



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **July 21** – Lectionary Study group, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **July 23** – Presbytery staff meeting, 10:30 a.m. to Noon, Presbytery Office
- **July 23** – Coordinating Council, 4-6 p.m., Calvin Community, Des Moines
- **July 23** – The South Central Regional Partnership will host **El Salvador Mission Co-Worker Kathy Mahler**, Thursday evening at the **First Presbyterian Church**, 301 E. 1st St., Leon. Kathy's presentation will follow a 6 p.m. potluck supper. The host church is providing table service and drinks. Anyone interested in this vital mission of our Presbytery is invited to attend. RSVP's are not required but would be appreciated. Contact Rev. Jack DePond or Mary Ellen Stanley at 641-446-6179 or grandme@grm.net.
- **July 26-31** – Synod School, Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Ia.

Joy and Concerns

The **Rev. Dawn Linder** is the new pastor at **Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. She comes to us from the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Renville, MN, in the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys.

A candidate of the Des Moines Presbytery, **Cynthia Ripperger**, has received a call from the Elliott Creek and Community Presbyterian churches in Bronson and Lawton, Ia. near Sioux City in Prospect Hill Presbytery. Her examination for ordination will be during the August 15 Presbytery meeting.

A long-time member of **First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa**, **Floyd White**, became the proud 'owner' of a hole-in-one while golfing at Harvest Point Golf Course in Oskaloosa. Floyd has golfed for 55 years, three to four times a week, weather permitting. He used a #7 wood on the third hole which was a 114-foot drive. This was his first hole-in-one. Floyd is only 96!

DMARC was at the I-Cubs in June

All summer long, you can get a free General Admission ticket to the Iowa Cubs when you donate three food items. Additionally, for \$3, you can upgrade to reserved grandstand seating. On Sunday, June 14, SUMMIT interns from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, pictured here, collected food items. They are (from left to right): **Johanna Ruff** and **Chad Schwickerath (Ankeny)**, **Stacy Taber**, **Mazie Johnson**, **Calvin Culp** and **David Moore (Des Moines, Westminster)**. They collected 214 food items and \$36.56. Thanks to these young adults and to Westminster Presbyterian Church. If you would be interested in helping out at a game, contact the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry at 515-277-6969. The remaining game dates for food collection are August 23, August 30 and September 6.



DMARC Silent Auction to be Wednesday, July 22

The Iowa Homeless Youth Centers and the Des Moines Area Religious Council's Compassion in Action Program will host their annual silent auction at the I-Cubs game, Wednesday, July 22. The auction proceeds will go toward helping youth and families in need. Silent auction items include: An autographed picture from Kurt Warner, St. Louis Rams; an autographed hat and t-shirt from Justin Hartwig, Pittsburgh Steelers (Super Bowl XLIII Champions); an autographed picture from Jay Bruce, Cincinnati Reds; an official MLB autographed game jersey from Brian Bannister, Kansas City Royals; autographed memorabilia from the I-Cubs and the Chicago Cubs, as well as several other sporting items! There are also fun packages from various Des Moines locations including: Longview Golf, Jester Park Trail Rides, Climb Iowa and much more. For more info, go to DMARC's Web site at www.dmreligious.org/.

Summer Board of Pensions Bulletin is Online

The summer newsletter of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is available online. The Board Bulletin can be found at www.pensions.org. The issue covers discussion and decisions by BOP directors at their June 27 meeting in Philadelphia.

July 21, 2009

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

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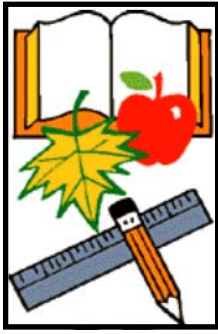
Office Hours are:

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

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- Major Healthcare Reform Event in Des Moines, July 25-27
- Upcoming Pastor and Lay Leader Training in Illinois
- Iowa Sister Churches Partner for Success

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CROSS Ministries Needs Your Help for Annual Giveaway

It is hard to believe that this will be the 17th Annual CROSS Ministries Back-to-School Giveaway for the children of low and no income households. Even though we have offered this program for many years now, it is as vital today as it was when we first began. I remember that first year and how stunned we were when hundreds of families lined up outside the door and down the alleyway just waiting to receive the children's school supplies. Little ones hopped about talking in loud, excited voices as they waited to see what supplies they would be given. The mothers and fathers attempted to maintain some semblance of control in the midst of such excitement. Even though that was 16 years ago, it was true of every single year that followed.

It is interesting that such a simple program consisting of providing a backpack filled with the supplies needed to begin school could make such a difference in the lives of so many. But imagine for a moment what would happen if the children did not have the supplies to begin school. Imagine arriving at school with the other children who were carrying backpacks, pencils, crayons, glue, scissors, and paper but you did not have anything to bring. Perhaps Mom or Dad had lost a job or someone in the family became ill and missed work resulting in less money for "non essentials." Imagine how you might feel if that were you or your child. CROSS Ministries does not want any child to have a poor start to school. We know that education is the way out of poverty. When you help a child with school supplies, you are making an investment into the future of us all.

As in previous years, we will be needing volunteers for packaging and distribution. We are also critically in need of both money and donations of supplies. If we have cash then we can purchase the items in quantity over the Internet at a greatly reduced cost, just as we did last year. For every \$12.50 that is donated, a child living in poverty can have a backpack filled with the grade appropriate school supplies needed to begin their year. We also value the donations of items that you take the time to shop for and bring to the church.

With summer barely off and running, it is hard to wrap our minds around this project. Yet this year's giveaway, on Thursday, August 6, and Friday, August 7, is just around the corner with lots of preparation to do in advance. If you would like to arrange a time to volunteer or drop off donations, call Ann or Roberta in the CROSS Ministries office, 515-279-8877 or info@crossministries.org. Please look in your heart and help us by donating to this vital ministry for the children. Thank you.

– [Roberta Victor, Ph.D., ATR-BC](#), Executive Director, CROSS Ministries, 1050 24th Street, Des Moines

Major Healthcare Reform Event in Des Moines, July 25-27

The Des Moines Catholic Worker announces the Iowa Healthcare Action that will take place July 25-27, 2009, in Des Moines, Iowa. The event brings Dr. Margaret Flowers as keynote speaker on Sunday, July 26, 7:30 p.m. at the **Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 321 Euclid Ave., in Des Moines**. Dr. Flowers, a Baltimore-area pediatrician is co-chair of the Maryland chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program. Flowers was arrested May 5, 2009, when they tried to persuade the Senate Finance Committee to include Single-Payer in Healthcare Reform considerations. Her actions led to her ultimately testifying as an expert witness on Single-Payer at a Senate roundtable forum on June 11.

This event is part of the "Insurance Profits Make Us Sick" Campaign that began in March, sponsored by the Des Moines Catholic Worker. To learn more, go to: www.desmoinescatholicworker.org/healthcareaction.html.

Upcoming Pastor and Lay Leader Training in Illinois

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) is offering *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* on Aug. 3-7, 2009 in Glen Ellyn, Ill. **Registration deadline has been extended**. This training has consistently been rated by judicatory lay leaders and pastors of multiple denominations as "the best continuing education event I've ever attended." Is your church in the midst of a challenging, conflict situation? This might be the opportunity you need to cope. Pastors who have attended this institute in the past, while facing such a situation – or having done so in the recent past – have commented that they find the training "not only enlightening, but also healing." For an informational brochure, contact the Des Moines Presbytery office.

Other upcoming LMPC events are: *Here I Stand: Leading Change Through Self-Differentiation* and our *Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process*. Visit their website www.LMPeaceCenter.org for further information about our workshops. Or contact LMPC Assistant for Communications Ginny Hrushka at Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, 101 W. 22nd St., Ste. 206, Lombard, IL 60148, phone: 630-627-0507, FAX: 630-627-0519.

Iowa Sister Churches Partner for Success

When the economy takes a turn for the worse, budgets must be trimmed, and the first thing that usually goes is financial support for public assistance agencies. Unfortunately, when the economy is down, that's when those services are needed most. Collegiate and Northminster Presbyterian churches, sister churches in Ames, Ia., know this, and set out to boost support for a few local organizations to minimize the impact of reduced government funding.

Northminster branched off from Collegiate in 1961 to better serve the growing northeast portion of Ames, but the two congregations have remained close and often work together to serve Ames as a whole. The complete story is at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09564.htm.

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.
