



## The Wider Circle E-News

### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **June 22** – Book Study, *Honest to God*, 9-10 a.m., Presbytery Office
- **June 22** – Lectionary Study, 10 am – noon, Presbytery Office
- **June 24** – Nominating Committee meeting, Noon, Presbytery Office
- **June 25** – Jewish Community Listening Session, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Des Moines Presbytery office, 2400 86th St., Ste. #20, Urbandale. Join us for a chance to hear concerns from the Jewish community in Des Moines over the upcoming discussion at the PC(USA)'s 219th General Assembly about Jewish-Palestinian relations. The session will last approximately one hour and is primarily a listening session, not a debate. If you wish to familiarize yourself with the issues, go to the PC(SUA)'s General Assembly Web site: [www.pc-biz.org/](http://www.pc-biz.org/), and go to 'Committee #14 – Middle East Peacemaking Issues'. If you have questions, contact **Elder Becky Diebold (Ottumwa, First)**, 641-683-1303 or [diebold@mchsi.com](mailto:diebold@mchsi.com).
- **June 25** – Presbytery Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **June 26** – Social Ministries Task Force meeting, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **June 27** – *Disability Inclusion Sunday*
- **June 27** – The De-commissioning of **Knox United Presbyterian Church, 2315 59th St., Des Moines**. The Presbytery is invited to attend the celebration of the life and history of this 63-year-old church organized March 30, 1947. The service is scheduled for Sunday at 3 p.m.
- **June 29** – Book Study, *Honest to God*, 9-10 a.m., Presbytery Office
- **June 29** – Lectionary Study, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office

### For Sale:

The **Knox United Presbyterian Church** is having a garage sale on July 17th. Two items that are 'free' to a good church home are two overhead projectors. These are the type that show black and white transparencies on the wall. If interested, contact church member **Ed Bryan** at 515-277-7357.

### Joys and Concerns

Prayers are needed for **Older Adult Ministries Moderator Darlene Shepherd**, who's husband Dave passed away on June 15. They are members of the **Oskaloosa First Presbyterian Church**. Dave's death was somewhat unexpected although he has been in poor health for 20 years.

Welcome to **the honorably retired Rev. Dr. Greg Smith** and his wife **Rachel**. They have moved into the Des Moines area and will transfer his membership from the Carlisle Presbytery in Pennsylvania.

**The Rev. Kay Steddum** of the **First Presbyterian Church in Audubon** has completed her contract terms and is looking for a new call. We wish her well in her new adventures.

**The honorably retired Rev. Richard "Dick" Kiefer** is ending his call of parish associate at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. Prayers of thanksgiving for his work with home-bound and hospital visits while he served the congregation.

**The Rev. William "Bill" LeMosy** will be finishing his pastoral service with **Knox United Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** as they have their last worship service and de-commissioning on Sunday, June 27, 3 p.m. Bill will 'retire' officially at the August 21 Stated Meeting of the Des Moines Presbytery.

Homestead Presbytery recently commissioned the **Rev. Karen Moritz** (a former member of the Des Moines Presbytery), who has been serving the ecumenical campus ministry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to serve as the PC(USA)'s ecumenical relations facilitator with the Ecumenical Church of the Czech Brethren in Prague, Czech Republic. She leaves for training at the end of June. The worship offering at the May 20 presbytery meeting in Wymore, Neb., provided \$390.50 for this mission.

June 22, 2010

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



### We are located at:

2400 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 20  
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306  
515-276-4991

[officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org)

### Office Hours are:

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

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

- Retire Pastor is Jailed for Muscular Dystrophy Association Fundraiser
- Des Moines Area Residents Display Flags for of July 4th
- General Assembly Attracts other Presbytery Members
- Synod of Lakes and Prairies Sets 2011 Per Capita Level
- Synod Task Force Statement Sent to GA for Distribution
- PDA Watching Gulf Oil Spill

### Presbytery Staff to take Furlough Hours

In June, **General Presbyter Phil Barrett** will take Mondays off, **Office Manager Betty Dyer** will take Fridays off and **Director of Communications Kim Coulter** will work shorter days during the week. This means that staff will not be accessible as usual. Please call before coming to the office.

Furlough days in July will be different due to staff working at the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Minneapolis, Presbyterian Youth Triennial and Synod School at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.

**Friday, July 2 through July 9, office hours are 9 a.m.-Noon.**

**The office will be closed Monday, July 5th for the holiday.**

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## Retired Pastor is Jailed for Muscular Dystrophy Association Fundraiser

The **honorably retired Rev. Robert Cook (DM, Union Park)** is being sentenced to serve one hour in jail for having a big heart and he'll need our help to get him out of jail! In order to raise funds for MD, Bob has graciously allowed the MD of Iowa to capture and detain him. If you decide to participate, you can view the incriminating video about his capture at: [www.joinmda.org/teludsmia2010/hermano\\_robert1](http://www.joinmda.org/teludsmia2010/hermano_robert1), and donate online. Raising Bob's bail will be a challenge so feel free to e-mail this link to others interested in MDA's mission.

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## Des Moines Area Residents Display Flags for the Fourth of July

A Board member of the Fort Des Moines Museum and a member at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, Mary Whisenand** is asking people to consider supporting "Flags on the Fourth" the annual fund raiser of The Fort. For details of how you can have flags placed on your lawn (or a friend, relative, acquaintance, neighbor) celebrating our country's birthday and honoring the currently serving military personnel, see their web site at: [www.fortdesmoines.org](http://www.fortdesmoines.org). Click on 'Be a Yankee Doodle Dandy' for details on the fund raiser. Don't worry, if you don't have a yard, you can send the flags to another location to be planted! The museum and education center honors the U.S. Army's first officer candidate class for African American men in 1917, and the establishment of the first Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC's) in 1942. If you haven't been to the museum, Mary encourages everyone to consider a visit.

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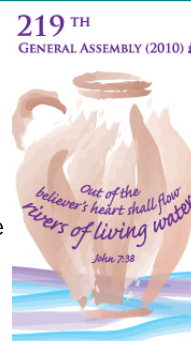
## General Assembly Attracts other Presbytery Members

The Committee on Local Arrangements is still seeking volunteers for July 3-10 in Minneapolis. There are many ways to take part – check out the list at [www.cola2010.com](http://www.cola2010.com). If you are volunteering, please let the Des Moines Presbytery Office know at [pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org) or 515-276-4991. More Des Moines Presbytery members participating and volunteering include:

**The Rev. Rick Carus (Ankeny)** will be serving communion on July 4th at the special worship service to be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center for the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**Julie Cloud (Ankeny)** will volunteer for the Face-to-Face event, July 5th, held by the PC(USA) Office of Vocation. She is meeting on behalf of Presbytery's Congregational Care and Development Committee with persons interested in churches in the Presbytery of Des Moines that are looking for pastors.

**Sandy Wagner (Ankeny)** our Presbytery's Mission Advocate, will be volunteering July 5-7 in the PC(USA) World Mission booths (there are 3 different ones).



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## Synod of Lakes and Prairies Sets 2011 Per Capita Level

Following a year in which the Synod did not increase its per capita apportionment, the synod assembly voted May 2-4 at Mt. Olivet Retreat and Conference Center, Farmington, Minn., to approve a 10 cent per capita increase for 2011. The synod's per capita apportionment increased from \$4.80 to \$4.90. Per capita is based on the membership of each presbytery on Dec. 31 two years prior to the budget year. Per capita provides "funds necessary for the synod to do its essential ecclesiastical work," according to the background information provided by the Synod's Program Coordination Committee.

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## Synod Task Force Statement Sent to GA for Distribution

A statement from the Administrative Review Task Force on the Future of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies that calls on commissioners of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PC(USA) to "give sincere and thorough consideration to the overtures before them regarding the future role of synods in our church" was affirmed by synod commissioners when they met May 2-4 at the Mt. Olivet Retreat and Conference Center, Farmington, Minn. [See full article at: <http://lakesprairies.pnnews.org/view/articles/21847?r=3042>]

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## PDA Watching Gulf Oil Spill

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and other ministry programs of PC(USA) continue to monitor the situation in the oil spill situation in the Gulf of Mexico. PDA's protocol when disasters occur in a region of our church, is to contact the middle governing bodies in the geographic area of the disaster and respond to the needs which they identify.

Weekly joint conference calls are being held with all presbyteries that border the Gulf of Mexico and staff in offices PC(USA) program staff. Offices represented on the call include [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#), [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#), [Presbyterian Self-Development of People](#), [Presbyterian Washington Office](#), [Environmental Ministries](#) and [Theology and Worship](#). The presbyteries and programs are still working to identify and catalog needs to which it may be appropriate to respond. Plans have been made to include our ecumenical partner, Church World Service on the next conference call to help determine a broader faith-based response.

One area of need that has been identified is emotional and spiritual care-giving for affected families. A team from Alaska who lived through and learned from the oil spill in that region has been working with one of the affected presbyteries to share their learning's and provide empathetic support. Please consider the following points as you pray for families affected by this disaster and wonder how you can respond.

- The nature of the damage done by an oil spill is different from the damage caused by other disasters such as hurricanes and floods. How the spill affects personal property and people's livelihoods may require a different type of assessment and/or response.
- The actual clean-up effort is dangerous. We do not want to expose untrained volunteers to that level of toxicity. Nor do we have the capacity to train a large number of people in those skills.

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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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