



## The Wider Circle E-News

### Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Mar. 16** – Lectionary Study, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Mar. 17-19** – University of Dubuque Theological Seminary Discernment conference offers an *Exploring a Call to Seminary Conference* for prospective students. For details, go to: <http://udts.dbq.edu/ExploreCall.cfm>, 800-369-UDTS.
- **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 20-27** – Medical Delegation from Newton in El Salvador
- **Mar. 25** – Khadamat Sudaniya meeting, 4 p.m., Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Mar. 25**– South Central Regional Partnership meeting, 6:30 p.m., Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Howard, Indianola, IA 50125
- **Mar. 28** – *Passion/Palm Sunday*
- **Mar. 30** – Presbytery Staff meeting, 1 p.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Apr. 1** – *Maundy Thursday*
- **Apr. 1** – CROSS Ministries, 7 p.m., Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church
- **Apr. 2** – *Good Friday*, The Presbytery Office is closed.

### Joys and Concerns

Prayers are needed for **Rev. David Madsen**, pastor at **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** who had surgery last week for a growth on his thyroid. (It was not malignant.) He's home recuperating for two weeks.



The honorably retired **Rev. Liz Knott of Indianola**, is being honored with the *Women of Faith* award at the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly this summer, July 2-9, 2010. These awards are sponsored by the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area of the PC (USA) and recognize women of accomplishment whose Christian faith informs their work. The 2010 theme is *Women with a Peaceful Heart: Guiding Paths of Peace*. Women who help the church grow in its witness and commitment to peacemaking will be honored at an awards breakfast on July 4. Congratulations can be sent to Rev. Knott, 404 W. Lincoln, Indianola, IA 50125-1142. Read the complete story at: [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10181.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10181.htm).

**CORRECTION:** The honorably retired **Rev. Sara Speer Palmer** is being hired as part-time temporary supply pastor at **First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa**. It was stated earlier that she was called, but retired pastors cannot be called. We apologize for any inconvenience we may have caused.

### 2010 Mission Yearbook & Children's Yearbook Contain Presbytery Stories

The *2010 Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* will highlight the *Noisy Offering mission* from the **First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa** on March 28-April 3. This book with its stories and activities is great for use in Sunday School classes with kids of all ages!

Special articles in this year's PC(USA) *2010 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* highlight ministries and mission from our **Des Moines Presbytery**. This book is great for daily devotions of church staff! Watch the following dates:

- **April 7**—Presbytery of Des Moines article highlights the El Salvador water filter project.
- **April 8**—Presbytery of East Iowa article highlights the 2008 flood and the response with a photo of the Heartland Presbyterian Church's mission team from Clive.
- **April 14**—Presbytery of Missouri River Valley article highlights the Sudanese ministry in Omaha and the Rev. Goanar Chol is mentioned for his help in securing a building for their worship.
- **Between pages 278-279** there is an anniversary section highlighting "The Year 2010." This special historical reflection talks about the Student Volunteer Convention held in Des Moines, Iowa. The event was the climax of 35 years of missionary recruiting of 8,000 college students. The current Young Adult Volunteer program of the PC(USA) started in 1994. Our own young adult volunteer to Peru (2009) **Michael Sinkler (Des Moines, Westminster)** is pictured on page 16 of this special section.

To receive these articles daily in your e-mail inbox, sign up online at: [www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook](http://www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook). You can also listen to the daily podcast by going to: [www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/podcast.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/podcast.htm).

March 16, 2010

[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

#### Highlights on Next Page:

- CROSS Receives Grant
- 2010 Synod School Catalog, Registration now Available
- Plan to Celebrate Earth Day
- Iowa IPL Announces Earth Words Sermon Contest with \$250 in Prizes
- New PC(USA) Website: Presbyterians for Earth Care

## CROSS Receives Grant from Prairie Meadows

**CROSS Ministries** has received a \$10,000 grant from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino through its *2009 Community Betterment Grant Program*. Grant funds will help homeless and near homeless families by providing emergency financial assistance toward the payment of rent, rent deposits, mortgage, utility costs, as well as provisions for person hygiene items, cleaning supplies, laundry vouchers, bus tokens, baby items, and school supplies.

The Prairie Meadows Grants Advisory Committee, comprised of community, business and education leaders from the greater Des Moines area, review all grant requests and recommend funding levels. Recommendations are then presented to the Prairie Meadows Board of Directors for review and approval. Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grants are given to projects in one of four categories: Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Education, and Human Services.

"We are extremely pleased to have received this funding from Prairie Meadows this year," said **Dr. Roberta Victor**. "With the current economic downturn, we are seeing increasing numbers of families who are experiencing a crisis in meeting the most basic of survival needs. These monies will help households teetering on the edge of homelessness to remain in their homes."

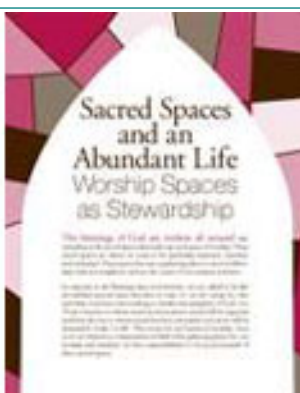
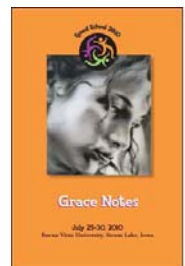
Prairie Meadows recently achieved a milestone in giving more than \$1 billion through taxes, grants, and charitable donations to the State of Iowa. More than \$435 million of that figure has remained right here in our community to promote education, economic development, agriculture, jobs and tourism. Prairie Meadows stands alone in its charitable giving by returning 43% of its revenues back to the community, and continues to work towards improving the quality of life for every Iowan, every day.



(Front row, left to right) Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church Secretary Ann McGowan, CROSS Ministries Executive Director Dr. Roberta Victor, and Rev. Dr. David Madsen of Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, receiving grant from the Prairie Meadows Advisory Grant Committee.

## 2010 Synod School Catalog, Registration Materials now Available

[Synod School 2010](#) – "Grace Notes" – is coming in July and registration is now open. Synod School runs July 25-30 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. It is a week-long learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. The Synod School catalog, including course descriptions, information on convocation and worship leaders, fee schedule, housing information and much more, is now available in downloadable PDF format. Registration information and forms are also available. Additional printed catalogs are available from the synod office by calling 800-328-1880 or by e-mailing requests to Mary Kes at [mkes@lakesandprairies.org](mailto:mkes@lakesandprairies.org). Or pick up one at the Des Moines Presbytery Of-



### Plan to Celebrate Earth Day

Now is the time to make plans for celebrating Earth Day at your church the Sunday before or after Earth Day – April 22. The National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program has produced Earth Day resources for April 2010. The resource, *Sacred Spaces and an Abundant Life*, urges congregations to make wise stewardship decisions – both environmental and financial – regarding their worship space. The goal is for churches to begin to implement changes to care for creation, and then to celebrate these steps for Earth Day. Go to the [National Council of Churches Web site](#) to download the PC(USA) version of this Earth Day Resource. To find past Earth Day resources, visit the [Environmental Ministries Web site](#).

## Iowa IPL Announces Earth Words Sermon Contest with \$250 in Prizes

Iowa Interfaith Power and Light (Iowa IPL) is announcing its first annual Earth Words Contest to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, which is April 22 of this year. Winning sermons will be shared through Iowa IPL's newsletter and website. In addition, the top prize winner will receive up to \$80 off on purchases from [ShopIPL.org](#) to improve the efficiency of their congregation or favorite low income community project as well as a \$50 gift certificate from Cokesbury. Two runners-up will receive up to \$35 off of ShopIPL.org and \$25 gift certificates from Cokesbury. To qualify, the sermon, homily, or faith message about creation care must be delivered to a religious community between April 17th and April 25th and submitted electronically to [director@iowaip.org](mailto:director@iowaip.org) by May 1st. Winners will be determined by a panel of judges assessing pieces based on clarity, creativity, accessibility, eloquence, as well as their theological foundation and call to action. For more information, [click here](#).

## New PC(USA) Website: Presbyterians for Earth Care

Presbyterians for Earth Care, an Eco-Justice Network, has a new Web site, [www.presbyearthcare.org/](http://www.presbyearthcare.org/). Presbyterians for Earth Care is a nonprofit network that helps people of faith foster earth care in their communities and congregations.



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.