



## The Wider Circle E-News

### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **July 11-16** – Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM), *A Psalm for All Seasons: Stewardship of the Earth; Lament; Peace; Thanksgiving; Praise*, Westminster College, Pennsylvania. The faculty will include Hal Hopson, well-known expert on music and the Psalms: [www.presbymusic.org/westminster.html](http://www.presbymusic.org/westminster.html).
- **July 13** – Professional Care & Development meeting, 4 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **July 15** – Lunch & Learn on *Survivor Challenge: How to get inactive members to participate once again*. Noon-hour discussion, Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **July 15** – Coordinating Council meeting, 4 p.m., CalvinCommunity, Des Moines
- **July 17** – The **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church** Blowout Summer Sale will be on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 3120 S.W. 9th St., Des Moines, Ia. A BBQ burger basket lunch and ala carte items will be served 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **July 17** – The **Knox United Presbyterian Church** open house and garage sale for all the churches in the Presbytery, Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **July 18** – *Smaller Membership Church*
- **July 19** – **PYT Retreat**, Heartland Presbyterian Church, Clive. Arrive at 6 p.m. to meet and connect with others going to the tri-annual youth event in Indiana.
- **July 20-24** – Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT), "*For Such a Time as This!*" Purdue University, LaFayette, Indiana. Our Presbytery is sending 10 people in our delegation: **Erica Coulter (DM, Westminster)**; **Danielle Cross (DM, Clifton Heights)**; **Kasey Booth (Sharpsburg)**; **Jeff Ewing (Dallas Center, First)**; **Matt Kilian, Paige Klinkenborg and Emma Williams (Clive, Heartland)**; and **Madeleine King (Windsor Heights, Windsor)**. Adult advisors are: **Rev. Stephen Bowie** (Bloomfield, Christian Church) and **Kim Coulter (DM Westminster)**. Others going to PYT are: Small Group Leaders **Martie Larsen, CLP (Clive, Heartland)** and **Rev. Rick Carus (Ankeny)**. **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** is also taking a church delegation with 19 kids, and 4 adults.

### Joys and Concerns

Prayers are needed for the **Rev. Bruce Giese**, pastor of **Platte Center Presbyterian Church** and **Diagonal, United Presbyterian Church**, who had by-pass surgery last Thursday, July 8, at Iowa Methodist Hospital. Bruce was having some trouble but it was not an emergency, more a preemptive move to avoid a larger problem in the future. To contact his wife Nora, call 641-734-5365 or e-mail [pstrbruceg@gmail.com](mailto:pstrbruceg@gmail.com).

**CORRECTION:** The honorably retired Rev. Dick Kiefer will remain the Parish Associate at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines and will pursue business as usual. The change is he will no longer receive compensation for the position. Dick conveyed the following, "I know you folks at the Presbytery office have been similarly affected by budget constraints as well as churches in the presbytery. It is so good to be a part of a company who rate service first as a high priority and tighten belts as needed."  
– *Peace, Dick Kiefer*

### Knox United Church Holds Garage Sale, July 17

**Knox United Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**, has always been a strong mission-oriented church. Because of this, **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church** and **CROSS Ministries** are being given first choice of items and equipment in the church. At the June 27 Decommissioning Service, the offering was also given to CROSS Ministries and totaled \$1,066.00. The Knox United Presbyterian Church open house and garage sale for all the churches in the Presbytery will be Saturday, July 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All items are free, but donations are welcome. The following is a partial list of items available: organ, altar table, baptismal font, 2 candelabras, chimes, pews, 2 flags, office desk, diaper-changing station, hymnals & bibles, 2 window air conditioners, different styles of chairs, copier, projector, 2 and 4 drawer file cabinets, long tables, pool table, telephone answering machine, dishes, many miscellaneous office, kitchen and church-related items. If you feel you would be interested in any of the above, please respond by Wednesday, July 14 to Pat Aksamit, [royaksamat@gmail.com](mailto:royaksamat@gmail.com), so we can put your name on it.

–*From the Knox Administrative Commission.*

July 13, 2010

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



#### We are located at:

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#### Office Hours are:

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

#### Highlights on Next Page: (click bullet to see article)

- Park Avenue Holds Blowout Rummage Sale, July 17
- Employment Opportunities
- The movie "Papers" will be shown in Des Moines, July 14
- Stated Clerk Releases PC(USA) 2009 Statistics; Membership Down 3%

#### Presbytery Office Staff Finish Up Furlough Days in July General Presbyter Phil Barrett, Office Manager Betty Dyer and Director of Communications

**Kim Coulter** will take furlough days at various times during the month due to commitments at 219th General Assembly, the Presbyterian Youth Triennium and Synod School at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.

Please call before coming into the office.

## Park Avenue Church Holds Blowout Rummage Sale, July 17

A Blowout Summer Sale will be on Saturday, July 17, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church**, 3120 S.W. 9th St., Des Moines, Ia. A BBQ burger basket lunch and ala carte items will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Snacks will be available for purchase throughout the day. Items for sale include: Gently-worn (all season) clothing, shoes and accessories, household items, tools, garden produce and plants, furniture, seasonal and holiday items, sewing and craft items, toys, books, CDs and DVDs, games and more – all at ridiculously low prices! Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women. Proceeds will support local, national and international mission. For more information contact sale coordinator **Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson**, [Lefty-Lizard@juno.com](mailto:Lefty-Lizard@juno.com) or 515-287-1288.

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## Employment Opportunities

**Office Coordinator – Covenant Presbyterian Church, West Des Moines, Ia.** Office coordinator is needed to provide a church office that is effective, efficient and allows Covenant to meet its goal of offering a meaningful Christian community to its members and friends. A high school diploma plus some college level business courses, or equivalent work experience is needed. The ability to work in a team environment, present a professional image, and to help facilitate communication within a church. Strong computer software skills should include, Microsoft Office, Publisher, Outlook, and Adobe Acrobat for e-mail, accessing the internet and working with Covenant's Web site. Good communication and language arts skills with an eye for publication design and layout. The ability to organize tasks, to be self-directed and to problem solve. This is a non-exempt, part-time position with variable and flexible hours based on the congregation's needs. Performance reviews are conducted annually by Personnel Committee and the Head of Staff and will follow church guidelines as established by the Session's Personnel Committee. Approved by: Session in consultation with the Personnel Committee. If interested, send resume to: **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, 1025 28th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50265, 515-225-2254, [janscott@wdmcovenant.org](mailto:janscott@wdmcovenant.org).

**Executive Director – Iowa Interfaith Power and Light, Des Moines, Ia.** Iowa Interfaith Power and Light (Iowa IPL) is seeking a full-time executive director to lead its state-wide effort to mobilize the religious community to become leaders in addressing climate change through education, assistance with carbon footprints reductions, and advocacy for sustainable policies at all levels of government. The ideal applicant will demonstrate experience and success in organizational development and responsible for developing and implementing a strategic vision in conjunction with Iowa IPL's Board of Directors, seeking sustainable sources of funding for the organization, inspiring the involvement of volunteers, forming and maintaining strong contacts in religious and environmental communities, and creating and disseminating official materials and newsletters on behalf of the organization to its network of supporters as well as local, state, and national media. The position requires a passion for environmental issues and an understanding of the relationships between faith and the environment. To apply, go to [www.iowaipl.org/jobs](http://www.iowaipl.org/jobs). Or contact Executive Director Tim Fink, Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, [www.iowaipl.org](http://www.iowaipl.org).

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## The Movie "Papers" will be Shown in Des Moines, July 14

The movie showing is free and open to the public on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 6:30 p.m., at Grace United Methodist Church, 3700 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines. A discussion with Marshalltown youth will follow the movie. Co-sponsors: AFSC, Catholic Charities, Iowa CCI, JFON, MFSA, Trinity United Methodist. For details: [www.papersthemovie.com](http://www.papersthemovie.com).

"Papers" is the story of undocumented youth and the challenges they face as they turn 18 without legal status. There are approximately 2 million undocumented children who were born outside the U.S. and raised in this country. These are young people who were educated in American schools, hold American values, know only the U.S. as home and who, upon high school graduation, find the door to their future slammed shut. 65,000 undocumented students graduate every year from high school without "papers." It is against the law to work or drive. It is difficult, if not impossible in some states, to attend college. Currently, there is no path to citizenship for these young people.

Graham Street Productions produced this film in association with El Grupo Juvenil (the "Papers" Youth Crew). These youth producers were actively involved in all aspects of the production. They are working in collaboration with the youth who want to tell their stories as well as community organizations around the country who are working to change immigration policy on behalf of these young people.

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## Stated Clerk Releases PC(USA) 2009 Statistics; Membership Down 3% by [Sharon Youngs](#), Office of the General Assembly

**LOUISVILLE** — The Office of the General Assembly has released the 2009 statistics of the PC(USA). The report includes a comparative summary of the membership, a summary of receipts and expenditures for the past four years, and other statistical information. As of 2009, the total membership of the PC(USA) is 2,077,138, a roughly 3% decrease, or 63,027 members, from the previous year.

The Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the GA, said the latest statistics contain both good news and bad. "The good news is that adult baptisms rose for the first time in at least four years, and the overall number in membership losses was the lowest it has been in the last decade," Parsons said. "The discouraging news is that while we're gaining members, we're still playing catch-up with the rate of decline."

The total number of PC(USA) congregations dropped by 94 to 10,657, including fifteen churches that were dismissed to other denominations, compared to 25 in 2008. Twenty-six new churches were organized in 2009.

To read the complete story, go to: [www.pcusa.org/news/2010/7/1/stated-clerk-releases-pcusa-2009-statistics/](http://www.pcusa.org/news/2010/7/1/stated-clerk-releases-pcusa-2009-statistics/).

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

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