



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **March 4** – Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. at the Presbytery Office in Urbandale.
- **March 4** – OAM Task Force, 1 p.m. at the Presbytery Office.
- **March 5** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m. at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines
- **March 6** – *Women Helping Women Luncheon*, offered by the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center. Guest Speaker will be the award-winning Iowa author, Kali VanBaale, *The Space Between*
- **March 7** – Social Ministries Task Force, 9 a.m. at the Presbytery Office.
- **March 7** – Joining Hands for Egypt Meeting, 10:30 a.m. at the Presbytery Office.
- **March 7** – Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force, 10 a.m. at Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.
- **March 9** – PUP Task Force, 3 p.m. at the Presbytery Office.
- **March 9-11** – The Presbyterian Stewardship Conference "Stewardship Kaleidoscope" at the Hilton Hotel, Kansas City International Airport. For details, go to [Heartland Presbytery](http://Heartland Presbytery website at www.heartlandpby.org/) website at www.heartlandpby.org/.

A Clerk Reminder

Clerks of Session are reminded that it is time to submit the *Biennial Nonprofit Biennial Report* to the State of Iowa. This required report is important to the status of your congregations, so do not delay. The report can be filed online (the easiest way) or on paper. It only takes 5-10 minutes to complete. All of you should have already received this form, if not, call the office of the Secretary of State at 515-281-5204 or go online to www.sos.state.ia.us/business/nonprofits/index.html. The form is due April 1. If you have questions, please call our Presbytery's Stated Clerk, Rev. Phil Barrett at 515-276-4991.

March 3, 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

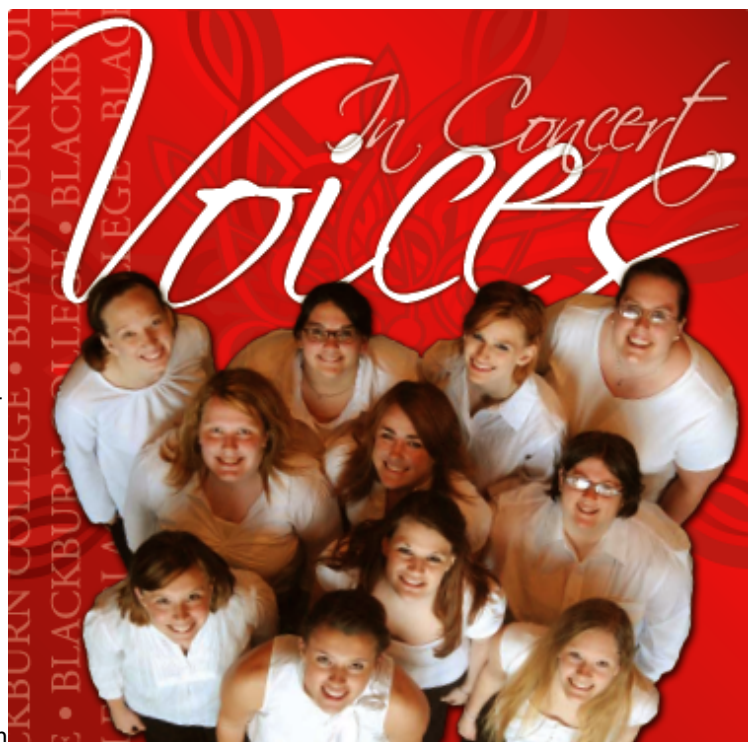
- Weekly Calendar Update
- Clerks of Session Reminder
- Attend Concert in Des Moines
- International Web Focus Day is April 26
- Attend Concert for Sudanese Mission
- Spread the News about Monthly Fasting
- The Church is Alive
- Presbytery and Synod Update

International Web Focus Day for Churches on April 26

How can Christians use the bewildering mix of technologies such as the Internet, Twitter and Facebook to share the good news? Internet Evangelism Day on April 26 is an annual Web-awareness focus day. IE Day is an initiative of the Internet Evangelism Coalition, an umbrella group of online ministries based at the Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, Ill. It is completely free and has no fund-raising component. Churches and other Christian groups can take advantage of the day to explain more to their members about the potential for online evangelism and how anyone can be involved. A customized presentation (anything from 5 to 50 minutes) can easily be created using free downloads from Internet Evangelism Day's [Web site, www.InternetEvangelismDay.com](http://www.InternetEvangelismDay.com): video clips, PowerPoint, handouts, music and drama. The Web site provides ideas, strategies and other resources, including a self-assessment tool for church Web sites.

Attend Concert in Des Moines

You are invited to come to **Windsor Presbyterian Church**, 6301 University Avenue in Windsor Heights, Saturday, March 7, at 7 p.m. to hear "Blackburn Voices." A reception will follow the concert.



Saturday • March 7, 2009 • 7pm
Windsor Presbyterian Church • Des Moines, IA

Blackburn COLLEGE
PERFORMING ARTS

700 College Ave.
Carlinville, IL 62626
(800)233-3550
blackburn.edu

Concert for Sudanese Mission

The First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell is sponsoring another fund raiser concert to benefit the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. The Cottage Grove Church serves the Sudanese refugee community in the heart of Des Moines. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. on April 5 at the First Presbyterian Church, 1025 5th Ave. in Grinnell and will be followed by desserts sold for a donation. Groups performing are: The Four Tones, Grinnell College Christian Student Choir, Damani Phillips and the Grinnell College Jazz Musicians.

Spread the News about Monthly Fasting

Do you know if any of your members have joined with Presbyterians around the country in the monthly 40-hour fasts to help discern ways to respond to the Global Food Crisis? Last summer the 218th General Assembly invited all Presbyterians to join in the spiritual practice of fasting and include discernment and reflection, which we hope will lead to meaningful and coordinated actions to accompany those who are poor and hungry around the world.

Each month the resources that accompany the fast center around a particular country and a specific cause that has contributed to the global food crisis. The fasts typically take place on [the first weekend of every month](#) (www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/intro.htm#ates), beginning on Friday evening and ending with Communion or a communal meal on Sunday. It's a powerful way to be in community and contemplate how your life and the life of your community can respond to this devastating situation.

[You can listen to an interview](#) (www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/fast-interview12-07-08.mp3) with participant Carol Frame Matthews about the Global Food Crisis, courtesy of WFPL radio, Louisville, Ky., sign up to participate, locate the fasting materials and more information on this crisis at www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis.

We'd love to hear about your fasting experience and how God is speaking to you during this time of reflection. Please send stories to the Presbytery of Des Moines' Director of Communications Kim Coulter at 515-276-4991 or e-mail pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

The Church is Alive

The 218th General Assembly Moderator the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow invites us all to share about how we are experiencing the church as ALIVE today. He has recorded a video <http://thechurchisalive.com/about.html> from the Montreat Conference Center of youth with the invitation to submit your thoughts. Here is some information from those who are behind this project:

The Church is Alive project stems from a belief that the Church is more than what some give it credit for. We have heard the worries and anxieties that say that our church is "dying" or "already dead", but believe instead that the church is alive, vibrant and a powerful force for good in the world. We believe that the Holy Spirit is breathing new life into all corners of our denomination, and that our body of believers is rich with stories of giving back, exploring fresh approaches to community, and discovering new ways to worship God.

In order to capture how the church is alive, we thought it best to go to the source: YOU! We will post a video and website that asks you to submit your own videos of how you think the church is alive. This could be examples of service projects, new forms of worship, new attempts at community, etc. We ask that you keep these videos to about a minute and a half in length. Once we receive these submissions, we will exhibit them on a website (<http://thechurchisalive.com/>) that displays a "church is alive" video weekly/monthly (depending on response) and does a short write-up on the submitter and his/her project.

So get some friends together and make a video and submit it. I'll be trying to put one together in the next month or so. You can find **The Church is Alive** all over the web. Begin at the [website](http://thechurchisalive.com/) (<http://thechurchisalive.com/>), or go to the [blog](http://thechurchisalive.com/blog.html) (<http://thechurchisalive.com/blog.html>), [Twitter](http://twitter.com/churchisalive) (<http://twitter.com/churchisalive>) or [Facebook](#).

Presbytery and Synod Update

IOWA CITY, IA — The Presbytery of East Iowa [www.peia.org] has scheduled a series of elder training sessions on the four Saturdays in March. According to Maurie Campbell the presbytery's educational consultant, the goal of the workshops is "to encourage a change in the way elders understand their role in the Presbyterian tradition. Right now, many view serving on session in much the same way as serving on a community board of some kind. The training is intended to challenge elders to think about the 'call' of God in their lives and to consider themselves as spiritual leaders in their faith communities." The training sessions will be held March 7 at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids; March 14 at First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant; March 21 at First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City; and March 28 at Bettendorf Presbyterian Church. A second training series is being tentatively scheduled for September.

EAGAN, MN — At its recent meeting the Synod of Lakes and Prairies [www.lakesandprairies.org] elected Elder Cheryl Biller of Northern Plains Presbytery as its moderator for 2009. The synod also elected the Rev. Robert Bouton of East Iowa Presbytery as its vice-moderator, and Elder Jay Wilkinson of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery to another term as stated clerk. And the synod voted to create a task force to study the future and changing role of the synod.

To read the complete story, go online to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09114.

To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org or call 515-276-4991.

Learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org.