



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **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** – Lectionary Study, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Mar. 30** – Presbytery Staff meeting, 1 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **April 1** – *Maundy Thursday*
- **Apr. 2** – *Good Friday*, The Presbytery Office is closed.
- **Apr. 3** – *Great Vigil of Easter*
- **Apr. 3** – Social Ministries Task Force meeting, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **Apr. 4** – *Easter/Resurrection of the Lord; One Great Hour of Sharing*
- **Apr. 5-8** – The Spring Renewal Conference, The University of Dubuque

How to Rate Your Faith Community

Recommended by **Jeanette Minor (DM, Westminster)** member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, www.nami.org, to help churches see how they are doing with Mental Illness awareness, [How to Rate Your Faith Community](#). This article was adapted from criteria established by the [Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network](#) (PSMIN).

Take Note of Central Iowa PASTCF Opportunities

Coming up April 10, Dr. Robert Seager of UNI will present "Christianity and Human Evolution: Coming to Terms" at [Bethel Presbyterian Church](#) in Waterloo on Saturday at 2 p.m. This presentation is sponsored by Central Iowa Chapter of the [Presbyterian Association of Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith](#).

Nominations are being accepted for the *Dan Martin Recognition* and are due April 16th. Nominees should be a living scientist, engineer, science educator, or health professional, either active or retired. An active PC(USA) member, who understands her/his scientific work as a calling from God and whose faith in God has been affected by that work. God calls people to numerous sorts of vocations, please give prayerful thought to nominating someone. Get forms at: www.pastcf.org, or from General Missioner Jim Miller, jmiller1776@gmail.com.

IRMS has Resources to get Interest of Teens in Your Church

A recent newsletter from **Iowa Religious Media Services, Des Moines**, opened: "I hear our junior high and high school kids talking among themselves about texting, huffing, energy drinks and other activities. I don't know how to address these topics without sounding like an old nag." IRMS has a group of new resources from Human Relations Media that could be of interest to even the most skeptical teens. Those listed below are the newest at IRMS and are appropriate for youth in upper elementary grades through senior high. The catalog listings provide the age range of each resource. [Buzz in a Bottle: The Dangers of Caffeine-Spiked Energy Drinks](#) presents individual students' stories about too much caffeine and combining caffeine-spiked drinks with alcohol. [Huffing: The Latest Facts about Inhalant Abuse](#) shows real stories of teens fighting their abuse of inhalants, speaking directly about the damage these toxic chemicals cause to the brain, heart and lungs. [Think Before You Click: Playing It Safe Online](#) explores the issues of online bullying and rumor spreading, identity theft, blogging and the real threat of sexual predators. [B Careful When U Txt: The Dangers of Texting and Sexting](#) is a primer on dos and don'ts of text messaging, including privacy, pornography, personal boundaries, unforeseen consequences and more. [Surviving School](#), from Bluefish TV, is a set of four engaging video clips related to the issues youth face in the hallways of their schools.

Attend Pastor Renewal Seminar in Pella, April 9

The Rev. Will Willimon will be presenting a day-long seminar on *Keeping at Ministry Over the Long Haul* at the Vermeer Global Pavilion in Pella, Ia., on April 9, 2010. (Brochures are available in the Presbytery Office.) New for this seminar: .5 CEUs will be provided to each person who attends the entire conference and would like this. When registering, make a note that you want to take advantage of the .5 CEUs. A certificate will be given out at the end of the conference. For details go to: www.vermeer.com, click on "About us", "Charitable", "Pastor's Events". Questions? Contact Vermeer Corporation Administrative Assistant Andrea Van Kooten, avankooten@vermeer.com, 641-621-7965.

March 23, 2010

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

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Office Hours are:

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

Highlights on Next Page:

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- DMARC's Feinsein Challenge Fund Raiser & Diaper Collection Needs Your Help!
- Summer Eco-Stewards Program for Young Adults
- FOG Task Force Provides Update, Points Out Web Site
- Presbyterian Foundation Again Sponsors ymiLIVE

VISTA & Civil Rights Commission Helps with Discrimination Complaints

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission and the AmeriCorps VISTA program is meeting with other VISTAs associated with both the Des Moines Human Rights Commission as well as the Iowa Department of Human Rights Commission – Division on Latino Affairs. One of their goals during the year of service within their agencies is to get the word out about the services that they provide. All three of our commissions handle discrimination complaints in all of the areas list at the right for free. Unfortunately, it is not well-known what our commissions are able to do for people. If you would like a speaker to come and explain to the people of Iowa about their rights at an upcoming church meeting or other venue, contact Katie Petrak, AmeriCorps VISTA, Iowa Civil Rights Commission, katherine.petrak@iowa.gov, 515-281-3041.

- Race, Skin Color, National Origin
- Religion/Creed
- Sex, including Pregnancy
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Mental and Physical Disability
- Retaliation
- Age (employment and credit only)
- Familial Status (housing and credit only)
- Marital Status

DMARC's Feinsein Challenge Fund Raiser and Diaper Collection Needs Your Help!

DMARC's Feinsein Challenge: March and April mark the \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger, also known as the Feinsein Challenge, a special annual opportunity for DMARC to raise additional funds. This generous grant is distributed to all eligible organizations proportionally, based on cash and food donations received as a part of the Feinsein Challenge during the months of March and April. How can you help? It's simple. Donations made to the Des Moines Area Religious Council between March 1 and April 30 that are designated as a match for the Feinsein Challenge will count toward DMARC's share of the \$1 million grant. The more you give, the more we get.

Diaper Central: Many of the young families receiving food assistance through the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry cannot cover their basic needs for diapers, baby wipes, and infant formula. Because inadequate access to diapers is often a symptom of a larger issue of poverty or crisis, DMARC is responding to this extraordinary and urgent community need by serving as a centralized warehouse and emergency distribution network for baby diapers and hygiene items. From February to June, our goal is to secure 60,000 diapers that will help more than 1,600 infants and toddlers. By partnering with DMARC to provide support for something as basic as diapers through the Diaper Central project, businesses, congregations, individuals and other groups can make a real and immediate difference in the lives of low-income families and their young children.

Summer Eco-Stewards Program for Young Adults

Are you a young adult (20-30) searching for a way to connect your faith and environmental calling? Join us for the 2010 Eco-Stewards Program on May 16-23, as we delve into the complex environmental issues surrounding mountains, coal, land use, and sustainability in southern West Virginia. We will consider how these issues invite us to deepen our relationship with God and with each other – to live more simply, to consume less, and to join in a dynamic Christian movement to care for the earth. Limited paid summer internships related to the program are also available.

[Find more information and an application.](#)

FOG Task Force Provides Update, Points Out Web Site

In a letter last week to presbytery and synod executives, and stated clerks, the co-moderators of the Form of Government Task Force of the PC(USA) reminded church leaders to review the task force's final report on the denomination's website. Cynthia Bolbach and Daniel S. Williams wrote, "Our charge was to draft a new form of government that, while maintaining the essential aspects of our Presbyterian polity, is briefer and more flexible, so as to enable our church at all levels to more readily accomplish its mission and ministry." They went on to note, "The task force cannot stress enough the importance of encouraging your commissioners and advisory delegates to [read and study our proposal.](#)"

Presbyterian Foundation Again Sponsors ymiLIVE

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) youth groups across the country are invited to participate in an on-line youth video challenge as part of "ymiLIVE," which stands for Youth Mission Initiative LIVE, (pronounced why-em-eye LIVE). Youth groups will compete to win one of two \$25,000 endowment funds established by the Presbyterian Foundation to benefit their church youth ministry programs. The inaugural ymiLIVE in 2008 provided youth groups across the country the opportunity to be amazed, entertained, and inspired after viewing the video submissions from over 100 youth groups. Additional information can be found at www.ymilive.org.

Synod School 2010



"So many people having so much fun while examining issues related to faith."

July 25–30, 2010
Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Go to www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html
or phone 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.

Grace Notes