



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Mar. 11** – Stewardship and Mission Interpretation meeting, 9:30 a.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Mar. 11** – Coordinating Council Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **Mar. 13** – Joining Hands meeting, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Mar. 12-13** – Women of Faith Conference at Vets Auditorium, Des Moines. Conference theme is *Over the Top*, running from 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. and 7-10:30 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday. Group tickets (includes box lunch) for 1-10 are \$99 or \$89 for more than 10. Need details? Go online to: www.womenoffaith.com/desmoines/
- **Mar. 14** – RESCHEDULED: Tingley De-commissioning Service, 2:30–4:30 p.m., **Tingley United Presbyterian Church**, 301 W. Main St., Tingley, IA 50863-0117. Everyone is invited to the final worship in this 126-year-old church!
- **Mar. 14-18** – **Southwest Regional Partnership's** Spring Break Mission Trip to Cedar Rapids, IA (2 p.m. departure). The flood victims will be lifted up by not only the physical repairs that will be done, but also the knowledge that others who are strangers can show God's love to them in such a meaningful way. There should be no financial cost to the participants because it's covered by the regional partnership. You don't need to be licensed, a union-card carrier or experienced construction worker to help on this project, they will find work to match your skills. Everyone is welcome! Contact **Rev. Tim Maxa**, 641-333-4214 or lenoxupchurch@frontiernet.net.
- **Mar. 16** – Lectionary Study, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Mar. 17-19** – University of Dubuque Theological Seminary Discernment conference offers an *Exploring a Call to Seminary Conference* for prospective students. Beginning with dinner Wednesday and ending with lunch Friday. For \$25, two nights' lodging and all meals are provided. Participants will be in a group setting while on campus to worship, attend class, talk one-on-one with a professor, meet other students and their spouses, and more. For registration information, go to: <http://udts.dbq.edu/ExploreCall.cfm>. Contact is, Director of Seminary Admissions Peggy Sell at, 563-589-3112, or toll free 800-369-UDTS, Email: <http://udts.dbq.edu>.
- **Mar. 18** – *Creative Worship Ideas* for Presbytery's Lunch & Learn Session, Noon-1 p.m., Presbytery Office, with **Rev. Suzanne Gorhau**, pastor of **First Presbyterian Church, Centerville**. RSVP by calling the office at, 515-276-4991. The web conferencing option will be available with prior notice.
- **Mar. 19** – Budget & Finance Committee meeting, Noon, Presbytery Office

March 10, 2010

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

2400 86th Street, Suite 20
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515-276-4991

officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org

Office Hours are:

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

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- Cool Congregations Workshop offered at Indianola Church
- Mental Health is a Priority for the PC(USA)
- Governor Culver Proclaims March Flood Awareness Month
- Attend 2010 Great Plains Wee Kirk Conference in May

Joys and Concerns

The **Rev. Denise Group**, Des Moines Presbytery member-at-large and serving the Corwith United Methodist Church, will be transferring to the Northern Kansas Presbytery in mid-May. She has accepted a solo pastor position with the United Presbyterian Church (Belleville, Kansas) and the First Presbyterian Church (Concordia, Kansas). Denise's first Sunday of her new call is May 23 (Pentecost Sunday). Best of luck to Denise and her daughter—they will be missed!

Mike Conn, CLP and wife **Toni** have announced more definite plans for their move to South Carolina. Mike's last worship service at the **Gibson First United** and **White Oak United Presbyterian churches** will be on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010. Mike retired from Vermeer Manufacturing in Pella, Ia., in December. God speed!

The honorably retired **Rev. Sarah Speer Palmer** is taking a call at **First Presbyterian churches in Ottumwa**. She began her new service as pastor on March 1.

Prayers are requested for safe travel and inspiration for four members of the Presbytery traveling to the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in Indianapolis, Ind. **General Presbyter/Stated Clerk the Rev. Phil Barrett**, Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Moderator **Sandy Wagner** (Ankeny), **the Rev. Betty Sandy** (DM Clifton Heights) and **the Rev. Nathan Lamb** (Hartford, Community United).

West Des Moines Covenant Presbyterian Church members **Marilee and Kent Myers** attended the 4th Annual DMARC Soup Supper and Pottery fund raiser for the Food Pantry, February 21, downtown at St. John's Lutheran Church. Supporters took home a hand-crafted bowl! *Pictured here are (left to right): Megan Friedrich, Ryan*



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Order your Presbyterian 2010-11 Calendar Today!

It's that time once again to order your planning calendars for 2010-11. Call or e-mail orders to Des Moines Presbytery **Office Manager Betty Dyer** at: 515-276-4991 or pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org. Deadline to receive special bulk price is April 15, 2010. The calendars will be available for pickup at the May 18th Presbytery meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

Cool Congregations Workshop offered at Indianola Church

On Saturday, April 24, 2010, plan to attend the Cool Congregations' stewardship program being held at **Trinity United Presbyterian Church**, 200 S. Howard St., Indianola, IA 50125. People of faith across Iowa are caring for God's creation by reducing energy use in their own homes, which in turn reduces the pollution that causes climate change. Plus they are saving money in the process! Bring a team from your congregation to a training workshop to learn how to get your faith community involved. Co-hosted by Crossroads United Church of Christ, First United Methodist and Redeemer Lutheran. Register online at www.iowaip.org/calendar or contact Kathie Farris, KatFarris@aol.com or 515-961-7647. Cool Congregations is a program of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, www.iowaip.org, gathering people of faith to protect creation.



Mental Health is a Priority for the PC(USA)

For those of us living in Iowa, we heard recently the focus of local news on a murder trial where the accused is suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. All this publicity has revealed how scary and misunderstood serious mental illness is to most people. Presbyterians have produced policy statements and study guides for this very topic. Two resources that have been recommended are available for download at: <http://public.me.com/cgpresby>. First is a policy statement and study guide produced in 2008 entitled *Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness with Study Guide*. The second is, *Serious Mental Illness: Seeking a Comprehensive Christian Response*.

Governor Culver Proclaims March Flood Awareness Month

State agencies share information on flood insurance, safety precautions and flood facts

DES MOINES – At a press conference today, **Governor Chet Culver (WDM, Covenant)** proclaimed March Flood Awareness Month, kicking off a month-long public information campaign to educate Iowans about flood insurance, disaster precautions and other safety facts. Flood awareness is particularly important since Iowa is still recovering from the floods and storms of 2008. The 2008 disaster was not only the worst natural disaster to strike the state, but is considered one of the largest disasters on record in U.S. history.

"What happened in 2008 has made us all aware of the need to be prepared," said Governor Culver. "We want all Iowans to understand what resources are available to minimize loss should another flood event occur. It is especially important for Iowans to be aware of whether they live in or near a flood plain, and discuss flood preparations with their families."

Throughout March, the Rebuild Iowa Office, the Iowa Insurance Division, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will share flood-related information and safety tips with the media and the public.

"It is important for all of these agencies to come together for this partnership," said Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis. "This month is meant to be so much more than a reminder of the disasters we've endured in the past. It is a call to action that we must be prepared for when, not if, the next disaster strikes."

Officials also want to make sure Iowans are aware of the availability of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This is particularly important to consider in March as Iowa's snow begins to melt. Unlike homeowner's insurance, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance begins once a person purchases a policy. According to the NFIP, a home located in a flood plain has a seven times greater risk of having a flood than a fire.

People may purchase flood insurance for a home or business, regardless of whether the property is in a flood plain as long as the community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. Iowans can find out whether a particular community is enrolled in the program by visiting the Rebuild Iowa Office's Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

Another helpful Web site for Iowans to refer to is www.FloodSmart.gov. Homeowners, renters and small business owners can estimate their premiums and calculate their flood insurance rate. There are currently more than 15,360 flood insurance policies in Iowa.

Iowans can learn more about flood safety tips and how to create a family emergency plan at www.bereadyiowa.org.

Attend 2010 Great Plains Wee Kirk Conference in May

The *2010 Great Plains Wee Kirk Conference* will be held in Sioux Falls, SD, May 4 -6, 2010 and is for Partnership friends. Our own **honorably retired Rev. Dale O'Connell (LeRoy/Humeston Parish)** will be speaking on "Praying Your Church Alive." Registration options and fees are based on double occupancy, deadline is April 9, 2010. Single-room requests add \$40. A maximum of six persons from one congregation, including clergy and spouses, may attend at the listed rates. For congregations with less than 126 members – \$60 Individual for double occupancy – see brochure for more info: www.pfrenewal.org/docs/smallchurch/2010-GPWK-Brochure.pdf or pfr.wufoo.com.

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.