



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **June 23** – Transformation Team meeting, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at AIB Des Moines
- **June 24** – Khadamat Sudaniya meeting, 4-5:30 p.m. at Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church in Des Moines
- **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.
- **June 30** – Lectionary study group, 10-Noon at the Presbytery Office, Urbandale

Joys and Concerns

Emily Seeger, former PW Moderator and member of **First Presbyterian Church in Atlantic** where her husband, Don, is pastor, recently had rotator-cuff surgery and is home recuperating.

Sandy Wagener, moderator of the Stewardship & Mission Interpretation Committee and a member of the **Ankeny Presbyterian Church**, recently had back surgery and is home recuperating.

The Older Adult Ministries Task Force Moderator **Darlene Shepherd's husband Dave**, who is a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa, recently suffered a stroke and is currently in rehab at the Ottumwa hospital.

The Rev. Bill Ekhardt, parish associate at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, recently received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Congratulations!

Synod of Lakes and Prairies Executive Phil Brown is celebrating his June 6 wedding to **Faith Ralston** at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest in Minnesota. Faith and Phil invite well-wishers to make contributions to a Presbyterian camp of your choice, in honor of the occasion. If you'd like to contact the newlyweds for congratulations, e-mail them at pcbrown@frontiernet.net or faith@faithralston.com.

Presbytery 2009 Budget Deficit Pledges Coming In

We are on our way to receiving enough pledges to help support the recent 2009 budget deficit that was announced at the Des Moines Presbytery's May Stated Meeting. As of Monday, June 22, we have pledges totaling \$10,861 from 15 churches toward the \$57,445 goal. Contributing congregations are: **Centerville, First; Chariton, First; Clive, Heartland; Corning, First; Dallas Center, First; Des Moines, First, Clifton Heights and Knox United; Grinnell, First; Lenox, United; LeRoy, First; Lucas, First; Ottumwa, Westminster; Tingley, United; and West Des Moines, Covenant.**

A challenge has been issued by one of our pastors to match the contribution of \$655 to go towards the budget deficit. This is from fruits of the 'dollar-a-day' challenge last year of Phil Barrett's, plus this year's amount in advance.

Go online to see the slide show presented at the May 19 Presbytery meeting by the Stewardship & Mission Interpretation (SMI) and Budget & Finance (B&F) committees at www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/PresbyteryMission.pdf. If you have questions, feel free to call one of the following: General Presbyter **Phil Barrett**, 515-276-4991, SMI Moderator **Sandy Wagener**, 515-964-3762 or B&F Moderator **Pat Aksamit**, 515-276-4074.

Additions since last weeks information on *Are You In The Know?*

The Presbytery of Des Moines is offering photos taken at the 2009 Presbytery meetings, online at Flickr.com If you'd like to share these of our Presbytery meetings with your church, go online to: www.flickr.com/photos/dmpresbytery/. You can download and share these photos.

Also, the Presbytery is now offering a new way for you to signup and get our Presbytery's blog updates automatically in your e-mail inbox. Go to our home page at www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org and sign in with your e-mail address. You'll receive updates from our Presbytery's blog when it is updated. Remember: this blog is available to church delegations/teams as they travel doing their mission work. All you have to do is have a laptop or computer and an Internet connection. Contact the Presbytery Office if you're interested in sharing your team's mission during your trip.

June 23, 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

This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- Joys and Concerns
- Presbytery 2009 Budget Deficit Pledge Update
- Are You In the Know?
- Take Action: June is Torture Awareness Month
- God Complex Radio Features Reyes-Chow, Merritt
- In Search of Pastors?
- New Online: *The Presbyterian Leader.com*
- FOG Feedback Deadline is June 30

Take Action: June is Torture Awareness Month

The United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is June 26. A few years ago, religious and human rights organizations in the U.S. declared the month of June to be Torture Awareness Month as a way to provide greater visibility to this issue and provide an opportunity for coordinated actions across the country.

On January 22, President Obama issued an Executive Order halting torture. Now the task is to make sure that U.S.-sponsored torture never happens again. So, the National Religious Coalition Against Torture is calling for a Commission of Inquiry to investigate U.S. torture policies and practices. To bolster this call, NRCAT is asking people of faith to endorse the statement "U.S.-Sponsored Torture: A Call for a Commission of Inquiry." Please go to the National Religious Coalition Against Torture for more ideas of what you and your congregation can do to commemorate Torture Awareness Month www.nrcat.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=298&Itemid=219.

GA Moderator and Stated Clerk Monthly Columns

The monthly columns of the General Assembly Moderator and Stated Clerk are updated and available online at www.pcusa.org/oga/newsstories/clerk-mod-jul09.htm.

God Complex Radio Features Reyes-Chow, Merritt

A discussion within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is taking place through online radio. It's at www.godcomplexradio.com and it takes place Mondays, 11 a.m. CDT, but older programs are archived on the site. The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the PC(USA), is pastor of a church that recently completed the new church development process in San Francisco. Reyes-Chow is also a blogger at www.reyes-chow.com. The Rev. Carol Howard Merritt is a pastor in the District of Columbia, blogging at www.tribalchurch.org, and the author of *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*. Their coast-to-coast conversations cover faith, culture, politics and life. The God Complex site notes, "Through their diverse congregational experiences, Bruce and Carol share a deep common yearning to find bridges between tradition and innovation."

In Search of Pastors?

It's been a popular spring to write about filling the pulpit of Presbyterian churches. The cover story of the June issue of *Presbyterians Today* magazine, written by John A. Bolt, deals with what it calls the "changing face of church leadership." Bolt wrote, "We just can't find a minister. What are we to do? It's a common complaint from congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)." The cover article can be found at www.pcusa.org/today/cover.htm.

PPC launches new online resource for the PC(USA)

June 1, 2009, marks the launch of a brand new online resource center from the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC). The new Web site, *The Presbyterian Leader* (www.thepresbyterianleader.com), will serve as an important tool for pastors, elders, deacons, educators, worship leaders, musicians, and other PC(USA) leaders who face the often daunting challenge of communicating, sharing, and teaching their faith. Marc Lewis, president and publisher of PPC says, "We are excited to provide this resource for leaders in the Presbyterian Church. We are committed to helping Presbyterian congregations in their ministries, and we feel confident The Presbyterian Leader will prove to be an invaluable tool."

As part of PPC's continuing efforts to provide relevant and affordable tools to the Church, the popular Presbyterian Worship Planner, upgraded to version 3.0, is now available exclusively online through The Presbyterian Leader.

The Presbyterian Worship Planner is a comprehensive resource that enables preachers, liturgists, musicians and worship leaders to select and customize a weekly order of worship that can be inserted into a worship bulletin. This new online format will enable ongoing updates to resources while allowing users to download information and products immediately and affordably. Read more of this article at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/ppc09003.htm.

A blessed, warm fog. (FOG Feedback Deadline is June 30)

An excerpt from the Stated Clerk's Monthly column written by the Reverend Thomas Hay, director of operation, Office of the General Assembly.

Only a writer as accomplished as Joseph Conrad could get away with that misdirection. You know the fog-minded feeling of a too-early morning or a very late night, of being overwhelmed by too much information or too much stress. It is no fun to be in such a fog...

In 2006, the 217th General Assembly created the Form of Government Task Force (FOG) to draft a revised polity for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The 218th General Assembly (2008) heard the task force report, then re-commissioned and renamed them the New Form of Government Task Force (nFOG). The nFOG is to consult with the church and bring a new draft to the 219th GA in 2010. What great blessings can be perceived in this fog? To read the complete article go to: www.pcusa.org/oga/newsstories/clerk-mod-jun09.htm.

You will find the proposed new Form of Government and study materials www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment/.

June 30, 2009 is the deadline for submitting feedback on the study drafts to the task force. **October 15, 2009** is the deadline for the task force to submit its final report to the 219th General Assembly (2010). Use the online submission forms for feedback on: [Foundations of Presbyterian Polity](#) and [Proposed Form of Government](#).

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.
