

## Presbytery of Des Moines

Equipping pastors and congregations  
in South Central Iowa with the tools  
to carry on God's awesome love.



# The Wider Circle E-News

## Mark your calendars this week for:

- **June 2** – CCD, 2 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **June 2** – Compañeros, 6:30 p.m., **Westminster, Des Moines**
- **June 4** – CROSS Ministries, 7 p.m., Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church
- **June 6** – Social Ministries Task Force, 9 a.m., Presbytery Office
- **June 7** – *Trinity Sunday*
- **June 8** – PUP Task Force, 3:00 p.m. at the Presbytery Office
- **June 10** – Iowa EP/GPs, 11:00 am – 3:00 p.m. at the Presbytery Office
- **June 11-13** – *The Big Tent Conference*, The Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, Ga.  
PC(USA) Programs meeting are: CPM/COM Conference, Elders Conference, Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, New Immigrant Groups, Presbyterian Communicators' Network, PHEWA/Social Justice Biennial Conference, Presbyterian Multicultural Conference, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, Presbyterian Youth Connection, Racial Ethnic Convocation, Stewardship Conference

## Joys and Concerns

Please keep the Rev. Katie Snipes in your prayers as she is in the process of finishing her Grinnell College internship and will be seeking a call either here or in Indiana.

## Alaska Church seeks 10 Construction Volunteers

The Rev. Deva McQueen of Metlakatla (Alaska) Presbyterian Church, sent a note to the synods and presbyteries this week seeking mission volunteers. She wrote, "Please get the word out that [Metlakatla Presbyterian Church] is able to host a group of approximately 10 workers with light construction skills to help in renovating our church. Lodging is no problem." She can be contacted at [rev.deva.mcqueen@gmail.com](mailto:rev.deva.mcqueen@gmail.com) or by telephone at 907-886-7581.

## See the African Children's Choir In Des Moines

Enjoy a high-energy children's choir! *Hope for Africa* Children's Choir will be featured in a FREE Concert, Wednesday, June 3, 7-8:30 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 412 Euclid Ave., Des Moines, IA. This is a NEW date from previous promotions! Helping Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa tomorrow. This group touring Iowa May 20-June 5,



is from Uganda and Sudan and was invited by the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. They are great singers and fun to watch and have even brought their African drums. There is no charge, but a free will offering will be received



June 2, 2009

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



### We are located at:

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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

## This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- Joys and Concerns
- Alaska Volunteer Opportunity
- African Children's Choir has Free Concert in Des Moines
- Parsons Addresses 'The Higher Call'
- Columbia Theological Seminary offers Holy Land Pilgrimage
- Synod Per Capita Stays Same
- Lakes and Prairies Now on Facebook

## Parsons Addresses 'The Higher Call'



The Rev. Gradye Parson, stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), opened his monthly column, "Maybe we need an Extreme Planet Makeover. As if 3.7 million people unemployed since January, tornadoes, and flooding were not enough, now we have swine flu. I am sure there are locusts warming up somewhere. The difference between the first three disasters and swine flu is that the first three bring people together." The complete column can be found at:

[www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09391](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09391).

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## Columbia Theological Seminary offers Holy Land Pilgrimage

**Decatur, GA.**—June 22 is the application deadline for a unique spiritual renewal experience offered for mid-career pastors by Columbia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifelong Learning. *Journey of Faith: A Pilgrimage of Discernment for Ministry* includes a two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land and two short retreats—one before and one after the pilgrimage. Participant costs for travel, accommodations, meals, and materials for the pilgrimage will be paid through a grant from the CF Foundation, through its *Holy Land Pastoral Renewal Program*. The only cost for those selected to participate will be a registration fee of \$250 and miscellaneous personal expenses. Travel to the Holy Land is from Oct. 28-Nov. 11, 2009, with an orientation retreat Sept. 22-24, 2009, and a follow-up retreat scheduled for Jan. 5-7, 2010. The Orientation retreat will be held at the Emory Conference Center and the follow-up retreat will be held on the Columbia Campus. *Journey of Faith* is open to pastors of any denomination who are between the ages of 35-55 and have 5 or more years in ordained ministry and who are currently in active service to a congregation. The application deadline for the pilgrimage is June 22, 2009. Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by July 6, 2009. Dent Davis, dean and vice president for Lifelong Learning, is project director for *Journey of Faith*. He says, "This extraordinary program—made possible through a generous gift to the seminary—will enable pastors to journey from the demands and challenges of everyday ministry, to visit the birthplace of our faith, and to reflect on their ministry. Participants will have an opportunity to deepen their spiritual journey, clarify their call to ministry, and gain valuable insights through this journey to the roots of our faith." For an application, go to: [www.ctsnet.edu/LL/Journey.aspx](http://www.ctsnet.edu/LL/Journey.aspx). For more information, call 404-687-4557, or e-mail [journeyoffaith@ctsnet.edu](mailto:journeyoffaith@ctsnet.edu). Columbia Theological Seminary, located in Decatur, Georgia, was established in 1828 and is one of 10 theological institutions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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## Synod Votes to Maintain Per Capita Level in 2010

Synod of Lakes and Prairies commissioners decided at their spring meeting last month to forego an increase in the synod's per capita rate in 2010. Synod per capita currently stands at \$4.80. The synod's spring meeting took place April 26-28 at Mount Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn. It marks the first time since 1999 that there has been no year-over-year increase in per capita. The per capita apportionment is calculated based on the funds necessary for the synod to do its essential ecclesiastical work. Per capita is apportioned based on the total church membership within the synod. Presbyteries and General Assembly also have per capita apportionments and the synod's apportionment is the smallest of the three. A detailed description of per capita can be found on the denomination's Web site at [www.pcusa.org/percapita/](http://www.pcusa.org/percapita/). The importance of per capita can be found at [www.pcusa.org/percapita/importance.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/percapita/importance.htm). Additional information about the synod's spring meeting can be found on the [synod's Web site](#).

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## Lakes and Prairies Now on Facebook

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is now on Facebook and readers of *Keeping in Touch* who are on Facebook are invited to become members of the synod's group. If you aren't a Facebook member, you will have to join before becoming a member of the group. If you are a Facebook user, or once you join (go to: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) search for "Synod of Lakes and Prairies" using the Search bar in the upper right corner of the screen. Being on Facebook, or joining and finding the synod is easy – the tough part is content. The synod will provide periodic updates but the site will only be effective if it becomes a place where communication takes place among its members.

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