



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **March 30** – Lectionary Study, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office Urbandale
- **Mar. 30** – Presbytery Staff meeting, 12:30 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **April 1** – *Maundy Thursday*
- **Apr. 2** – *Good Friday*, The Des Moines 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, 800-369-UDTS, or <http://udts.dbq.edu>.
- **Apr. 6** – Transformation Team Meeting, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., AIB College of Business, 2500 Fleur Dr., Des Moines
- **Apr. 6** – CCD Meeting, 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **Apr. 6** – Compañeros Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Westminster in Des Moines
- **Apr. 9** – *Joined and Knitted Together In Love*, Des Moines Presbytery PW Gathering, co-hosted by the Presbyterian Women of **Windsor and Heartland, Clive** churches. Registration is a 9 a.m. Program begins at 9:30. Lunch: \$6.00 For lunch reservations, call: 515-277-8379. Gathering finishes at 2 p.m. Speakers include: Kay Olson, Global Exchange Participant, Eastern Europe and Kathy Mahler, Mission Co-Worker, El Salvador. Offering: Compañeros in El Salvador and bring items for CROSS Ministries (feminine hygiene products, diapers, etc.). Don't forget to bring Prayer Shawls to show. A Gift Shop will be available.



Order 2010-11 Calendar Now!

It's that time once again to order the PC(USA) planning calendars for 2010-11. Call or e-mail orders to Des Moines Presbytery **Office Manager Betty Dyer** at: pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org or 515-276-4991. These

calendars are great for committee leaders and pastors alike. *Deadline to receive special bulk price is April 15, 2010.* The calendars will be available for pickup at the May 18 Presbytery meeting at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.**

Theology for Westminster Editor to be at Des Moines Central Church, April 18 & 19

On Sunday, April 18, **Central Presbyterian Church** is hosting Dr. Donald K. McKim, "theologian in residence", for four speaking opportunities:

- April 18, Sunday school hour—9 a.m.
- April 18, Sunday Worship service—10:15 a.m.
- April 18, Sunday Brunch with a keynote address—Noon
- April 19, Monday Theological Conversation with Dr. McKim, Coffee/lunch?

McKim is executive editor for *Theology for Westminster*, John Knox Press. For the old timers among us, he taught at Dubuque years ago and is married to Linda Jo who was editor of the *Presbyterian Hymnal Companion*. Presbytery pastors and interested church members of the Des Moines Presbytery are invited to attend all opportunities!

Attend the Ringgold County Kids Against Hunger Event April 9-10

The Ringgold County *Kids Against Hunger* organization is coordinating a 24-hour "Pack-a-thon" that will create over 100,000 meals to be delivered to the Haiti and the victims of the earthquake. This overnight event will be held April 9-10, at the **United Baptist-Presbyterian Church in Mount Ayr, Ia.** Starting Friday at 7 p.m. and continuing through the night and into the day time, until 7 p.m. on Saturday evening. Additionally, to support the effort they are needing to raise \$15,000 to purchase the supplies for the pack-a-thon.

This is a wonderful mission opportunity for a Sunday School class, youth group or a family looking to be part of the earthquake relief efforts.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact church member **Ron Schafer**, 801 S. Henderson, Mount Ayr, IA 50854, or 641-464-0659 or e-mail at schafer@mchsi.com.

March 30, 2010

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

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- Sudanese are Participating in Cottage Grove Avenue Church Activities
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Help Needed: CROSS & DMARC Partnership Opens New Food Pantry

Exciting things are happening at CROSS Ministries as we continue to meet the emerging needs of low and no income people! Being aware that many low-income working people struggle to provide food for their families, yet are not able to access food pantries (which are only open during standard working hours), CROSS Ministries has prayerfully decided to answer this additional call to ministry. In partnership with the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry (DMARC), the new CROSS Food Pantry will provide an alternative location that will be open Wednesday evenings from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. *CROSS Ministries will continue to provide rent, mortgage, and utility assistance during standard business hours from Tuesday through Friday.*

Clients seeking food assistance through DMARC will still be directed to the closest Pantry within their geographic boundary. However, if they are unable to go to that pantry because it conflicts with their work schedule, they will be directed to the CROSS Pantry. Unlike the other pantries, the CROSS Food Pantry will be open to anyone living in the Greater Des Moines area. Routine intake procedures will restrict individuals from receiving food from more than one DMARC Pantry during a 30-day time period.

The Pantry will operate with a volunteer staff, which means we will need many dedicated folks to help us fill this unmet need in the community. DMARC will provide the food for the pantry. Additionally food donations will always be welcome. As we begin the process of preparing the space in Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church for the new Pantry site we have identified some needs. They include:

- Several moveable room dividers to restrict traffic flow in the building.
- Childproof gate to block stairway entrance.
- Carpeting or floor covering.
- Coverings (curtains or mini blinds) for the windows.
- Worktable for the center of the pantry.
- Rolling cart.
- Heavy-duty 2-wheeled cart for carrying boxes of food.
- Volunteers to prepare the pantry space (wash carpeting, wipe down walls, carry stored items to another location in the church, set up shelving, etc.).

Please share these needs with your congregation, civic groups, friends, etc. as we work to open this new alternative food pantry! Thank you.

For questions or donations, contact CROSS Ministries Executive Director **Dr. Roberta Victor**, 1050 24th St., Des Moines, IA 50311, or 515-279-8877 or rjvictor.phd@gmail.com.

Sudanese are Participating in Cottage Grove Avenue Church Activities

I'd like to share photos of some of the exciting activities in the **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church** after the new heater was turned on Feb. 12, 2010. As General Presbyter Rev. Phil Barrett mentioned at the January Presbytery meeting during the Khadamat Sudaniya information, the Sudanese very much appreciate using the warm church!

Member churches of the Presbytery of Des Moines were informed that participants of two Sudanese services that I preach in are very happy with the new look of the Church, even though there may be other things that need to be fixed.

The Mabaan childrens choir is now able to read the Mabaan language hymnals. This is a very special achievement for group. Since I have been in Des Moines, they have now asked me to preach in the other services in addition to the Arabic Juba service I have always lead.



On Sunday, March, 14, the Mabaan children's choir sings in the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church's chapel.



The other important information is the memorial service for the late "Kir", our drummer, who passed away in 2009. On March 21, our church was nearly full for this overnight service. During the day, there was also a Sudanese People Liberation Movement (SPLM) fund raising event from 1-8 p.m. God bless you all.

– Rev. Goanar Chol,
Sudanese Ministry
Resource Person

Worship Leaders Take Note! John Bell at Festival of Homiletics!

In Nashville, Tenn., May 17-21, 2010, worship leaders and musicians may register for the *Festival of Homiletics* and spend the week with John Bell! John will have his own "Worship Gatherings" as part of this festival. He also will offer *The Primacy of the Imagination in Ministry, Reflecting the Global Church in Worship, Reclaiming Lament* (as Integral to Christian Worship), *The Effect of Sung Texts in Shaping Spirituality, The Unsung and Unpreached Jesus* and *Teaching Congregational Song*. You may attend any of his events or any of the preaching events (sermons, lectures) going on at the same time. Other speakers include: Susan Phillips, Thomas Long, Lauren Winner, Vashti McKenzie, William Williamson, Brad Braxton, Paul Scott, Wilson Claudio Carvalhaes, Margaret Aymer, Amy Jill Levine, Jim Wallis, Michael Curry, Craig Barnes, Jeremiah Park, David Lose, Anna Carter Florence, Lillian Daniel, Cleophus LaRue, Grace Imathiu, John McClure, Margaret Aymer, Anthony Bailey, James Howell, Barbara Lundblad, Otis Moss III, Matthew Flemming, Naomi Tutu, and many more!

Lay Leaders and pastors experience the joy of preaching, A Preaching Conference, at the *Festival of Homiletics* in Nashville, Tenn., May 17-21, 2010. Register securely for the *Festival* at www.GoodPreacher.com. If you want to register and receive a bill, e-mail Festival@GoodPreacher.com with complete mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number for each person. Follow all the *Festival* developments on <http://twitter.com/FestHomiletics>.

Be sure to go to [GoodPreacher](http://www.GoodPreacher.com) and check out *James Howell's Preaching Journal*. It is like a weekly preaching seminar by one of America's most insightful preachers. Read how he dances with the text(s), his homiletical discoveries and frustrations, and how the sermon comes together. Then go to: <http://www.mpumc.org/> and watch him deliver the sermon. You will learn something every time you read his *Preaching Journal*. Follow James' sermon preparation process for the *Festival* in Nashville as he blogs. Click on [Quick Access To This Week's Resources](#) to have more than 60 preaching resources per week on one screen. To contact the Festival of Homiletics, P.O. Box 843, 9179 Washington St., Amelia, VA 23002.

Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji Gets New Director

After a thorough search process lead by the Camp's Board of Directors and coordinated by Interim Directors Dorman & Janet Leader, Ann Northey Ditsworth has been selected for the designated executive director position. Ann will provide leadership for the programs, facilities and staff with a constant focus on the mission: "Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji seeks to be a sacred space where all can experience God."

As a long-time Dickinson County resident, Ann has been involved in a variety of aspects promoting community betterment throughout the Iowa Great Lakes Area. From serving on her church's "ministry and facility" task force and building committee to working with the multi-county economic development organization, and from two-term Mayor to county-wide community visioning process coordinator, Ann has enjoyed diverse opportunities to strengthen and improve the community. She and her husband Lee are pictured here with their two children: Drake (9) and Lauren (5). As a family they enjoy boating and fishing, gardening and nature hikes, as well as traveling to see extended family and friends.



College-aged Students to Lead Summer Mission Trips

Youth Specialties is looking to hire about 100 more college-aged students to help lead summer mission trips around the United States. So, if you know someone 19-23 who is looking for a summer job, give them this link: www.youthworks.com/join/youthworks.asp?SSW_6.

All of our summer staff positions are paid (\$2,500 and up) and provide training, leadership development, food/housing/transportation. All of these jobs start in mid-May and end in mid-August and are full-time. It's a really fantastic opportunity to make a huge difference for the Kingdom... and make a little money for going back to school in the Fall. Positions still open include: Men and Women Site Directors (must be at least a college graduate or age equivalent) Men Site Staff (all positions still available) and Men and Women Alumni Staff. Questions? Contact Youth Specialties Online Community Dude Adam McLane, adam@youthspecialties.com.

Synod School 2010



Grace Notes

Why do they keep returning to Synod School?

- Christian fellowship
- Inspiring worship and song
- Growth in knowledge and faith
- Personal and spiritual renewal
- Fun for families and singles of all ages



July 25-30, 2010

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!

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

Churches Will Explore Internet Opportunities, Sunday, April 25

Internet Evangelism Day is an annual focus day for churches. This year, it is scheduled for Sunday, April 25. It's an opportunity for churches to explore with its members the exciting opportunities for sharing the good news online. Ready-made free downloads – PowerPoint, video clips, handouts, drama scripts and music can be easily built into a sermon, Sunday school class or worship presentation of five minutes or 50.

2010's focus day will be the sixth to be used by churches around the world since the initiative's launch in 2005. Over this period, digital media have developed dramatically, with the advent of YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, and the growing use of mobile phones to access online services. IE Day's Web site is also a one-stop resource covering many subjects including: how to build a church Web site that is 'outsider friendly', using Twitter in evangelism, and ideas for effective blogging. Perhaps surprisingly, you do not need to be technical to share your faith online. And you can volunteer to be an e-mail mentor to inquirers with several large online outreach ministries.

Internet Evangelism Day is an initiative of the Internet Evangelism Coalition, based at the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton, Ill. It is supported by a wide range of Christian leaders and groups. More at: www.InternetEvangelismDay.com.

How to find Presbyterian People and Organizations on Twitter

By Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the 218th General Assembly, Feb 12, 2010

For those that are new to Twitter, you can see [some tips here](#), but if you are really going to get into all of this, you need to find some interesting folks. I have put together a few lists for those of you who would like stay connected to other Presbyterian type peeps. First, you should follow these folks for general Presbyterian delights:

- [Presbyterian](#) – Official PC(USA) Twitter Feed for all your PC(USA) needs.
- [DirOfOp](#) – Thomas Hay, Director of Operations, Office of the General Assembly for some interesting "inside" info.
- [Presbyleader](#) – PresbyterianLeader.com, great resources!

Second, here are a few lists of Presbyterian-flavored Twitter peeps and orgs. These are generally folks who have self-identified "Presbyterian" over the past year. You can either follow the list and/or click on the "following" link on the link page and follow each person.

- [pcpeeps](#) – 500 Presbyterian twitterers.
- [pcpeeps2](#) – After hitting the 500 mark, started Part II
- [pcporgs](#) – Some Presbyterian churches and ministries ([Our Des Moines Presbytery is listed as "desmoinespresby"](#))
- [ga219](#) – For the true Presby-geeks, those who will be at our General Assembly in July 2010.

If you or your organization is not included on any of these lists – and you want to be – feel free to drop me a note or reply on Twitter, [@breyeschow](#).



219th GA Committee Leadership Selection

By Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the 218th General Assembly, March 29, 2010

As you know, one of the privileges the Office of Moderator holds is to select committee leadership for the following General Assembly. With commissioner lists being finalized, it is that time of the year and in a few weeks, I will gather with Office of the General Assembly staff and we will fill out the very complicated matrix that is General Assembly Committee Leadership.

For those that have been to General Assemblies in the past, you know that the committee moderators and vice-moderators are both extremely important in their role AND extremely complicated in their constitution. Committee leadership is important because these folks moderate and guide the work of the committee. Things can always change and shift as the committees begin to work together, but like anyone who runs any meeting, they play a pivotal role in setting a good tone for the work ahead. And when it comes to making sure that we are balanced and representative around the many ways that we exist: gender, race, age... you can imagine the chart that exists. I am grateful for the staff who will help me in tracking and making good choices.

So this is where you come in. I need your help in lifting up people that you think might be strong committee leadership. First, please keep in mind that there is a formal recommendation process which takes place through your Presbyteries, so please contact your Stated Clerk for more information. While I will also receive input from General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery staff, what I am looking for from you all is to get more information and suggestions to add to the pot. What I need from you is to send me the following information about any commissioner that you believe would be an effective moderator:

- How do you know the commissioner?
- Why you think that this commissioner would be an effective moderator?
- Does this commissioner have any known affiliation/s with any Presbyterian-related advocacy group/s?
- And any other information that might be helpful to know.

Please e-mail all information to me by April 4, 2010: breyeschow+ga219@gmail.com.