



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Jan. 19** – *Lectionary Study*, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Jan. 21** – *Lunch & Learn on Bulk Mailing*, Noon, Presbytery Office, Des Moines
- **Jan. 22-29** – **Clive's Heartland Presbyterian Church Delegation** travels to El Salvador.
- **Jan. 27-30** – 2010 Annual APCE Event Nashville, Tenn.
www.apcenet.org/events/annual-next/annual-next.htm

Joys and Concerns

Prayers are needed for the family of the honorably retired **Rev. Hume Ward** who passed away on Saturday, Jan. 16. Rev. Ward served at the **Windsor Presbyterian Church in Windsor Heights** for nearly 30 years and was pastor emeritus for the congregation. The Des Moines Register's obituary is online at: www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/classifieds?Category=Obituaries. Condolences can be sent to Mrs. Alice Ward and the family at 1205 64th St., Des Moines, IA 50311.

Mike Conn, CLP, retired from Vermeer Manufacturing in Pella, Ia., on December 17. He and his wife Toni will eventually move to South Carolina to be closer to their son. They will stay with the **Gibson First United and White Oak United churches** until their housing issues are more definite. They will be missed! Good luck on your new adventure.

First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa's interim pastor **the Rev. Neal Allen** is bidding adieu to our presbytery and transferring to the Central Nebraska Presbytery for an interim position in North Bend, Nebraska. This new pastorate will be only 37 miles from his home. Thanks for your service and help in the Ottumwa churches!

Prayers are needed for the **Rev. Ross Blount, pastor at United Presbyterian Church in Allerton**, who called with an update on his health. After having an angiogram in December, it has been determined that his heart is strong enough to have a bad valve finally fixed. Ross' surgery was January 12 and he will be laid up for awhile and will need prayers during his 5- to 6-week recovery period. Here is his letter to our office: *"Dear Friends, Next Tuesday, January 12, it will be my turn for some major surgery! So please remember me in your prayers. For many years I have had a "minor" heart murmur, but in the last 6 months it has become a "major" case of aortic stenosis. The doctors say that we are catching a potentially serious problem early... but it is quite a surprise... This will be open heart surgery to replace the aortic valve. As is standard procedure, a pig valve will be used as the replacement (I have requested the help of a friendly Duroc boar). I will check in at Mercy Hospital at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, with surgery scheduled for 7 p.m. Lorena and our son, Robert (an MD living in California) will be there. Post surgery: no driving for 3 to 5 weeks, no lifting, lots of rest between grueling rehab sessions... WOW... I like the "rest" part! I am thankful to be surrounded and lifted up by a community of faith!"*

You can contact Ross and Lorena at 641-873-4242 or 405 N. Central Ave., Allerton, IA 50008-8606.

Centerville Church Offers Greeting Card service on Web Site

The Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, pastor at the Centerville First Presbyterian Church, just put a page on their church website where people can request that a greeting card be sent to someone (like a shut-in or someone who needs a kind word). Go online to the church Web site at: www.centervillepresbyterian.org. It's along the top menu or on the side menu under "resources".

29th Annual Rural Ministry Conference, March 7-9 in Dubuque

Join us at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, where leaders in rural communities and congregations gather to gain insight and inspiration, to network and neighbor that our ministries might be empowered. This year's theme: *Nurturing Generosity – releasing God's abundance in a time of perceived scarcity*. To view full brochure and register, download the brochure attached to this e-mail or visit www.ruralministry.com.

The 2010 Winter Pastors School

When Church Stories Become Songs, will be held Feb. 1-4, 2010, at Hastings College, in Hastings, Neb. For more information and the registration form see www.pmr.org/ and click on *Pastor's School* brochure or go under "news and events".

January 19, 2010

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

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Office Hours are:

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

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- Attend BOP Educational Seminars in Kansas City
- Family Winter Getaway at Okoboji Presbyterian Camp, February 19-21
- Get a free trial subscription to The Presbyterian Leader
- Provide shelter from the cold

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Lunch & Learn 2010 Series Revised Schedule

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 April) the Noon-hour discussion and web conference will be held at the Presbytery office, 2400 86th 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.? & Is Presbyterian Youth Triennium For You?** with *Des Moines Presbytery’s POINT Person Sara Lamb, Christian Education Director for First United 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 – Language Art Skills:** Writing and composition of the important day-to-day messages at church and in the community.
- **July 5-9 – Live videocast viewing of the 219th General Assembly** in the comfort of our Presbytery’s office conference room.
- **July 15 – Survivor Challenge:** How to get inactive members to participate once again.
- **August 19 – Involve Children and Adults in Mission Projects**, with *Des Moines Presbytery’s Hunger Action Enabler Nancy Lister-Settle of First Presbyterian Church, Dallas Center and Restoring Creation Enabler Susan Stroope of Central Presbyterian Church, Des Moines.*
- **September 16 – Stewardship Ideas – We don’t want to scare the people.**
- **October 21 – Help Wanted: Training of new session members & current elders**, with *Stated Clerk/General Presbyter Phil Barrett*
- **November 18 – New Year’s Resolutions: Meditation and Devotions to God.** Ideas for designated prayer time for church staff and members.

Attend BOP Educational Seminars in Kansas City

Heartland Presbyterian Center, Kansas City, Mo., is hosting three Board of Pensions educational seminars. All three seminars are open for registration until January 22. The seminars are for Benefits Plan members:

- *Getting into Shape Fiscally: Financial & Retirement Planning for early to mid-career* (Feb. 23)
- *Growing into Tomorrow... Today: Financial & Retirement planning for mid- to late-career* (Feb. 24-25)
- *Post-Retirement: Financial & Retirement planning for plan retirees and survivor spouses* (Feb. 26)

Information on the Seminars including links for online registration can be found under “Financial & Retirement Planning” seminars on the BOP Web site: www.pensions.org/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=325&mode=2.

Family Winter Getaway at Okoboji Presbyterian Camp, February 19-21

Here’s a great mini vacation package for families of all configurations—parents, children, singles, and extended families! Your getaway enables family members to enjoy each other at beautiful West Lake Okoboji in its pristine winter setting. Enjoy the comfort of the new Lakeview Lodge guest rooms and the famous lodge dining room, serving buffet-style meals with great home cooking. Beginning Friday evening through Sunday breakfast, Feb. 19-21, the weekend family room rate is: \$150. Meals: Adults: \$33; Youth 10 & Older: \$26. Ages 4-9: \$19; No charge for 3-years and under. Non-refundable registration is due by Feb. 1. Send checks payable for full amount of event to: Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji; 1864 Hwy. 86; Milford, IA 51351, 712-337-3313; Fax: 712-337-0104; e-mail: info@presbycamp.org.

Leaders are Richard and Valerie King Family of Marshalltown, Iowa, where Richard serves as head of staff at the First Presbyterian Church. Valerie is a self-employed graphic designer and choir and bell director. Their children, ages 6 to 14, are active in both music and sports activities. In the evening, there will be planned get-together times. The King family is planning great praise music, family games, movies, and worship. The comfortable Great Hall setting around a blazing fireplace will warm your body and spirit. Daytime family snow adventures offer ice fishing and snow fun on beautiful Millers Bay or inner tubing at Horseshoe Bend County Park where there is a warming house and tow ropes to pull you back up the steep hill. If you have snow shoes or cross country skis, bring them along. Your body will have fun, your soul will rest, and your mind will engage in the timeless truths of God’s Word.

Get a free trial subscription to The Presbyterian Leader

The Presbyterian Publishing Company, in partnership with the Office of Middle Governing Body Relations (a joint office of the General Assembly Mission Council and the Office of the General Assembly), has announced it will provide free trial subscriptions (a \$99 value) to the [Presbyterian Leader](http://www.presbyterianleader.org) online resource center for all moderators and middle governing body staff. Urge your presbytery or synod staff to take advantage of this great opportunity. The Presbyterian Leader offers downloadable studies, essays on church leadership, and other great resources.

See www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/ppc09008.htm for complete details.



Provide shelter from the cold

The recent extreme cold weather covering much of the United States has brought new meaning to home and congregational emergency preparation. Freezing weather and snow are making conditions harsher for families in the northeast, upper Midwest and southeast.

Economic conditions over the past year have placed many more families in a situation where the weather has become an issue. Consider using your church’s facilities as shelters or warming stations for the many families that are affected. Check with your local government and American Red Cross chapter to see what steps are needed to make this possible. [Learn more about how you can help today.](#)

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.
