



## The Wider Circle E-News

### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **June 1** – Congregational Care & Development meeting, 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **June 1** – Compañeros Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **June 3** – The New CROSS Ministries' Food Pantry Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, June 5. Prior to the actual opening, **the CROSS Committee will also host an Open House on Thursday, June 3, from 5-7 p.m.** We invite everyone to come for refreshments, tour our new facility, and help us celebrate our new outreach program to combat hunger. For donations, presentations, or pulpit supply, contact CROSS Ministries Executive Director **Dr. Roberta Victor**, at 515-279-8877 or [info@crossministriesdm.org](mailto:info@crossministriesdm.org). To volunteer to work in the food pantry, contact **Joyce Hoffman**, [hoffmanjah@hotmail.com](mailto:hoffmanjah@hotmail.com), 515-225-9868.
- **June 3** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m., Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **June 5** – Social Ministries Task Force meeting (Moved to June 26)
- **June 5** – CROSS Ministries' Food Pantry Grand Opening. We invite one and all to come for refreshments, tour our new facility, and help us celebrate our new outreach program to combat hunger.
- **June 5-12** – Compañeros Delegation to El Salvador.
- **June 8** – Committee on Preparation for Ministry meeting, 9:30 a.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church
- **June 9** – Presbytery staff lunch and meeting, 11:30 a.m., Presbytery Office
- **June 13** – The Angel Choir, a senior high youth choir from Rev. Karen Chaikoian's (former pastor at **Union Park & Central churches**) current church, First Presbyterian Church in Granville, Ohio, is touring the Midwest in June. The concert which is free to the public, will be June 13th, 7 p.m., at **Union Park Presbyterian Church, 1307 Thompson Ave., Des Moines**. The program will include arrangements of well-known hymns. For more information, contact the Union Park church office at 515-266-4700 or [uppc1@live.com](mailto:uppc1@live.com).
- **June 14-21** – St. Boniface, Waukee Delegation to El Salvador
- **June 16-19** – Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presbyterian Women's summer gathering theme is "The Wonders of God's Promises" at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Ia. Marjorie Thomson will be the spiritual leader for the gathering. Louise Lawson Johnson is Bible study leader and Caroline Vickery will lead worship. Kristi Holler, a singer, songwriter and pianist, will lead music. Additional details are available at [Presbyterian Women Gathering](http://Presbyterian Women Gathering). For complete details e-mail Sue Nedderman at: [s.medsker.nedderman@gmail.com](mailto:s.medsker.nedderman@gmail.com).
- **June 19** – Joining Hands meeting, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **June 20** – *Men of the Church/Father's Day / Rev. Russ Tomlinson Day*

### Joys and Concerns

Prayers for healing and rehabilitation are needed for our Presbytery Moderator **Becky Diebold (Ottumwa First)**, who had hip replacement surgery May 25 at Ottumwa Regional Hospital. She will be in acute recovery for 4-5 days due to other health issues and in the hospital for 7-10 days.

June 20 is *Rev. Russ Tomlinson Day!* At our Presbytery Meeting on May 18, the Professional Care and Development Committee recognized a tremendous achievement by one of our pastors. **The honorably retired Rev. Russ Tomlinson**, one of our retired minister members, will celebrate 60 years of ordained ministry on June 20. In order to honor this achievement, a proclamation was made declaring June 20 would now be known across the Presbytery as Russ Tomlinson Day. All of our congregations are encouraged to celebrate and honor Russ for his milestone. Should you wish to send Russ and his wife Ruth kudos, their address is: 1145 West 1<sup>st</sup> St., #109, Ankeny, IA 50023-2661.

June 1, 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)

- Nominate Individuals or Groups Dedicated to Disaster Recovery Work
- Help DMARC with Annual Fund Raiser at the I-Cubs
- Reflections on Haiti 2010: Days 5/6

### Presbytery Staff to take Furlough Hours in June & July

June and July is when the presbytery office staff will take the furlough days necessitated by the 2010 budget approved at the May 18 Stated Meeting. In June, **General Presbyter Phil Barrett** will take Mondays and **Office Manager Betty Dyer** will take Fridays. **Director of Communications Kim Coulter** will work shorter days during the week. This means that staff will not be accessible, as they usually are, and will not be able to respond as timely as usual.

Furlough days in July will be different due to staff working at the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis and Synod School at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.

We appreciate your understanding and support during this time.

## Nominate Individuals or Groups Dedicated to Disaster Recovery Work

DES MOINES – Nomination forms are available for the *Rebuild Iowa Award for Service*. The award recognizes Iowans who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in Iowa's 2008 disaster recovery efforts. The purpose of the award is to recognize, promote and honor individuals and groups who have been involved in rebuilding and/or established best practices in recovery efforts after the floods and tornadoes of 2008. Recognition will be given to citizens, volunteers, business leaders/owners, non-profit groups, and others for their outstanding efforts in rebuilding Iowa safer, stronger and smarter. (Please note that government employees at the local, state or federal level are not eligible.)

Nominations for the *Rebuild Iowa Award for Service* can be submitted by individuals, local groups, community leaders, government employees, etc. Nominees will be judged on their volunteer hours, impact on the community, creativity, leadership, and sustainability of the project(s) in which they were involved. All applications will be judged by an independent selection committee made up of public dignitaries and private citizens involved with the state's 2008 disaster recovery effort. Nomination forms can be found on the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov) or at: [www.rio.iowa.gov/Rebuild\\_Iowa\\_Award\\_for\\_Service.pdf](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/Rebuild_Iowa_Award_for_Service.pdf), and will be accepted through Friday, June 11, 2010.

## Help DMARC with Annual Fund Raiser at the I-Cubs

Let's Play Ball! [The Iowa Cubs](http://The_Iowa_Cubs) are once again supporting the [DMARC Emergency Food Pantry](http://DMARC_Emergency_Food_Pantry) this season. Fans can bring a donation of three food items to any Sunday home game and receive a free—FREE!—general admission ticket, which can be upgraded to reserved grandstand status for \$3.00. Qualifying games begin at 1:05 pm. Home games are played at the gorgeous [Principal Park](http://Principal_Park). For a listing of the most needed food items, [click here](#). The game dates are as follows:

- June 6 vs. New Orleans
- June 20 vs. Albuquerque
- July 11 vs. New Orleans
- August 8 vs. Portland
- August 22 vs. Nashville
- September 5 vs. Memphis

Thank you, I-Cubs and I-Cubs fans, for helping DMARC get [emergency food](#) to the people and families who need it. See you at the ballgame!



## Reflections on Haiti 2010: Days 5/6

*April 18 Blog Post by 218<sup>th</sup> GA Moderator Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Album Day: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) | [Itinerary](#) | [Give Now](#)*

End of day six and as with any trip with this level of intensity and pace, it is hard to believe it is almost over. Today we had our last round of site visits, tomorrow we worship with a local congregation and then Monday we begin our journey back home.

What to say, what to say? There really is so much that has happened over the past few days from going back through Port-Au-Prince, traveling to Cap Haitien on the northern side of Haiti and seeing a few more partner sites.

It seems that the overwhelming topic of conversation for us has been "what does it really mean to be good partners in mission?". It really is an old drum song, but it is true, sometimes in our compassion and eagerness to show love and healing, we do more long-term harm than we could ever have imagined. Without giving too much details about our conversations with locals, it is clear

that we – the U.S. (Church and non-church) still find ourselves acting in very colonial ways oblivious to some of the cultural realities of Haiti. Again, well-intentioned, but often our actions are short-sighted and harmful in the long run.

But, as all know especially post-earthquake, many people want come to Haiti to help. When we see images of some of the areas of Haiti and level of poverty, what person would NOT want to feed and clothe those who are in need? And indeed, relief work is sometimes needed, but eventually if we are truly interested in becoming partners that work together we must move the conversations and our actions to development and sustainability.

So how do we make sure to the best of our ability to be here in helpful ways. The folks I have been hanging out with are so well versed in the nuances of mission experiences. I have gleaned a little from them by articulating for myself,

- Why do you want to go?
- What do you hope to gain?
- Who is this trip REALLY for?
- Is what we offer really needed and best done by us?
- Is our involvement going to be WITH people or FOR people?
- What kind of critical analysis before and afterward are you commit to: issues, culture, history, etc.?
- How will we connect with our partners that have been working with our church, in our case the PC(USA) in order to understand the nuances of our historic church relationships.

some of the questions I would pose for any community I was working with who want to engage in short term mission. The answers to these questions seem obvious, but are only helpful if, and only if, we truly embrace the challenge and discipline that is required. I would NEVER say there is never a time to engage in this kind of activity, but according to [When Helping Hurts: Alleviating Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Ourselves](#), by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbet, in 2006 alone, it is estimated that 1.6 BILLION dollars was spent by U.S. church on short-term mission.

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.

