

## Presbytery of Des Moines

Equipping pastors and congregations in South Central Iowa with the tools to carry on God's awesome love.



# The Wider Circle E-News

## Mark your calendars this week for:

- **May 28-June 5** – **First Presbyterian Church, Dallas Center** mission delegation to El Salvador
- **May 28** – *Church Business Issues Workshop*, sponsored by the NACBA Des Moines Chapter. This FREE 3-hour workshop will 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).
- **May 28** – Presbytery staff meeting, 10 a.m., at the Presbytery Office
- **May 28** – Khadamat Sudaniya, 4 p.m., **Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **June 2** – CCD, 2 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **June 2** – Compañeros, 6:30 p.m., **Westminster, Des Moines**
- **June 4** – CROSS Ministries, 7 p.m., **Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church**
- **June 6** – Social Ministries Task Force, 9 a.m., Presbytery Office

## Attend Bread for the World Presentation Friday

Our presbytery has been invited to attend a special breakfast presentation with David Miner, chair of Bread for the World's board of directors Friday, May 29, 8 a.m. at **Central Presbyterian Church**, 3829 Grand Ave., Des Moines.

Take this opportunity to join with other Des Moines area Bread members and activists to hear an update on the work of Bread for the World and to be inspired. To RSVP for this event, e-mail Reshena Johnson at [rjohnson@bread.org](mailto:rjohnson@bread.org) or call 800-822-7323 \*168.



## Congregational Connection

The **First Presbyterian Church in Leon** held a dedication ritual for 44 new NRSV pew Bibles during worship Sunday, May 24. The Bibles were purchased by members and friends of the congregation in memory or honor of loved ones. In conjunction with the dedication, a retirement ritual was held for the old pew Bibles, which had been given as a memorial for **Airman Michael Kemp**, a Leon church member who was killed in a military plane crash in Texas, June 1959. Two of Kemp's siblings, Robert A. Kemp and Gretchen Kemp Ver Steegt, both of Des Moines, were present for the special occasion. The old Bibles were presented to the Kemps to be distributed as keepsakes to family members throughout the country.

**Des Moines Knox United Presbyterian Church member Pat Aksamit, moderator of the Budget and Finance Committee**, reported that her granddaughter, Melissa Arnot made the South Summit of Mount Everest for the second time May 23, 6:45 a.m. Her parents live in Estes Park, Colo., and Melissa is working as a mountain guide and a wilderness medical training instructor. To see photos and video, go to: (<http://blog.firstascent.com/tag/melissa-arnot/> or <http://adventure.nationalgeographic.com/everest/dispatch/may/24-text.html>.)

May 27, 2009

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



### We are located at:

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515-276-4991

[officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org)

### Office Hours are:

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

## This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- Bread for the World Presentation in Des Moines
- Congregational Connection
- Prayers and Concerns
- Take "The Wider Circle" Survey Today!
- Fast Facts Available Online at PCUSA.org
- Explore Presbyterian News online with PNN

Continued from above...

## Prayers and Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

**Older Adult Task Force Moderator Darlene Shepherd's** husband, Dave suffered a stroke this weekend and is currently at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines.

**Egypt Mission Co-Worker Denise England's** father, passed away on Thursday, May 21. A visitation was Friday evening and the funeral was held Saturday, May 23 in Audubon at the First Presbyterian Church. Denise will be returning to Egypt May 30.

The **Rev. David Ewing** is leaving **First Presbyterian Church in Dallas Center** to serve at the Sunny Valley Presbyterian Church in Beloit, Wis. His last day will be June 8.

The **Rev. Lynn Williams of First Presbyterian Church in Grimes** is home after having prostate surgery. It was reported incorrectly that he would need chemotherapy, but he will not need further treatments after all!

**Inquirer Cyndy Ripperger** graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree from University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in May 2009.

## Don't forget to take survey for "The Wider Circle" by June 2!

Results are coming in on the recent survey for *The Wider Circle*. Upcoming changes will potentially be the elimination of the monthly newsletter due to increasing of mailing and printing costs and decreasing Presbytery General Mission pledges. However, the weekly *The Wider Circle E-News* will still provide up-to-date news to your inbox every Tuesday. If you didn't have a chance at the Presbytery meeting, please complete the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=bS\\_2b\\_2b0oZnDM4I3ZIOuPPegg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=bS_2b_2b0oZnDM4I3ZIOuPPegg_3d_3d) before June 2.

If you have questions or concerns about the changes, contact Kim Coulter, director of communications at [pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org) or 515-276-4991.

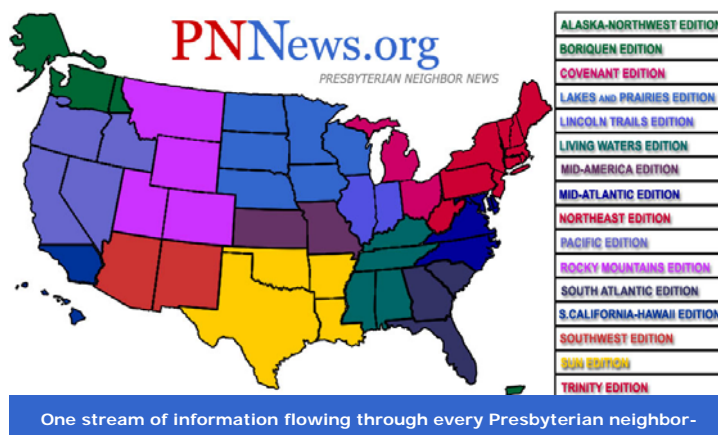
## Fast Facts Available Online at PCUSA.org

- One-quarter of congregations (27 percent) report that at least one work team was sent out from their congregation to help with disaster relief efforts in the United States in the last two years.
- The 2008 Survey of Presbyterian Pastors reveals that most pastors consider their present compensation package to be fair and reasonable given the circumstances of the congregation. One in six live in a manse. Two in three report making changes to improve their health in the previous year.

To read more on these and other research statistics, go online to: [www.pcusa.org/research/index.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/research/index.htm).

## Get Presbyterian News through the Online News Service

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies has been participating in a news service called *Presbyterian Neighbor News*. This is an online news service produced cooperatively by the 16 synods of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Rev. Shane Whisler, Synod of the Sun, is the managing PNN editor. This news service is still in test phase but has begun carrying news updates from around the synod with update e-mail alerts going out weekly. You may sign up to receive these weekly updates by going to [www.pnnews.org](http://www.pnnews.org), clicking on the Lakes and Prairies Edition and "Learn more/join". You may also keep up with news from other synods, our Presbyterian neighbors from around the country.



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.