



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Nov. 9-11** – Synod of Lakes and Prairies *Collegiate Ministries Conference* for chaplains and collegiate ministry leaders. Beginning Monday, 3 p.m. and ending Wednesday, 11 a.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 902 Main St., Cedar Falls, IA 50613. The conference is targeted at campus ministry staff and chaplains of Presbyterian-related colleges and universities.
- **Nov. 9-16** – The Newton First Presbyterian Church Delegation, in Berlin, El Salvador.
- **Nov. 10** – Presbytery Stated Meeting, 9:30 a.m., **First Presbyterian Church**, 255 E. 1st St., **Earlham**. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.
- **Nov. 14** – Social Ministries Task Force, 9:30 p.m., **Presbytery Office, Urbandale**
- **Nov. 15** – *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Care Giver Sunday*
- **Nov. 15** – Installation for the **Rev. Betty Sandy**, 4 p.m., **Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**.
- **Nov. 18** – Personnel Committee, 4 p.m. at the Presbytery Office
- **Nov. 19** – Lunch & Learn Series, *Annual & Statistical Reports* (bring samples of your annual reports), Noon-1 p.m., Presbytery Office. If you are interested in participating in a Webconference, contact Kim Coulter by e-mail pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org. In order to receive the instructions the morning of the class, you will need to download an Active X control to your computer prior to participation in the Webconference at Noon.
- **Nov. 22** – *Christ the King/Reign of Christ*
- **Nov. 26-27** – Thanksgiving Holiday, Presbytery Office is closed.
- **Nov. 29** – *1st Sunday of Advent*

November 10, 2009

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

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Office Hours are:

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

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- Synod's SDOP Committee Extends Deadline for Grant Requests
- Street-Stewart Nominated for National Award

Joys and Concerns

Exciting news for the **Rev. Lynn Williams, Grimes First Presbyterian Church**, whose son, Mike is preparing for a call and move to be the pastor at the United Church of Christ in Anamosa, Ia. The Installation will be on Sunday, Nov. 15. Congratulations!

Attend Special Music Concerts for the Holidays

- Nov. 22** Everyone is invited to a *Handbell Concert* on Sunday, Nov. 22 at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. All of the Westminster bell choirs (ages 8-88) will perform their favorites at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, call the church office at 515-274-1534.
- Nov. 24** Join your friends from **Union Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** at this annual neighborhood ecumenical event. The *Union Park Churches' Joint Thanksgiving Service* will be held at Union Park United Methodist Church, E. 12th and Guthrie, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 24. A joint choir of the churches will perform during the service. For questions, contact Music Director **Betty Reed**, hbjreed@aol.com or 515-270-1328.
- Dec. 6** An *Organ Recital* will be held on 10:10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at **Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines**. Hear choir director and church organist **Julianne Lawrence**, play Advent and Christmas music. For details, contact the church office at 515-225-2254 or covenantpres@iowalink.com.

Perry Church Needs Help Providing Community with Income Tax Assistance Program

The Tax Dollars for Perry is part of the VITA program Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Volunteers provide free tax preparation, e-file returns or paper forms if they prefer, for low income people. The **First Presbyterian Church in Perry** does it with the cooperation of the Internal Revenue, Iowa Legal Aid and The United Way. Tax preparers are trained for free and tested to assure competence. The church provides preparers (but not nearly enough), the facilities, hosts, hostesses, and greeters. It is seen as a cost free way to help carry out the Matthew 25 – mandate to feed the poor and clothe the naked – at least it is cost-free to the church. Last year, they were able to help return \$200,000 to local residents and their local economy. They prepare taxes on four Saturdays and four Thursday evenings. If you want to prepare taxes, there is a place for you! Also, they are usually short of Spanish interpreters. Do you speak Spanish? If you're interested in helping in spring 2010, contact the **Rev. Joan White**, 515-465-3168 or pastorjoan@mchsi.com.

Cottage Grove Avenue Church will Close for Winter; Pipes Need to be Drained and Boiler Needs Replacing

Like all other articles, here is some background information of what is going on in one of our congregations, albeit a congregation that does a lot of ministry in partnership with our Des Moines Presbytery.

Two years ago, the **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian** congregation put a new roof on the church building in Des Moines. It was actually completed with significant financial help from **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**.

This year, **the First Presbyterian Church in Dallas Center** secured a large commercial refrigerator for the Cottage Grove congregation – big enough to hold two goats! They also removed the old kitchen floor and are currently in the planning stages of a new floor. The **Presbytery PW** are also involved in this kitchen project.

Currently, **Central Presbyterian Church** is looking at grant-writing efforts for work on the bathrooms and a new boiler. Many churches have been involved with fund raisers or have already made contributions to the ministries of **Cottage Grove Avenue Church**.

One other interesting and important note is that the entire Sudanese community is involved in contributing to the boiler replacement. Pastor Dave Madsen met with several community leaders late in October, who came to him on their own, wanting to help. Over half of these people do not worship at Cottage Grove, but know how important the community and cultural center is in their own lives. They called Cottage Grove Church the “Sudanese Hometown” because it is where the community gathers to see one another and to hold special events, celebrations, and funerals. I’m sure that at least 3,000 different Sudanese people come to Cottage Grove at least once each year for worship or some other event. The first Sudanese started coming to Cottage Grove in 1993.

We also don’t want to lose sight of the loss of the boiler on our other major outreach: **CROSS Ministries**. At the moment the effects are minimal because we do have heat in the offices, waiting room, and personal hygiene pantry. If we have to shut off the water and vacate the building for a while we will need to find a place that will accommodate all of us that are “hands on” involved with the clients, including space that will protect client confidentiality and space for the pantry. We are most definitely committed to keeping CROSS open and serving the needs of homeless and near homeless people in this financial climate where unemployment continues to grow and people who were formerly middle class are added to the rolls of those living in poverty.

Inspector and boiler repair people have declared Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Churches boiler “toast.” Even a member of Westminster, who is an expert with boilers, has been a valuable consultant on the research for the boiler repairs. When the repair people came to fix it, they declared the walls of the 80-year-old boiler, ‘too thin to weld’ and thus it has been disabled. Cost of new one is \$63,500 + taxes + inspection fees + some asbestos abatement = total of about \$80,000. Mid-American Energy says their rebates are based not on building size, but past usage, and the church has been so conservation minded that it does not qualify for a rebate. There is heat in the offices and library/waiting room and electric space heaters are being used to heat the small chapel and lounge for the three worship services. Worst case scenario: when it gets close to freezing inside, the pipes, toilets, etc. will have to be drained and all operations will have to move to another facility. Any ideas and your prayers would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your help.

~ The Rev. Dave Madsen, Pastor
515-279-8877, davidmadsen@mchsi.com

Synod’s SDOP Committee Extends Deadline for Grant Requests

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies’ Self-Development of People Committee extended its 2009 deadline to receive grant proposals to Nov. 20. The intention of SDOP grants is to help correct conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression. Grant requests must be presented, owned and controlled by the group of people who will benefit from the grant. Proposals must describe the goal of the project, specific steps required to accomplish the goal, a description of how the benefited group will be in charge of the project, and the other sources of support that are involved. Elona Street-Stewart, synod associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment, wrote, “Here is a wonderful opportunity for community groups to make an impact on people’s lives and change the negative effects of poverty, unemployment, and homelessness. SDOP is especially interested in areas with greater potential to partner with immigrant communities, racial ethnic organizations and high incidences of poverty.” Additional information can be obtained by contacting Street-Stewart at estreetstewart@lakesandprairies.org.

Street-Stewart Nominated for National Award

Elona Street-Stewart, vice chair of the [St. Paul \(Minn.\) Public School District](#), is a finalist for the 2009 Richard R. Green Award presented by the [Council of the Great City Schools](#). Street-Stewart is associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Kazoua Kong-Thao, chair of the school board, said, “Elona’s leadership has been an invaluable asset for our district over the past six years. Additionally, she has been a great role model and a resource with her experience as an active parent, community leader and past board chair.” CGCS, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., is a coalition of 66 of the nation’s largest urban public school systems. The award honors current or past council board members who represent support of and service to urban schoolchildren, development of a special service or program in support of urban school needs, ongoing contributions to urban education through advocacy or programs and inspiration and motivation of others to contribute to success of urban school students.

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.
