

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 16** – Staff meeting/lunch retreat, 10:30-2 p.m.
- **June 18** – Lunch & Learn Series, *Blogging 101 and Podcasting for Pastors*, Presbytery Office, Noon-1 p.m.
- **June 21**– *12th Sunday in Ordinary Time*; Father's Day; Men of the Church Sunday
- **June 24** – Older Adult Ministries Task Force meeting, 1 p.m. at the Presbytery Office
- **June 28** – *13th Sunday in Ordinary Time*; Disability Inclusion Sunday (Access Sunday) For resources, go online to: www.pcusa.org/phewa/networks/pdc/access.htm.



Access Sunday
June 28, 2009

June 16, 2009

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

2400 86th Street, Suite 20
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306
515-276-4991

officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org

Office Hours are:

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

Directory and Pulpit Supply List Updated

The Des Moines Presbytery Directory is now available online at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/PofDSMDirectory.pdf. We would like to save postage, so if you are in the Urbandale area in the next week or two, please stop by to pick up your copies. Churches will receive their two copies in the mail after July 25. The Pulpit Supply list has also been updated and can be found at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/PulpitSupply.pdf

Presbytery 2009 Budget Deficit Pledges Coming In

"Good things come in small packages." "Small but mighty." "The Little Engine That Could." None of these are anywhere near sufficient to describe many of our S.M.C.'s – Small Membership Congregations. Within 24 hours of last week's *Wider Circle E-News* going out, one of our smaller SMC's – First Presbyterian Church in Lucas – sent a contribution to the Presbytery that was more than the \$6.00 per member idea I proposed at the last Presbytery meeting.

This was closely followed by contributions or pledges from the Lenox United Presbyterian Church (part of a yoked parish), Westminster Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa (a church currently without a pastor), Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church in Des Moines (a church also without a pastor and rebounding from significant financial and congregational issues), and First Presbyterian Church in Chariton (also a yoked parish congregation).

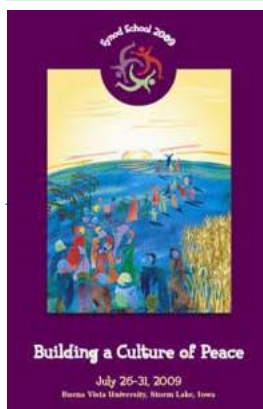
On top of this came a generous personal contribution from one of our pastors (of, once again, a yoked parish), and it included a challenge to other churches to meet or beat the \$6.00 per member gift, as well as to pastors to step up and strongly support this effort. Even as I write this, more gifts and pledges are coming in. This response to our current financial situation is very heartening to those of us concerned for our future together. The SMC's have laid down a pretty strong challenge. How will you respond?



–General Presbyter and State Clerk Rev. Phil Barrett
pby1@presbyteryofdesmoines.org, 515-276-4991

This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- Directory and Pulpit Supply List Updated
- Presbytery 2009 Budget Deficit Pledges Coming In
- Synod School Time is Here!
- PC(USA)'S SDOP Awards more than \$300,000 in Grants
- Lilly Endowment Announces 2009 Clergy Renewal Program
- PDA Opportunities
- Are you in the know?



Synod School Time is Almost Here!

Building a Culture of Peace is this year's theme for 2009 Synod School at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Ia. Registrations are still being accepted for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies annual event, July 26-31, 2009. For further information, go online to see a catalog at www.lakesandprairies.org/ or contact the Presbyterian Office at 515-276-4991 for a catalog.

PC(USA)'S SDOP Awards more than \$300,000 in Grants

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People has approved grants totaling \$337,760 to 16 self-help projects in the U.S., including two within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies' boundaries. The money comes from the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering. See the complete story at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09447.htm.

Lilly Endowment Announces 2009 National Clergy Renewal Program

The [Lilly Endowment](#) seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing an opportunity for pastors to step away briefly from the obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. See the program's Web site for the complete Request for Proposals. [Link to Complete RFP.](#)

PDA has an Opportunity for You this Summer!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is offering three opportunities for you to get involved. Youth Week 2009, Family Week 2009, and Father and Son Week 2009. This is a way for youth groups, families, fathers and sons to rebuild the Gulf Coast together. Progress is being made and you can be part of this remarkable mission ministry. Check it out at www.pcusa.org/pda/teams.htm. Don't forget that the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance updates are available for viewing online at www.pcusa.org/pda/.

Are you in the know?

How many communication devices impact your life on a daily basis? There are "old-school" devices: newspaper, telephone, and TV. Then there are newer ones: mobile phone, iPod, laptop, PDA, etc. For many of us, our mobile communication tools are such a vital part of our lives that we can't imagine functioning without them. It's how we keep up with family, friends, work, local and global news.

Well, the Des Moines Presbytery has joined the networking party. We realize that in order to keep all of our members informed and connected, we need to provide as many ways to communicate as possible. If you are new to social networking, we encourage you to join us. It is easy, free, and safe!

The two sites our Presbytery is using are Facebook and Twitter. When you create a profile on either site, you control *how much* information people have access to and *who* you want to have as friends. Your profile, can be as public or as hidden as you want. Both sites are "user-friendly". Below are basic instructions to help you register:

FACEBOOK: 1) login to www.facebook.com; 2) under "Sign Up", fill out your name, e-mail, and password; 3) click "Sign Up" and follow the rest of the instructions; 4) once you have created a profile, search for **Presbytery of Des Moines** under "Groups"; 5) click the "Join this group" link on the right side of the page.

TWITTER: 1) login to www.twitter.com; 2) under "Please Sign In", fill out your user name or e-mail, and password; 3) click "Sign Up" and fill out your profile information; 4) click the "Find People" link on the top, right side; 5) click the "Find On Twitter" tab and search for **desmoinespresby**; 6) click the "Follow" button and you will receive automatic updates, you can even receive text messages of Twitter updates on your cell phone.

Definitions@Wikipedia

A SOCIAL NETWORK is a social structure made of nodes (which are generally individuals or organizations) that are tied by one or more specific types of interdependency, such as values, visions, ideas, financial exchange, friendship, kinship, dislike, conflict or trade.

SOCIAL MEDIA are primarily Internet-and mobile-based tools for sharing and discussing information. Primarily, social media depend on interactions between people as the discussion and integration of words to build shared-meaning, using technology as a conduit.

FACEBOOK is a free-access social networking web site.

TWITTER is a social networking and micro-blogging service that allows users to send and read other users' updates (known as tweets), which are text-based posts of up to 140 characters in length.