



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Feb. 28** – Congratulations to the Rev. Don & Emily Seeger of the **First United Presbyterian Church in Atlantic** upon their retirement. Everyone in the Presbytery is invited to their Retirement Party on Sunday, starting with worship at 10 a.m., followed by a potluck at 616 Chestnut St., Atlantic.
- **Mar. 2** – Lectionary Study, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Mar. 2** – Congregational Care & Development Meeting, 2 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Mar. 2** – Compañeros Meeting, 6:30 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church**
- **Mar. 4** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m., **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Mar. 5** – *World Day of Prayer*
- **Mar. 6** – Social Ministries Task Force meeting, 10 a.m.–Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Mar. 7** – *Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday*

Tax Guide Provides Helpful Information for Ministers and Churches

The [Tax Guide for Ministers & Churches](#) is now available in the Tax Resource Center on Pensions.org. It was also mailed to active and retired ministers at the end of January. Written by renowned clergy and church tax expert Richard R. Hammar, J.D., LL.M., CPA, this guide provides recent tax information for active and retired ministers to use when filing IRS Form 1040 each year. It includes:

- details regarding the manse or housing allowance (with the annual [housing allowance letter](#) for retired or disabled ministers)
- rules surrounding ministers regarding federal and social security taxes
- step-by-step instructions for Form 1040 tax return preparation

There are also two comprehensive examples provided in the back of the guide that demonstrate how to properly complete Form 1040 for both a [senior minister](#) and a [retired minister](#). Visit the [Tax Resource Center](#) for additional tax resources, including the [Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches](#) booklet. *The information provided in the above-described resources is not intended as a substitute for legal, accounting, or other professional advice that you may require while preparing your tax returns.*

Check Out "Stairways to Heaven" Photo Exhibit

A photo exhibit which features photos taken by photographer Jim Zeller from churches in Des Moines' Parks neighborhoods, runs from February 15 to March 22 at the Cowles Communication Center Gallery at Grandview University in Des Moines. A reception will be held Friday, February 19 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Spring Connection, April 23-24

Oskaloosa First Presbyterian Church is planning on hosting the Spring Youth retreat this year. Youth (grades 6-12) and their leaders are welcome to join us for an awesome retreat with the theme of "Clue? Christ Style!" This year the two-day weekend retreat will be "free" so families who have suffered job loss, etc. during these economic hard times, can still send youth and not worry about the cost. However, we need to get a rough count of the number of participants. Please contact **Oskaloosa Middle School Youth Leader Jodi Wilson** at 641-295-3765 or bruceandjodi@mahaska.org.

February 23, 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

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Mystery Trip!

The Presbytery of Des Moines and First Presbyterian Church of Oskaloosa Invite Youth (6th-12th Grade) and Leaders to.....

JESUS

Youth Spring Retreat

SUSPENSE~ WHO DID IT AND WILL YOU BE NEXT?

Free T-Shirts!

GREAT FOOD!

Get a Clue! Christ Style!

Live worship band!

REVELATION

April 23-24th, 2010

First Presbyterian Church
405 High Avenue East
Oskaloosa, Iowa
641-673-8879



Attend PYT and Leave your Foot Print

Here is what the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, Rev. Ken Stuber has to say about his Presbyterian Youth Triennium experience:

"Some years ago now, I was a chaperone for the Iowa groups for two different Presbyterian Youth Trienniums. My understanding is that they have remained as dynamic and worthwhile as they were back then in the 1980's.

The worship services are legendary, anyone who has been to Triennium still speaks of them. Just traveling from Iowa to Purdue University and back again is a unique and memorable bonding experience. At Triennium, in less than a week's time, you establish friendships, have discussions through small groups and workshops, and get exposed to thousands of people through a host of activities. You return exhausted and thrilled with new ideas of what it can mean to be a Presbyterian. I have rarely met anyone who has been who did not want to go back.

Deadline for getting applications in is February 26. To learn more about PYT, contact **Registrar Sara Lamb** at yndsara@q.com or 515-418-6122. To sign up as a volunteer or youth participant, download applications at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/mission.htm, complete and send to the Presbytery of Des Moines, 2400 86th St., Ste. 20, Urbandale, IA 50322.

See Hurley & Dancers' World Premiere of "Fresco Aroused" at Westminster in Des Moines

The Westminster Fine Arts Series will present Hurley & Dancers, Des Moines' professional modern dance company, in the world premiere of "Fresco Aroused," a multi-media performance with themes from the Book of Ecclesiastes. Performances will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Feb. 26-28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Chapel. Dancers include Kathleen Hurley, Alissa Hamer, Brigham Hoegh, Lisa Lewis, Paula McArthur and Lindsay Schwab. Visual art is created by Kun P. Nong.

With performing and choreography credits from New York City, Hong Kong, Germany and across the Midwest, Kathleen Hurley is able to bring her new choreography to the Westminster Fine Arts Series thanks in part, to funding from an Iowa Community Cultural Grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional sponsors include Des Moines' Downtown Marriott, *The Business Letter*, and Palmer's Deli & Market.

The performances will be held in the Chapel at **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, located at the corner of Beaver and Franklin in Des Moines. Free childcare will be provided. For more information, contact: **Jan Davison**, Director of Communications, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4114 Allison Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50310, phone: 515-274-1534, e-mail: jdavison@westpres.org.



Mark Calendars for Dubuque Seminary Conferences and Classes

Spring is a busy and exciting time at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Here are details regarding a few upcoming events:

- 1. UDTS Discernment conference:** Dubuque Seminary needs your help as we seek to identify gifted individuals who can lead others in service to Christ, the church, and the world. Twice a year, Dubuque Seminary offers an Exploring a Call to Seminary Conference for prospective students. The next conference date is March 17-19, beginning with dinner Wednesday and ending with lunch Friday. For a mere \$25, we provide two nights' lodging and all meals. Participants have the chance to be in a discernment group setting while on campus to worship, attend class, talk one-on-one with a professor, meet other students and their spouses, and much more. Will you please ask someone you know to consider attending this event?
Click here for website registration information: <http://udts.dbq.edu/ExploreCall.cfm>
- 2. DMIN: Dubuque Seminary** is now accepting applications for the 2010 Doctor of Ministry Degree. The 2010 cohort leaders will be Dr. David Moessner and Dr. J. Andrew Dearman, with an emphasis on One from Two: Teaching and Preaching the Christian Bible. Application Deadline has been extended to: March 1. Residency begins May 16. Click here <http://udts.dbq.edu/DocMin.cfm> for more details.
- 3. UDTS Third Annual Mission Conference** with a theme of Turning Missions Upside Down, will be held on campus March 9-10. This continuing education conference features exciting lectures presented by Rev. Dr. Jin S. Kim, founding pastor of Church of All Nations, Minneapolis, MN and Rev. Fletcher Matandika, founder of Ministry of Hope and Joy to the World Ministries. We will have two days of worship, workshops and discussions. Click here for the conference schedule. <http://udts.dbq.edu/edu.cfm>
- 4. The Spring Renewal Conference** will be held on April 5-8 at the University of Dubuque campus. We are pleased to host three spectacular speakers this year, including the Berger Lectures: Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, Shadyside Presbyterian Church and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; the Woods Lectures: Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Columbia Theological Seminary; and the Warren Lectures: Dr. Ralph Watkins, Fuller Seminary More information will be online at <http://udts.dbq.edu/edu.cfm>

For more information, contact Peggy Sell, Director of Seminary Admissions, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, 563-589-3112, 800-369-UDTS or <http://udts.dbq.edu>

Continued from above...

JustFaith Introductory Workshop Being Offered

This workshop will be held March 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave, Des Moines. *JustFaith* is a program that empowers people of faith to develop a passion and thirst for God's justice. The program is based on Biblical tradition and Christian Social Principles, and the relationship between spirituality and justice. Participants explore Jesus' invitation of compassion and how to live our faith in today's complex world. Jack Jezreel, founder of *JustFaith*, will lead the workshop. Reservations can be sent to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church, 510 East First St., Ankeny, IA 50021. The cost is \$10 (Checks should be made out to: Center of Social Ministry). The registration deadline is March 6.

For more information about the workshop, contact Patsy Carlson, 515-964-3038, ext. 112 or patsy@olih.org.

Pajama's at Monroe Church are a Hit!

Thirty-five pairs of pajamas are now a part of "Helen's Pajama Party!". Through the second half of January, **Monroe Presbyterian Church** a local group called "The Quality Chicks" joined together to gather pajamas for Helen's Pajama Party. The brain child of Kelly Sargent, Helen's Pajama Party seeks to gather 3,000 pairs of pajamas to give to domestic violence shelters in Iowa. The hope is with the gift of these pajamas every woman entering the shelter will be able to receive a new pair of pajamas.

Pictured with the pajamas are Monroe Church members (left to right): Pat Pendroy, Julie Phillipson, Rev. Ann Johnson, Shirley Gilman, and Terri St. Peter.



Statewide Long-Term Recovery Committee Seeks Your Help

A request has come in from the State Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) regarding being on the lookout for unmet needs cases in the 40 counties that were part of the disaster declaration during the floods of 2008. (This includes all of the Des Moines Presbytery counties, except Wayne county.) Churches within these counties are asked to pass this information along to the ministerial associations in their communities. Funds are still available for those who still suffer some type of unmet need. The *Embrace Iowa* grant stipulates only that the funds be used for losses as a result of the 2008 event. Our grant was originally scheduled to terminate the end of June 2010, they graciously agreed to extend our time frame to June 2011.

Also, the *Ticket to Hope* Program, provides mental health counseling sessions to Iowans affected by the 2008 disasters, www.tickettohope.org. The Dept. of Human Services wants to remind people that only five months remain for this important service for eligible Iowans. For details, contact Statewide LTRC member **Don Hampton (Indianola, Trinity United)** at 515-490-6888 or dbhampton@att.net.

Briar Cliff University offers Des Moines area Online Degree

Briar Cliff University, a Catholic, Franciscan university located in Sioux City, Iowa is now offering Des Moines area working adults an accelerated online bachelor's degree completion program. Classes begin March 1. For more information, contact the program's director, Rose Molacek at 515-890-2791 or rose.molacek@briarcliff.edu.

Egypt Mission Co-Worker Update

This e-mail on **Denise England's** funding update came to our Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee:

As of February 5, 2010, support for our PC(USA) Mission Co-worker to Egypt, Denise England has good news! Some late-in-the-year gifts put her over her goal, and she was fully funded for 2009. This, of course, does not guarantee her funding for the rest of her term, but if everyone who supported her in 2009 gives at the same level in 2010 and beyond, then she will be fully funded for the remainder of her mission. Please share this news with those concerned, as a prayer of thanksgiving. It is also a personal thank you to all in Des Moines who worked on her behalf. Thanks, as always, for your support of World Mission! – Love and peace, Bruce Whearty, World Mission Church Support



Denise is still needing funds to help her finish out her term in Egypt. Be sure to continue your pledges that you have made towards her work and any other contributions will be welcomed, as well. At the present time, she has \$30,000.00 available for 2010. She is still needing approximately \$45,000.00 to finish out the year. If everyone that has pledged funds follows through, she should be in good shape, as it takes approximately \$75,000.00 to fund her for each year. At this point in any given year, they don't expect anyone to be fully funded, so her situation is "normal".

As a final note: Denise's profile has been removed from our Mission Connections Web site due to the fact that her ministry is in a high security risk area. For mission co-workers where there is a high security risk presbyteries and congregations are encouraged to promote their support within the presbytery or congregation. However, they are asked not to post information about the mission co-worker on their Web sites. They should also not send releases to the local media telling about their relationship with the mission co-worker or promoting an upcoming visit.

CROSS Ministries February Update

While sequestered indoors during our most recent ice storm I decided to take the opportunity to sort through the filing cabinet in my home office. In so doing, I ran into a copy of an old *Des Moines Register* article from Feb. 3, 1987 titled, "Do the homeless make us heartless?". The author, Richard Cohen, described how on a simple walk to the store in downtown Washington, D.C., he had been inundated with requests for money from homeless people. Cohen explained that at one time he would have simply reached into his pocket and then handed over some change, but now the requests were too many for him to stop and donate to each person in need. He wrote, "Their sheer numbers suffocate the charitable impulse."

In this 23-year-old news column, Cohen continued on by explaining the many factors contributing to the plight of the homeless: depression, schizophrenia, alcoholism, and hopelessness with a special emphasis on mental illness and deinstitutionalization, which left many of the mentally ill out on the streets. He chastised the government for their failure to meet the needs of these individuals.

As I read through the column I was struck by how current his description of the homeless felt in regards to many who live down by the river, under a bridge, or frequent homeless shelters such as Central Iowa Shelter Services (CISS). But the face of homelessness extends beyond that earlier stereotypical individual.

In the 90's, the new face of homelessness became the mother with children, many of whom were forced to "couch surf" from one willing relative or friend to another until their welcome had simply worn out. These women are often operating below our radar, invisible, and can most accurately be described as the "working poor." Many are employed at minimum wage jobs in which they do not qualify for benefits and exist on part-time work schedules. They struggle living paycheck-to-paycheck never quite getting ahead of the bills. We often refer to this group as the "near homeless" even though many do not have a permanent residence of their own.

Today, the face of homelessness is changing again. Yes, we still see the traditional homeless whose numbers never seem to dwindle. And yes, at CROSS Ministries the largest portion of the people we serve are households with children, many of whom are single mothers. But we are seeing a growing number of households who are the newly poor. Daily I hear statements such as, "I have always worked and taken care of myself, so I never dreamed I would be in this position." Job losses as well as reduced work hours and income are impacting the lives of yet another segment of the population. Last week, a professional man sat in the waiting room at CROSS Ministries alongside some of his former clients. He wondered how his life had fallen so far, so quickly.

With all of that stated, perhaps the more salient point referenced by the title of Cohen's article was, "Do the homeless make us heartless?" By their sheer numbers, their sheer needs, do we throw our hands into the air and yell, "STOP." He wrote, "I am not referring to the annoyance of being approached for money, sometimes by people who stink or frighten. I am talking, instead, of a hardening that comes over us all when a horror becomes a commonplace." Although the phrase had not been coined in 1987, what Cohen was speaking to was "donor fatigue."

On the floor of the Des Moines Presbytery on January 16, a pastor stood up and made a plea on behalf of the local charities. He explained that there is a new cause, a new need every week. The news from Haiti is heart wrenching, and follows on the heels of so many other natural and man-made disasters. He acknowledged that, yes, we have a responsibility to send help to Haiti and other disasters but not on the backs of helping the local charities such as CROSS Ministries.

Recognizing that there are a number of worthy charities that we could support, just like the number of homeless that approached the author, we need to choose and unfortunately we cannot respond to every request. Since 1974, CROSS Ministries has been a Presbyterian response to the needs of the homeless and near homeless.

Thank you for your faithful and ongoing support.

—Dr. Roberta Victor, Executive Director of CROSS Ministries

Employment Opportunities

Part-Time Choir Director, St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Johnston, Ia. — Needs a part-time choir director. If interested, call John Temple at 515-270-1871 or e-mail him at templelaw@mchsi.com.

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, John Knox Presbyterian Church, Florissant, Mo. — Needing a strong candidate to lead youth (grades 6-12) and young adult (ages 18-39) ministry programs and share in other ministries. Inquiries should go to ATTN: PNC, John Knox Presbyterian Church, 13200 New Halls Ferry Rd., Florissant, MO 63033, 314-921-5833 or office@johnknoxchurch.com.

Temporary Supply Pastor/Head of Staff Ankeny Presbyterian Church, Ankeny, Ia. — Ankeny Presbyterian Church is seeking to fill this position full time for a minimum of one year, may be extended. The job description is available from the Presbytery Office or Ankeny Church. Full benefits package included. To apply, contact Sandy Wagener swagener@dwx.com or Bonnie McCaughey, BJM42552@aol.com. If mailing hard copies, label "Temporary Supply Pastor Search—Personal and send to Ankeny Presbyterian, 317 S.E. Trilein Dr., Ankeny IA 50021.

Office Manager/Secretary, Ankeny Presbyterian Church, Ankeny, Ia. — Congregation of 300 members seeks church office manager and secretary. Two years experience is required, must be proficient with Microsoft Word, Publisher and other secretarial software tools, ability to do multiple tasks associated with an office environment. 20-30 hours per week minimum. Friendly personality is a plus. To apply, contact Ankeny Presbyterian, 317 S.E. Trilein Dr., Ankeny IA 50021, 515-964-0264 or office@ankenypresbyterian.org.

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.
