



## The Wider Circle E-News

### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Jan. 16** – *Presbytery Meeting*, First United Presbyterian Church, Atlantic, Ia.
- **Jan. 17-19** – *The Synod of Lakes and Prairies winter meeting*, at Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn. Orientation meetings are planned for first-time commissioners and young adult advisory delegates from 4 to 5 p.m. opening day.
- **Jan. 19** – *Lectionary Study*, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Jan. 21** – *Lunch & Learn on Bulk Mailing*, Noon, Presbytery Office, Des Moines
- **Jan. 27-30** – 2010 Annual APCE Event Nashville, Tenn. Click to [register online](#). [www.apcenet.org/events/annual-next/annual-next.htm](http://www.apcenet.org/events/annual-next/annual-next.htm). Click here for [room sharing information and brochure](#). For lodging, contact the [Renaissance Nashville Hotel](#), 615-255-8400 or 800-327-6618.

### Joys and Concerns

Update on **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**: Due to the gifts of a few angels, **Knox United Presbyterian Church** and the help of the Presbytery, the church now has the means to purchase and install three new boilers. Two small boilers will heat the offices, library, chapel and lounge with the second boiler kicking in only when needed. One large boiler will heat the rest of the building. These boilers will be more efficient than the old ones. Asbestos has been removed, the new boilers have been ordered, demolition of the old boiler will start soon, and the whole installation process should be completed by mid-January. A most heartfelt Thank you! To all who helped make this possible!

Prayers are needed for **Older Adult Ministry Task Force Moderator Darlene Shepherd** who is having rotator cuff surgery on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Prayers are needed for the honorably retired **Rev. Hume Ward** following some serious health issues, he has been moved to Des Moines Methodist Hospital.

### February Retreat Offers Chance to Discover the Joy of Forgiveness

There's never been a better time to remove the barriers to a healthy, productive life! **The Heartland Presbyterian Church**, 142<sup>nd</sup> St. & Hickman Rd., Clive, is sponsoring a *Joy of Forgiveness Retreat* on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This retreat is for everyone who wants to learn strategies for your personal and professional life to avoid or resolve hurtful situations. As a participant, you'll experience the six stages leading to complete forgiveness. Facilitator Sandy Hoenig offers special insight from her personal experiences as well as her extensive background in elementary teaching and school counseling. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Drake University. A nationally certified conflict resolution facilitator, she has led workshops and retreats on the joy of forgiveness for more than 10 years. For more information on the topic, call Sandy at 515-233-1176. Cost is \$20 per person in advance or \$25 per person after Feb. 14. To register, contact **Parish Associate Martie Larsen, CLP**, at 515-987-4246 or [martie@heartlandpresbyterian.org](mailto:martie@heartlandpresbyterian.org).



*Make peace with your past so  
you can go on with your life!*

### Lunch & Learn 2010 Series promises learning and education!

Pastors, church staff and volunteers mark your calendars! The Presbytery of Des Moines staff and helpers are offering the following topics for the monthly brown bag sessions. On the third Thursday of the month (except January) the Noon-hour class/discussion will be held at the Presbytery office, 2400 86<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. #20, Urbandale, Ia.

- **January 21** – **New Regulations for USPS Bulk Mailing**, with *Des Moines U.S. Postal Service staff member Reggie Bell, elder at Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church, Des Moines*
- **February 18** – **Christian Education Curriculum – What's the P.O.I.N.T.? and Is Presbyterian Youth Triennium For You?** with *Des Moines Presbytery's POINT Person Sara Lamb, Christian Education Director for First Presbyterian Church, Winterset*
- **March 18** – **Creative Worship Ideas**, with *Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Centerville*
- **April 22** – **Recap of Transformation Conference (April 16-17): Plugging in Without Shorting Out or interactive Web site ideas**
- **May 20** – **Guidelines for Emergency Planning: Everything from snow days to health emergencies.**
- **June 17** – **Survivor Challenge: How to get inactive members to participate once again.**
- **July 5-9** – **Live videocast viewing of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** in the comfort of our Presbytery's office conference room.
- **July 15** – **Involve Children and Adults in Mission Projects**, with *Des Moines Presbytery's Hunger Action Enabler Nancy Lister-Settle and Restoring Creation Enabler Susan Stroope both of First Presbyterian Church, Dallas Center*
- **August 26** – **Stewardship Ideas – We don't want to scare the people.**
- **September 16** – **Language Art Skills: Writing and composition of the important day-to-day messages at church and in the community.**
- **October 21** – **Help Wanted: Training of new session members and elders.**
- **November 18** – **New Year's Resolutions: Meditation and Devotions to God.** *Ideas for designated prayer time for church staff and members.*

January 12, 2010

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



**We are located at:**

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515-276-4991

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**Office Hours are:**

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

### Highlights on Next Page:

- Des Moines Presbytery 2010 Holidays and Stated Meetings
- Sudanese became the Boilers for the Cottage Grove Avenue Church in November
- Men's Ice Fishing Weekend at Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji

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## Des Moines Presbytery 2010 Holidays and Stated Meetings

The Des Moines Presbytery office will be closed in observance of the following holidays in 2010. Also included are the dates and locations for the quarterly stated meetings and other important events our Presbytery participates in.

**Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010** – Christmas and New Year's Day Holidays (Winter Break), Office closed and reopens Monday, Jan. 4

**Saturday, Jan. 16** – Presbytery Stated Meeting, First United Presbyterian Church, Atlantic

**Monday, Jan. 18** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Office closed

**Friday, Jan. 29** – Per Capita due to Presbytery office

**Monday, Feb. 1** – Statistical Reports due to PC(USA)

**Friday, April 2** – Good Friday, Office closed

**Friday-Sunday, April 16-18** – Transformation Team's *Plugging in Without Shorting Out* Conference

**Tuesday, May 18** – Presbytery Stated Meeting, TBD

**Monday, May 31** – Memorial Day Holiday, Office closed

**Friday-Friday, July 2-9** – 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Minneapolis

**Monday, July 5** – Independence Day Holiday, Office closed

**Tuesday-Saturday, July 20-24** – Presbyterian Youth Triennium

**Sunday-Friday, July 25-30** – Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Synod School

**Saturday, Aug. 21** – Presbytery Stated Meeting, TBD

**Monday, Sept. 6** – Labor Day Holiday, Office closed

**Tuesday, Nov. 9** – Presbytery Stated Meeting, TBD

**Thursday-Friday, Nov. 25-26** – Thanksgiving Holiday – Office closed

**Friday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Dec. 31** – Christmas and New Year's Day Holidays (Winter Break), Office closed

## Sudanese Became the Boilers for the Cottage Grove Avenue Church

The Des Moines Sudanese community held a special overnight worship service on November 14, 2009, that lasted until 6 a.m.! Two individuals stood very firm 'til the daybreak on the November 15, so they really became the boilers. A 5-year-old drummer was the hero of the night, along with a 75-year-old man who did not feel cold enough to go home.

The large group of 200 people, prayed to God to keep the U.S. as they found it and forgive them if God is judging the U.S. because they came here. Why is it that everywhere they go God seems to punish them? Even with the economic hardships that many people are facing but affect them more than any one as they think. The prayer would be like this "Almighty God, forgive our sins and those of our ancestors, if that is why you are punishing the blessed

America. Please do not hurt these innocent people because of our sins. You are a God of forgiveness and do not be so sad because we have come here to worship you without persecution. That was the reason why we came and you brought us and the American People kindly accepted us. Do you want to punish them because of us now God? Please listen to our prayer. Amen."

During the overnight they also prayed for peace in the world, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan. They fear war will start again during the upcoming election and in the time of referendum scheduled in 2011.

It was wonderful night.

God bless you,

– Rev. Goanar Chol, Sudanese Ministries Resource Person, Cottage Grove

Avenue Presbyterian Church, 515-490-7743, [pbysudanese@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbysudanese@presbyteryofdesmoines.org)



## Men's Ice Fishing Weekend at Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji

On February 5-7, Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast at Lakeview Lodge (double occupancy) and meals: \$130 per person. Cabin housing and meals: \$85 per person. The theme is "Fishing With GPS". February is a great time to fellowship with other men on an ice fishing expedition and learn some winter fishing techniques. In addition to the daytime ice fishing activities, the Rev. Kerry Carson will lead thought-provoking discussions and worship. The event will end in time to return home for Super Bowl events! We invite you to explore using GPS (God's Positioning System) in helping you prepare to successfully catch the 'fish' God brings into your life. Following our time together, you will leave with the confidence that God wants to work through you to reach others and that there is a plan for how to do just that. Questions or to make your reservation, contact the camp office at: 712-337-3313 or [Info@presbycamp.org](mailto:Info@presbycamp.org).

To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter [pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org). Learn more at: [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org). Questions? Contact [officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org) or 515-276-4991.