Feb. 22**—*DMARC's Soup Supper*. Join the Des Moines Area Religious Council's Emergency Food Pantry on Sunday for their third annual soup supper at St. John's Lutheran Church, 600 6th Ave., Des Moines, from 4:30-7 p.m. Questions? Call 515-277-6969.

February 17, 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

This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- F.O.G. Meeting Announcement
- Flood Recovery Hospitality site in Oakville Opens
- Reminder of Thursday's *Lunch & Learn* session, February 19
- *Women Helping Women* Annual Luncheon, March 6
- Registration is Open for 3rd National Pastors' Sabbath

F.O.G. Meetings to be held February 18 & 19

Our denomination is in a process of studying a proposal to significantly revise the Form of Government section of our *Constitution*. Churches, sessions and presbyteries are being encouraged to take a look at this document and provide responses. Our presbytery will have three such opportunities:

- **Wednesday, Feb. 18, Noon-3 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, 405 High Ave., E. in Oskaloosa.
- **Thursday, Feb. 19, 9 a.m.-Noon** at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 200 So. Howard St. in Indianola.
- **Thursday, Feb. 19, 2-5 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, 102 S.W. Kent St. (Hwy. 92) in Greenfield.

The sessions will be led by **Diana Barber**, Associate Executive for Leadership Development of our Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Diana is a member of the 217th General Assembly's Form of Government (FOG) Task Force and has first hand experience and knowledge about the process and the proposals. To review this document, go online to:

www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment/form-of-government.htm (Nov. 05, 2008) or see a Comparison document available at: www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment/pdfs/proposed_fog_to_current_fog_feb_2009.pdf.

Wednesday's session includes lunch, and Thursday's sessions include refreshments. **Please make your reservations by 5 p.m., Feb. 17.** Call the Presbytery Office 515-276-4991 or e-mail pb1@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

Hospitality Site Opens in Oakville for Flood Recovery Volunteers



Scott Smith, Associate Pastor for Oakville United Methodist Church, has been front and center in Oakville since the levee broke back in June 2008. It has been his mission to make sure volunteers from his denomination have had a place to stay. When he found out the Presbytery of East Iowa was trying to set up a hospitality site at a local restaurant, he thought it would be a lot easier for us to work together to prep the Oakville United Methodist Church facility for more volunteers. PEIA thanks Rev. Smith for his vision and partnership in mission. All overnight reservations for the Oakville hospitality site may be made by calling him at, 319-572-1914. Rev. Smith is shown here standing in front of his geode collection which, coincidentally, are often formed within layers of sediment deposited during flooding.

Reminder of Thursday's Lunch & Learn session, February 19

This will be the second in our Communications *Lunch & Learn* series for our Presbytery members and the topic is on Christian Education and learning what curriculums are available for all ages. We'll meet from Noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, February 19. The Presbytery's POINT Person Sara Lamb will be giving us her picks for Vacation Bible School programs. (P.O.I.N.T. stands for **Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching** and is a network of Presbyterian educators who offer Christian education expertise and curriculum interpretation skills to churches in their area.)

If you are involved with your church's Christian Education programs, a youth leader or serve on your church's education committee, you are encouraged to attend the meeting at the Presbytery of Des Moines, 2400 86th St., Suite 20, Urbandale, IA. (We are located behind the Perkins on the corner of 86th and Hickman in the Westview business complex.) Don't forget to bring a brown bag lunch. A microwave and a refrigerator stocked with beverages are available for your use. Sara asks that everyone bring their favorite curriculums to share. Mark your calendars for future lunch and learns:

- February 19 – P.O.I.N.T. Tips and Tricks on Christian Education curriculums and VBS
- March 19 – (Re)Visioning Your Church
- April 16 – Web Site Writing and Optimization so Search Engines will find you
- May 21 – Evaluating your Churches Communications Efforts
- June 18 – Blogging 101 and Podcasting for Pastors
- July 16 – Learn about Khadamat Sudaniya's Ministry
- August 20 – Social Networking Online with Youth (Facebook, MySpace and Twitter)
- September 17 – Annual & Statistical Reports, Newsletters and E-announcements (bring samples)
- October 15 – Public Relations 101 – How to Get Church News Noticed
- November 19 – How to use Photographs in your Church Ministry



Women Helping Women Annual Luncheon, March 6

"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born." ~ Anais Nin

The Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center is sponsoring this annual Women Helping Women Luncheon Friday, March 6, 2009, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Sheraton West, 1800 – 50th St., West Des Moines. Keynote speaker is **Kali VanBaale**, award-winning young Iowa author of *The Space Between* will speak on "Finding Sisterhood: An Unexpected Journey." Tickets are \$40 (includes lunch);

\$400 / table of 10.

Author Kali VanBaale will discuss her unusual journey from new mother to published author, and the profound effect one woman can have on the life of another. She will bring the same unflinching compassion and lyrical power of her writing to the podium. Since 1999, the Center has sponsored an annual luncheon to raise awareness of our work with women struggling with the challenges of life on limited resources and to generate funds to help subsidize counseling for low-income women and girls. Please join us for this uplifting event in celebration of women. Invitations will be in the mail soon. Or call the Center today to request an invitation.

Kali VanBaale was born and raised on a dairy farm in rural southern Iowa. Her first novel, *The Space Between*, won a 2007 American Book Award, a 2007 Independent Publisher's Silver Medal for General Fiction, a 2007 Iowa Reader Literary Award for Fiction, and the 2006 Fred Bonnie Memorial First Novelist Award. For work on her second novel-in-progress, *Mercy Road*, she received a full scholarship to the Key West Literary Seminar. She was most recently awarded a State of Iowa Major Artist Grant to begin work on a third novel in 2009. Her short stories and essays have appeared in the anthologies *Voices of Alzheimer's*, *Voices of Caregiving* and *A Cup of Comfort for Adoptive Families*. She teaches creative writing for Des Moines Adult Community Education and lives outside Bondurant with her husband and three small children. She and her family are members of **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**.

Registration is Open for 3rd National Pastors' Sabbath

Scheduled for April 17-20, 2009, the Sabbath will offer pastors an opportunity for rest and spiritual renewal. It will take place at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort and Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach near Jacksonville, Fla. The resort offers a world-class spa, 99 holes of championship golf, sandy beaches, and 350 acres of lakes and ponds. Registration fee is \$275, and resort lodging is only \$119/night. To register, go to www.pcusa.org/pastorsabbath.

With a great location and excellent speakers and preachers like Walter Brueggemann, J. Herbert Nelson and Frances Taylor Gench, the upcoming 3rd National Pastors' Sabbath promises to be a great event for those who are actively serving PC(USA) congregations, middle governing bodies and other related ministries. The planning team composed of parish ministers supported by staff from the six agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is working on the success of the two previous national pastors' Sabbath events. The theme will be, *"My presence will go with you... and I will give you rest."* It is a message that brought hope and encouragement to the people of God during exile. It speaks of the power and majesty of a faithful God who never faints or grows weary, a God who delivers God's people.

The National Pastors' Sabbath is sponsored by: General Assembly Council, Office of the General Assembly, PC(USA) Board of Pensions, PC(USA) Foundation, PC(USA) Investment and Loan Program, Inc., and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Questions, contact GA Meeting Service at 888-728-7228, ext. 2417, or at gameetingservice@pcusa.org.

To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org or call 515-276-4991.

Learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org.