



## The Wider Circle E-News

### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Feb. 26** – *Planning for the Future* a Presbyterian Foundation Workshop will be held at the **First Presbyterian Church in LeRoy** on Thursday, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; dinner is provided. RSVP by contacting the church office at 641-877-4641 or [trinityparish@iowatelecom.net](mailto:trinityparish@iowatelecom.net). Foundation Representative Karen Krum will help all ages learn about planning for the future, especially if you have someone who depends on you. This is a listen and learn opportunity, there will be no opportunity for decision making at the workshop. Any follow-up is left to your discretion.
- **March 3** – Congregational Care and Development Committee meeting, 2 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.
- **March 3** – Compañeros Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

### APA Hosts Certification and National Conference in Orlando

The PC(USA)'s Administrative Personnel Association is offering a weeklong certification event July 12–19 in Orlando, Florida. Members of APA may complete any one of three levels of certification in church administration. Course offerings include *Coaching and Mentoring Skills for Successful Leadership*, *Financial Planning*, *Sexual Harassment and the Church* and *Copyright Law*. Visit the [APA Web site](http://pcusa-apa.org/) to learn more: <http://pcusa-apa.org/>.

### PDA Announces Rebuilding the Gulf Coast

#### June 14-20, 2009 – Family Week

Mothers bring your sons and daughters ... fathers bring your daughters ... grandparents, aunts, and uncles come together in mission. During June 14 – 20, 2009, work with other families repairing homes in the New Orleans area destroyed by the hurricanes. Share hope and build relationships with survivors during family week 2009. Worship together with other village volunteers in the evenings, bonding as a community and reflecting on the faithfulness of Christ in the mission you share. Volunteers stay at [Olive Tree Presbyterian Volunteer Village](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana. Minimum age is 14. Cost is \$20 per night per person includes meals and lodging. Register now by calling 866-732-6121. For details, go online to: [www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/familyweek.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/familyweek.htm).

#### June 21-27, 2009 – Father and Son Mission Week in the Gulf

During the two weeks surrounding Father's Day 2008, fathers and sons were invited to meet in the Gulf Coast and participate in the rebuilding and recovery efforts together. An online video by PDA staffer David Barnhart shares the story of the impact this mission week had in the life of one of the father and son teams who participated in this special week. To see the video, go online to: [www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/fatherson.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/fatherson.htm). Fathers call your sons. Sons call your fathers. Meet with other father and son duos from across the United States. Work, witness, and worship together as you help rebuild homes in the New Orleans area destroyed by 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Volunteers stay at [Olive Tree Presbyterian Volunteer Village](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana. Minimum age is 14. Cost is \$20 per night per person includes meals and lodging. Register now by calling 866-732-6121.

#### Calling Youth to the Gulf Coast—You Have a Mission!

Youth from across the United States participated in the first Youth Weeks in the Gulf during June and July, 2008. The special program was a success and will return in the summer of 2009. Youth Weeks 2009 are for youth volunteers ages 16+ and adults (5:1 ratio). Work in the community may include rebuilding or cleaning, such as cleaning up a park or painting homes. There may also be opportunities to assist local churches with Vacation Bible School or other activities — being a witness in the community and helping the church grow. Volunteers stay at the Presbyterian Volunteer Villages. Dates include: June 28 – July 4, in Louisiana; July 5 – 11, in Texas; July 12 – 18, in Louisiana. Team leaders contact the PDA Call Center to register, at 866-732-6121 or [register online](#) at: [www.pcusa.org/pda/register/team.jsp](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/register/team.jsp).

All PC(USA) congregations have been sent an envelope with promotional resources for 2009 Family Week, Father/Son Week, and Youth Weeks. If your church did not receive the materials, you may request them [by e-mailing PDA](#) at: [pda@pcusa.org](mailto:pda@pcusa.org). Additional materials are available here for use with your congregation at: [www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/index-gulfcoast.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/index-gulfcoast.htm).

February 24, 2009

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



#### We are located at:

2400 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 20  
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306  
515-276-4991

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

#### Office Hours are:

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

### This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- APA Hosts Conference in Florida
- PDA Announces 2009 Family Weeks in Gulf Coast Area
- Stay Connected to PC(USA) by E-mail
- Fasting theme is Hunger in Sudan
- Attend Heroes of the Heartland Breakfast in Altoona
- Make a Powerful Noise for International Women's Day
- Volunteer to help Des Moines Habitat for Humanity
- 2009 Stated Presbytery Meetings

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## Stay Connected to the PC(USA)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is moving to a new system for delivery of e-mail announcements and newsletters, one that will allow for richer HTML e-newsletters. Please visit [www.pcusa.org/subscriptions/](http://www.pcusa.org/subscriptions/), to subscribe to the new e-mail format. While you're there you may also sign up for other PC(USA) e-newsletters.

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## Opportunity to Reflect on Hunger in Sudan

Our **Presbytery's Hunger Action Enabler Nancy Lister-Settle** wants to remind you about the designated fasting time this coming weekend. The theme of this month's global food crisis fast is war, hunger and recovery in Sudan. Join fellow Presbyterians starting after a light evening meal Friday, February 27 through communion on Sunday morning, March 1 to discern the causes and solutions to the problem of war and famine in this part of Africa.

[Use this month's materials](#) to guide you through the fast. Read reflections by a pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Sudan and an American mission worker serving in southern Sudan. Learn how hunger is an enemy not only to the people of Sudan, but to the human race as a whole. Read interviews from members of RECONCILE, a group created to help Sudanese people cope with the trauma that results from continuous war and famine. Get prayers and worship materials to share with your congregation. ([www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/archive/march/index.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/archive/march/index.htm)) [Sign on to participate today.](#)

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## Attend the 7th Annual Heroes of the Heartland Breakfast

The American Red Cross of Central Iowa will hold it's Seventh Annual Heroes of the Heartland Breakfast on Thursday, March 5 at 7 a.m. **The Honorably Retired Rev. Robert Cook** will be awarded the International Impact Award for his work with mission in El Salvador. The Rev. Cook currently is serving as interim pastor for the **Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. When asked about the award, Rev. Cook said he feels honored and is receiving it on behalf of all the people who made the **Our Sister Parish** project happen the many years he served in El Salvador as the designated missionary. The annual breakfast will be held at Prairie Meadows in Altoona. To make your reservation, contact Cailin Stock at 515-246-6307.



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## Make a Powerful Noise for International Women's Day!

On the evening of March 5, you are invited to view *A Powerful Noise*, an acclaimed documentary which takes you inside the lives of three women to witness their daily challenges and significant victories over poverty and oppression. Immediately following the film, a town hall discussion will be broadcast live from New York to participating theaters with renowned activists and experts including Madeleine Albright, Nicholas Kristof, Christy Turlington Burns, and CARE President & CEO Helene Gayle, to discuss how we can empower women around the world to fight global poverty. The movie will be shown at the Century 20 Jordan Creek, 101 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. To learn more about the film, or for theatre or ticket information, visit [www.apowerfulnoise.org](http://www.apowerfulnoise.org). To learn more about the sponsoring organization, C.A.R.E., visit their website at: [www.care.org/](http://www.care.org/).

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## Habitat for Humanity is Looking for Volunteers in Des Moines

If you are looking for a meaningful way to make a difference this winter, you can give a few hours or a full-day of your time. Consider these hands-on-service opportunities to support Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity:

- Feed our volunteers! Prepare (or purchase) and donate lunch for a team of 10 National Civilian Community Corps volunteers who will be stationed in Des Moines and assisting Habitat for Humanity.
- Bundle up and help build! Come join us for a day on a build site (working mostly indoors). No experience required.

When you volunteer with Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity, your efforts help give local low-income families a hand up to home ownership! For information about these and other Habitat opportunities, contact Tasha Hudson, GDMHFH Volunteer Coordinator, at [thudson@gdmhabitat.org](mailto:thudson@gdmhabitat.org) or 515-471-8686, ext. 126.

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## 2009 Stated Presbytery Meetings

The Presbytery has three (3) stated meetings remaining for 2009. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. They usually begin at 9:30 a.m. and end by 3:30 p.m. Under our structure and style of operating in our Presbytery, meetings do not have business as the central focus and purpose for our gathering. Worship, dialogue and fellowship are primary reasons for meeting. There is still business – after all, we cannot be Presbyterians if we do not have business! But much of our meeting time is more conversational than parliamentary in nature. It will help our meetings to be carried on in this kind of spirit if members and commissioners come expecting such a spirit to be present.

### Dates and Locations:

- Tuesday, May 19, 2009 – Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- Saturday, August 15, 2009 – Brooklyn & Malcom Presbyterian Churches
- Tuesday, November 10, 2009 – TBA

Minutes, committee reports, the call and docket for this meeting will be posted online. Watch your e-mail for meeting announcements when documents are ready to be downloaded at [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/resources.htm](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/resources.htm).

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To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter [pycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org) or call 515-276-4991.

Learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines at: [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org).