



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **May 25 – Special Book Study**, 9-10 a.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale. *Honest to God* by J.A.T. Robinson, (40th Anniversary Edition) with essays by Douglas John Hall "Honest to God in North America" and the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, "Honest to God in Great Britain". All pastors, commissioned lay pastors and lay leaders are invited to attend this and the normal Tuesday lectionary study.
- **May 25 – Lectionary Study**, 10 a.m.-Noon, Presbytery Office
- **May 25 – Presbytery Staff Meeting**, 1 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **May 30 – Trinity Sunday/Presbyterian Heritage Day**
- **May 31 – Memorial Day Holiday**, Presbytery Office is closed.
- **June 1 – Congregational Care & Development meeting**, 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **June 1 – Compañeros Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **June 3 – The New CROSS Ministries' Food Pantry Grand Opening** is scheduled for Saturday, June 5. Prior to the actual opening, **the CROSS Committee will also host an Open House on Thursday, June 3, from 5-7 p.m.** We invite everyone to come for refreshments, tour our new facility, and help us celebrate our new outreach program to combat hunger. For donations, presentations, or pulpit supply, contact CROSS Ministries Executive Director **Dr. Roberta Victor**, at 515-279-8877 or info@crossministriesdm.org. To volunteer to work in the food pantry, contact **Joyce Hoffman**, hoffmanjah@hotmail.com, 515-225-9868.

Knox United Decommissioning Service, June 27

The **Knox United Presbyterian Church of Des Moines** is inviting everyone in the Presbytery to attend the celebration of the life and history of this 63-year-old church organized March 30, 1947. Membership started with 66 members and eventually swelled to 400 members! The church has remained active in mission through its history. Their most recent mission was made possible with the sale of the church property going towards the purchase of the boiler for the **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church**. Continuing their ministry in the nation and world are three members who were ordained as ministers at Knox during the 1990s. The two Synod School scholarship funds that now match local church support were established as memorials to one-time Knox members, Mike Carruthers and Salee Stanfield. The decommissioning service is scheduled for Sunday, June 27, at 3 p.m., **at Knox United Presbyterian Church, 2315 59th St., Des Moines.**



Employment Opportunities

The **First Presbyterian of Gibson** and the **White Oak Presbyterian churches** have an opening for a part-time pastor or commissioned lay pastor to serve two churches. Looking for a leader that can help us grow in our faith while reaching out in love to others in our community. Averages 20 hours a week. The future pastor will minister by:

1. Leading Sunday worship services; 8:45 a.m. at White Oak, 10 a.m. at Gibson, and administering sacraments.
2. Preparing worship schedule, sermon, bulletin and working with musicians in the selection of music.
3. Officiating special services (i.e., Christmas Eve, Maunday Thursday, Easter, etc.) as well as weddings, baptisms, funerals, classes for and confirmation of new members.
4. Helping prepare and plan participation in community services.
5. Visiting shut-ins, hospitalized, and all members when possible. Counseling when needed.
6. Moderating session and congregational meetings, attending Presbytery meetings and special community events.
7. Teaching special classes or bible study groups.

Interested individuals should send a resume that includes qualifications, summary background and references to: Clerk of Session **Milton Campbell**, 10649 160th Ave., Keswick, Iowa 50136-9013; or campbellmv@iowatelecom.net.

May 25, 2010

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

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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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- Local PDA Rep of IDHRC is Honored by National Award
- Synod Needs Information on Mission Partnerships Established in Mexico
- McCormick Offers Certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership
- Plan Now to Attend Communication Conference this Fall

Des Moines Union Park Hosts Ohio Angel Choir June 13

The senior high youth choir from Rev. Karen Chakoian's (former Union Park pastor) current church, First Presbyterian Church in Granville, Ohio, is touring the Midwest in June. The Angel Choir concert will be held June 13th, 7 p.m., at **Union Park Presbyterian Church, 1307 Thompson Ave., Des Moines**. The choir's program includes arrangements of well-known hymns: *A Mighty Fortress is Our God, Be Thou My Vision, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, Amazing Grace, Lord Listen to Your Children Singing, Sweet Hour of Prayer* and more. For more information, contact the Union Park church office at 515-266-4700 or uppc1@live.com.

Local PDA Representative of IDHRC is Honored by National Award

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) received the 2010 State/Territory VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) of the Year award on May 11th for its work following the tornadoes and floods of 2008. Among its many accomplishments, the IDHRC was recognized for the work it has done to strengthen the ability of local communities and the VOAD to respond to disaster events of any size and for developing a collaborative network of organizations to respond to the needs of Iowans affected by large scale disasters.

"Being honored by peers is one of the highest forms of recognition," said IDHRC Co-Chair Gayle Strickler. "I was grateful there were others from Iowa who joined me on the podium when the award was presented. It was the work of individuals and groups in all the affected areas that made the IDHRC eligible for consideration. But no one had any idea that what was done in 2008 would ever lead to such a prestigious award. I only wish it would have been possible for all the Iowans who contributed to the effort that led to the award to have shared in the experience."

Strickler was joined in accepting the award by other IDHRC members: Long-Term Recovery Chair **Don Hampton** (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and member of **Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola**), Secretary Blake DeRouche (HSEMD), and members Leslie Wright (United Way, Linn Area Long-Term Recovery Coalition), Becky Wood (Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church), Gaylord and Derri Hanson (Adventist Community Service Disaster Response), Seth Gardner and Gene Borochoff (NECHAMA). The National VOAD Board of Directors selected the IDHRC for the award from 55 state and territory organizations. The award was presented at the 18th National VOAD conference.

The IDHRC is comprised of faith-based, voluntary, and government agencies. HSEMD developed the council at the request of local emergency management coordinators to identify and address the unmet needs of Iowa's citizens impacted by disaster events. Group members assist in coordination of volunteers and donations during activation of the State Emergency Operations Center as requested, and promote cooperation among volunteer and faith-based organizations.

Synod Needs Information on Mission Partnerships Established in Mexico

Judy Fletcher, synod executive for the Synod of the Sun wrote, "I need your help. We are working on a network partnership meeting in February 2011, for those entities who have mission partnerships in Mexico. ...We have something nationally, [through PC(USA)], but the list is not up to date. Contact people change as do partnerships."

If your church has a mission that is currently active in Mexico, contact Associate for Communications Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, 2115 Cliff Drive, Eagan, MN 55122, 651-357-1148, dsweep@lakesandprairies.org. He will be happy to forward the information to the Synod of the Sun for planning the 2011 meeting.

McCormick Offers Certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership

Beginning in August of 2010, McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, will be offering the Certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership in partnership with Faith in Place

(www.faithinplace.org), a Chicago-based organization educating faith communities about clean energy and sustainable farming. The certificate program takes an interactive, cross-disciplinary approach to the faith and environment conversation, leveraging Faith in Place's experience with a number of innovative ecological initiatives and McCormick's expertise in leadership development for a variety of ministry settings.



Designed for pastors and leaders of religious and nonprofit institutions seeking to integrate ecological justice and care for God's world into their communities and core missions, the program consists of a series of two and one-half day sessions held at McCormick's Hyde Park campus on Chicago's south side. Sessions are scheduled for August and October of 2010, and February and May of 2011. For more information on the Certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership, visit www.mccormick.edu/environmentalcert.

Faith in Place gives religious people tools to become better stewards of creation. Since 1999, Faith in Place has worked with over 600 congregations to conserve energy, incorporate renewable technology, support local and sustainable farming, educate young people, increase advocacy for sound environmental policies from the faith community, and more.

Plan Now to Attend Communication Conference this Fall

Communicating with congregation members is no longer limited to a Sunday bulletin or monthly newsletter. Digital technology is rapidly changing the way we communicate — with our family, neighbors, co-workers and even congregation members. Does it all seem overwhelming? [The Presbyterian Communicators Network](#) is offering two regional conferences to help you learn how to effectively use the latest technology to communicate with your congregation, church neighbors and your community Oct. 18-20 at Crestfield Conference Center in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, and Oct. 25-27 at Zephyr Point Conference Center near Lake Tahoe, Nevada. To learn more about the conferences and to be notified when registration opens, [please sign up to receive the PCN e-newsletter](#).

To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org. Learn more at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org. Questions? Contact officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org or 515-276-4991.
