



The Wider Circle E-Newsletter



Join us for Fun in the Snow!

For three hours, we'll be tubing, snowboarding and/or skiing at *Sleepy Hollow Sports Park* in Des Moines, www.sleepyhollowsportsark.com.

Youth (grades 6-12) and Youth Leaders are welcome to attend Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Presbytery of Des Moines Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force. Youth participants must have their parents sign the liability release form in order to participate. Lunch is not provided, plan to bring extra money or a sack lunch.

Snow tubing lift tickets cost: \$14 (12 and under)
(There is an additional fee for \$16 (13 or older)
snowboarding and skiing tickets.)

For **more information**, contact Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force Moderator Dennis Britson at: dnbritson@aol.com or 515-988-1360.

January 29, 2009

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:
2400 86th Street, Suite 20
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306
515-276-4991
Office Hours are:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Launches Humanitarian Aid Appeal for Middle East

(From the Presbyterian News Service) With Israeli and Hamas forces plunging deeper into violent conflict and the death toll in Gaza steadily mounting, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has launched an appeal to help provide humanitarian relief

supplies to the stricken area. PDA is supporting relief efforts as a member of the Geneva-based Action by Churches Together (ACT) International alliance. These are initial efforts and will be expanded later as the situation further unfolds. The PDA-supported efforts have included provision of food – including high-energy biscuits for children - medicine and blankets, as well as the deployment of trauma counselors. To learn more, go online to: www.pcusa.org/pda/.

This Week's Highlights

Presbytery Youth Have Fun in the Snow
PDA Launches Humanitarian Aid Appeal for Middle East
Souper Bowl is this Weekend
BOP Offers Retirement Seminar
Attend Foods Resource Bank Regional Winter Gathering
Celebrating the Birth of John Calvin
Prayers and Concerns
Correction on Affirmative Vote Article

XLIII = XX: Souper Bowl of Caring Celebrates 20 years of service

(From the Presbyterian News Service) LOUISVILLE —

Twenty years ago, Brad Smith, a seminary intern at Spring



Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, asked worshipers to bring donations of canned goods and money on Super Bowl Sunday to help feed the local hungry. Inspired by the Spring Valley youth group's modest start that day, the Souper Bowl of Caring (www.souperbowl.org/) has raised more than \$50 million, transforming professional football's biggest weekend into a the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. Read the complete story at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09052.htm.

Last Chance: Retirement Planning Seminar

The Board of Pensions announces a two-day seminar on holistic retirement planning for clergy and lay Benefits Plan members. This seminar is to be presented at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Feb. 18 and 19, 2009. There are no registration fees. However, housing and meals are not included in the package. Late registration deadline is now Feb. 2. To see registration details, go to: <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/info/summary.aspx?e=d6735745-0b8e-4ebd-8ade-9e2a40f922ae>. For more information, contact Nadine Monn at, education@pensions.org.

Attend the Foods Resource Bank Regional Winter Gathering, Feb. 21

Food is Everyone's Mission: We're All in this Together! is the theme for this Foods Resource Bank's (FRB) Christian response to world hunger on Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Plymouth United Church of Christ, 4126 Ingersoll Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa (42nd Street and Ingersoll, just south of the 42nd Street Exit off I-235). Registration is at 9 a.m. in Waveland Hall. A panel discussion begins at 10 a.m. with Moderator Mark Pearson, Host of IPTV's *Market to Market*. Presenters are: Cheryl Tevis, Farm Issues Editor, *Successful Farming*; Craig Lang, President, Iowa Farm Bureau; and Marv Baldwin, President and CEO, Foods Resource Bank. Lunch is at Noon with break-out sessions beginning at 1 p.m. Topics include: Building FRB Growing Projects; Success Stories in Smallholder Agricultural Development from Around the World, Local Food Systems with Gary Huber of Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Celebrating the Birth of John Calvin through "A Year with the Institutes"

As many of you know 2009 marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. In honor of this event Princeton Theological Seminary is sponsoring "A Year with the Institutes." They are encouraging Presbyterians to read through John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* in 2009. To participate in this project go to: www2.ptsem.edu/ConEd/Calvin/. Here you will find a variety of options for joining in this project. You can download the reading schedule and read through your own copy of the Institutes again or you can read each day's selection directly on the website. In addition, you may also listen to an audio version on the website, or download it to your ipod. Check out the Princeton Seminary Web site (www.ptsem.edu) to join in reading or listening to Calvin's Institutes in 2009.



Prayers and Concerns

The **Rev. Don and Emily Seeger's** daughter Beth and her husband Paul are members of the Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Ky., that was recently destroyed by fire. This church provides a wonderful ministry to the community with a food pantry and large clothes closet. They had just voted to begin a fund drive to build on a multi-purpose room to the church.

The Honorably Retired Rev. Bob Cook has 'unofficially' adopted five families in El Salvador and one of them is a mother whose name is Elsa and has a five-year-old son Gabriel. Gabriel was recently diagnosed with leukemia. Bob is praying for a cure for Gabriel, and comfort of God's grace and peace for both Elsa and Gabriel.

Correction on "Affirmative Vote" Article

I just read the article on the Wider Circle-E version from January 22 about the vote on Amendment B that was taken at the January 17 Presbytery meeting. I beg to differ on the reference to the following section.

"The language, if approved by a majority of Presbyteries (87 out of 173) of the PC(USA) would mean that current G-6.0106b language would change from excluding persons who are homosexual from full inclusion and participating in the offices of our church, Deacon, Elder and Minister of the Word and Sacrament. While the General Assembly 2008 did rule that all Definitive Guidance and Authoritative Interpretations (From 1978 until the adding of G-6.0106b to Book of Order in 1996) have no further affect that action only unlocked..."

If this change is made to the Constitution of the PCUSA, it does not necessarily include unrepentant people of homosexual preference to participate in any ordained offices. It is presumed that the language change could open that door, but this is not a fact as was stated in the article. The Constitution has never allowed unrepentant people who have this sexual preference to participate in ordained offices. The fidelity and chastity amendment was first added because people said it needed to be specifically stated. So it was added and now they want it out. So now, if G. 6.0106b is amended, it only means that we are back to what we had originally. But nowhere in both parts of the Constitution of the PCUSA does it allow or approve that unrepentant people of homosexual sexual preference are allow to hold ordained offices in the PCUSA.

– Rev. George Salnave, Montezuma First Presbyterian Church

Editors Note:

Our Presbytery members will not likely arrive at a single consensus concerning this amendment, therefore community building and preservation during a time of differences is perhaps more important, since differences will likely remain since our affirmative vote. I would like to suggest that from now on, other channels be used to somehow deal with this issue without detracting from the Presbytery's newsletter and the Church's greater mission. My main intent was to report fairly the outcome of the vote.

– Kim Coulter, Director of Communications

Resources are Available

To follow the amendment voting process of our Presbyteries nationwide, you can review and visit these online links:

- A clear, up-to-date, informative and accurate vote chart is available at *PresbyWeb*: www.presbyweb.com/vote or you can also see this same tally on the More Light Presbyterian's Web site: www.mlp.org/
- Background information is available from the PC(USA) and the Presbyterian News Service online: www.pcusa.org/ga218/news/ga08131.htm or www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08769.htm
- *Presbyterian Outlook* articles: www.pres-outlook.com/reports-a-resources/presbyterian-heritage-articles/8072-why-not-replace-or-retain-g-60106b.html or www.pres-outlook.com/reports-a-resources/presbyterian-heritage-articles/8221-amendment-08-b-response-to-wheeler-loudon-articles.html
- www.1000conversations.org, is a Web coordination point where interested Presbyterians can connect with people in their presbyteries and synods to talk, and to follow-up with reports when conversations have occurred.
- Background and guidance for further conversations should refer to this rubric, the *Guidelines for Presbyterian in Times of Disagreement*, written by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Committee and adopted by the 204th General Assembly and is available online at: www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/guidelines.pdf.

To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter bycommunication@qwestoffice.net.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at bycommunication@qwestoffice.net or call 515-276-4991.

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