



# The Wider Circle E-News

## Mark your calendars this week for:

- **May 19 – Presbytery Stated Meeting** at Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, registration begins at 1 p.m., meeting starts at 2 p.m.
- **May 21 – Lunch & Learn Series, *Evaluating your Churches Communications Efforts***, Presbytery Office, Noon-1 p.m.
- **May 25 – Memorial Day**, Presbytery office is closed
- **May 28-June 5 – First Presbyterian Church, Dallas Center** mission delegation to El Salvador;
- **May 28 – Church Business Issues Workshop**, the Des Moines Chapter of the National Association of Church Business Administration is sponsoring a FREE 3-hour workshop to answer questions about church donations and finances, insurance policy claims, protecting church non-profit status and more. To be held at Plymouth Congregational Church, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., 9 a.m.-Noon. R.S.V.P. to Laurel Swanson, 515-967-4818 or [laurel@iccaltoona.org](mailto:laurel@iccaltoona.org).

## RAGBRAI is Riding through Our Presbytery!

The plans are in for our churches in the southern tier of the Presbytery. The following churches are supporting riders July 18-25, during the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa:

- **Monday, July 20 – The First Presbyterian Church, 907 Grove Ave., Corning**, will have a lunch stop and pie stand. Last time the bikers came through they sold 600 slices – that's 100 pies! Yum! The ride will stop in Greenfield overnight.
- **Tuesday, July 21 – The Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Howard St., Indianola**, will have an overnight stay. They are just in the planning stages, the following has been decided:
  1. Hosting a team of 60 riders from Cedar Rapids overnight in the Christian Education wing which is air conditioned and has showers.
  2. Providing a lasagna dinner (with salad, garlic bread, assorted drinks and homemade pie and ice cream) on the evening of July 21. A vegetarian option will also be available. Preparing to feed 1,000 people in the new fellowship hall that was dedicated September 2008.
  3. Exploring options for entertainment in the sanctuary while people wait for dinner. Both the sanctuary and fellowship hall are air conditioned which will provide a nice break for riders to relax.
- **Wednesday, July 22 – The First Presbyterian Church, 737 Braden Ave., Chariton**, will be serving a pork loin dinner when RAGBRAI riders stay over night in their town. The meal will include sliced pork loin, baked potato with the trimmings, green beans, roll, pie and drinks for \$8. The charge will be \$9 without the registered wristband. They are planning to serve 500. Organ and piano music will be offered to those waiting in the sanctuary.
- **Thursday, July 23 – The riders will stay overnight in Ottumwa.**

If you want to promote your church's plans, send your list to Kim Coulter, Director of Communications at [pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org) or 515-276-4991.

May 19, 2009

[www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org)



### We are located at:

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### Office Hours are:

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

## This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- RAGBRAI is Riding through Our Presbytery!
- Letter from YAV Peru
- Request for contributions to Pastoral Team Health Fund

## A letter from our PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer in Peru

Dear Friends and Family,

April 14, 2009

Greetings from Lima Peru! I am excited to say that things here are going well, and I feel very comfortable and welcome with my host family and the new culture. I work with an NGO called "El Día del Pueblo," which operates a radio station in one of the poorest districts of the city, Lomas de Carabayllo, located in the northern sector of Lima.

Three times weekly I travel with my host father, Nelson, to Lomas to teach English lessons and spend time with the youth group JESHENI. Jesheni stands for "Juntos Estarémos Siempre Hasta Encontramos Nuestros Ideales" (We will be together forever until we reach our ideals). Nelson and I take two different buses and one combi (a hollowed out van) to make the 1½-hour journey to the outskirts of the city (and then, of course, we do the same to return home).

The poverty of Lomas is evident the moment you set foot in the neighborhood. Electricity is about the only luxury that Lomas shares with Lima. Unlike in the city, the streets in Lomas are not paved, there is no running water, and many of the homes are built with adobe instead of brick. Nevertheless, the Jesheni youth have an incredibly positive and outgoing energy and I love being around them. Currently we focus all our time together studying English, and I am proud to say that I have seen some really great improvements in the students' abilities to speak English.

Aside from English lessons, the Jesheni youth are committed to a mission aimed at declaring a local area, known as the Bosque Seco, as a government-protected nature preserve. It is an area near the Lomas neighborhood that has a variety of unique plant and animal life. Unfortunately, there is a clandestine operation ongoing in Lomas involving the waste industry in which trash companies bribe police officials to allow them to dump waste in the valleys surrounding Lomas. It is illegal, of course, and has a very negative effect on health of the Lomas people. It also threatens to destroy the natural environment of the Bosque Seco, and so Jesheni is devoted to defending Lomas and the Bosque.

My time in Peru has taught me so much about how others live and how to accept different points of view. Adjusting to a different way of life has been a challenge in some ways, but a blessing in many more. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to meet so many new and wonderful people as well as experience a different way of viewing the world.

– Blessings, Michael Sinklier (Des Moines, Westminister)

To read the complete letter, go to: [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/yav/yav\\_sinklierm\\_0904.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/yav/yav_sinklierm_0904.htm)  
or e-mail Michael at: [msinklier@yahoo.com](mailto:msinklier@yahoo.com)

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## Compañeros begins Health Fund for Pastoral Team Volunteers

Many of you have read Mission Co-Worker Kathy Mahler's blogs about Cecilia's son Marvin who was in an accident. While he recovers, there is the issue of costs associated with his treatment. Unfortunately, medical expenses in El Salvador are expensive. Most don't have medical insurance to help offset the costs associated with trauma and treatment related expenses. In fact, paying for a single doctor's visit can often set back a family's wages up to 6 to 12 months. Cecilia and Marvin fall into this category. Cecilia is an unpaid volunteer at the Casa Pastoral and a member of the Pastoral Team in Berlin. She puts in over six days of full work each week because she says it is God's call to her – putting the needs of others before her own. She is often a silent member, working hard in the background, but her acts do not go unnoticed. The very food that visiting delegations eat is prepared by her. Since Cecilia feels her call is to serve others and does so by choice, she does not have a steady income for her household.

Cecilia would never ask, but many of us who know and have come to love and care for Cecilia would like to extend an offer to you. We are hoping you have the ability to extend the same love and kindness we receive from our Brothers and Sisters at the Casa Pastoral by contributing financially to the Casa Pastoral **Health Fund**. These funds will not only help pay Marvin's expenses, but any future medical needs of the team. Marvin's expenses to date: \$16=IVs; \$69=transportation; \$84=x-rays; \$87=medicine. All totaling \$256. If you can assist, send a check payable to the: **Des Moines Presbytery** and in the memo line designate "**Casa Pastoral Health Fund**". If you are not able to contribute, please continue to keep our El Salvador Brothers and Sisters in your prayers. While we may be brought together by faith, it is not by faith alone that makes this mission successful. In the words of the Pastoral Team, it is our ability to walk with each other in solidarity that keeps this mission strong! – Joe Pirtle, Moderator, 515-250-5857, [jpirtle13@hotmail.com](mailto:jpirtle13@hotmail.com).

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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.

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