



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Nov. 26-27** – Thanksgiving Holiday, the Presbytery Office is closed.
- **Dec. 1** – Congregational Care & Development meeting, 2 p.m., **Ankeny Presbyterian Church**, 317 S.E. Trilein Dr., Ankeny
- **Dec. 1** – Committee on Preparation of Ministry, 2:30 p.m. **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Dec. 1** – Professional Care & Development meeting, 4 p.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Dec. 1** – Compañeros meeting, 6:30 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Dec. 1** – Des Moines Area Religious Council's Fall Assembly, 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 3** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m., **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Dec. 4** – Retired Pastors Christmas Luncheon, Noon, **the Rev. Robert and Jeanne Burnett's home**
- **Dec. 4** – Nominating Committee, 3:30 p.m., Presbytery Office
- **Dec. 5** – Social Ministries Task Force, 10 a.m., Presbytery Office

Lunch & Learn Series Needs Topics for 2010

The Des Moines Presbytery's Lunch and Learn Series begins again January 21, 2010 and you're invited to send in topic ideas for the coming years' series! Pastors, staff members, volunteers or lay leaders are invited to participate in these informal discussion and information sharing sessions on a monthly basis. So far, we've received the following possible topics from these dedicated people:

- Meditation, devotions and prayer time ideas
- Stewardship ideas
- Training new session members and elders.
- How to get inactive members to participate once again
- Emergency planning help: everything from snow days to health emergencies
- Writing and composition of important messages within the church and local community
- Christian education curriculum help with Des Moines Presbytery's P.O.I.N.T. Person **Sara Lamb** (Winterset, First)
- Creative worship ideas with **Rev. Suzanne Gorhau** (Centerville, First)

New for 2010: Usually these 1-hour sessions are held the third Thursday of the month, from Noon – 1 p.m. at the Presbytery Office. But after some testing, we've decided to offer them by Webconference and conference call for those who live far away. To participate, all you need is a proper computer, Internet connection and a phone. Send your ideas for future topics to Director of Communications **Kim Coulter** at pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

November Presbytery Meeting Summary

The meeting was held at the **First Presbyterian Church in Earlham** and was one of the highest attended meetings for 2009. Worship began with music by the Sudanese Choir from the **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** with the **Rev. Dave Madsen** giving the sermon. The *Just Neighbors Award* banner went to the **Oskaloosa First Presbyterian Church**. Sad news came of two churches to close in the next 6 months: **Tingley United Presbyterian Church of the United Faith Parish** and **Knox United Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**.

The **Clifton Heights Administrative Commission** was recognized and dismissed with praise and celebration. Also, it was announced that the Cottage Grove Church will need a new boiler to continue to be open during the winter months. The meeting ended with the 2009 Presbytery Moderator **Rev. Dave Endriss** (Indianola, Trinity United) shown here, handing over the gavel to new 2010 Moderator **Elder Becky Diebold** (Ottumwa, First).

November 24, 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

Highlights on Next Page:

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- Des Moines Presbytery Leadership: Call for Nominations
- Camp on Okoboji Offers Lakeview Lodge Special
- GAMC Launches Residency Program for First-Call Pastors
- GA Committee Recommends *Belhar Confession*
- Advent Resources
- Attention: ALL Worship Planners looking for Music!

2010 Mission Year-books are Available

There are still plenty left at the Presbytery Office for the \$6.50 price! So if you forgot to order them for yourself or your church, or if you need more than your original order, contact the **Presbytery's Office Manager Betty Dyer**, pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org or 515-276-4991.



Holiday Gift Bazaar and Dinner Announced

Dec. 6 – Holiday Gift/Craft Bazaar, Sunday, 2 p.m. at **First Presbyterian Church**, 3100 Easton Blvd., **Des Moines**, Iowa 50317. Questions? Contact the church office at 515-262-5679.

Dec. 22 – Roasted Pork Loin Dinner at **Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, from 5-7 p.m. Cost is: \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 6-12, and children under 5 are free. To get your tickets, contact the church Office Administrator Kris Robinson at 515-288-5703. Funds from this dinner will go towards a new video project at the church.

Des Moines Presbytery Leadership: Call for Nominations

Are you ready to be a leader of your presbytery, synod or general assembly? There are still a few vacancies on select task forces and committees in our Presbytery. To see a list, go online to review the Nomination Committee's Report in The Nov. 10 Call, www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/CallNov10-09.pdf. To submit your nominations, complete the form, www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/NomineeBiographicalSketch.pdf and send to **Julie Cloud**, gjcloud@aol.com.

Camp on Okoboji Offers Lakeview Lodge Grand Opening Special

This Special Introductory Offer rate is \$50.00 per room for individual or family rentals now through Dec. 23rd (based on availability). Here is an opportunity for a great get-a-way! Come to relax, play, study or escape from the phone. The coffee pot will be on as you curl up next to the fireplace with a good book! The Camp's newly constructed lodge is located at 1864, Hwy. 86, Milford, IA 51351. For more information, call Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji at 712-337-3313 or e-mail: info@presbycamp.org.

GAMC Launches New Residency Program for First-Call Pastors

In a proactive response to both the changing landscape of the PC(USA), in which half of the denomination's nearly 11,000 congregations have 100 or fewer members, and the challenge of calling leaders who will be effective in growing the church, the General Assembly Mission Council has launched "For Such a Time as This," an innovative pastoral residency program designed to serve underserved congregations and develop missional pastors. Named for a reference from the Book of Esther, the program seeks to pair small, underserved rural or urban congregations with recent seminary graduates in a two-year pastoral residency relationship.

Read more at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/gamc09046.htm.

GA Committee Recommends *Belhar Confession*

A special committee authorized by the 218th General Assembly (2008) has announced that it will recommend to next summer's 219th Assembly that the Belhar Confession be added to the PC(USA)'s *Book of Confessions*. Amending the Book of Confessions requires a two-thirds vote by two successive General Assemblies plus a two-thirds ratification vote by the denomination's 173 presbyteries between Assembly ballots.

Read more at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09820.htm.

Changes Announced to Bible Exegesis Examination

The Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates has announced changes to the structure of the open book Bible exegesis examination, one of the five examinations required of candidates for the ministry of word and sacrament in the PC(USA), beginning with the test's August 2010 administration. The PCCEC, a permanent committee of the General Assembly of the denomination, is charged with the responsibility for writing, administering, and overseeing the grading of these examinations. Read more at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/gamc09043.htm.

Preparing for Advent and the Celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany?

Find everything you need as you plan this Advent season — both in your congregation and at home. Do you need help as you assemble worship services and music programs? PC(USA) offers ideas for [music and worship resources](#) and inspiration. Get ready with resources geared towards planning festivities www.pcusa.org/advent/celebrate.htm.

Attention: ALL Worship Planners looking for Music!

Christmas carols or Advent hymns? Your church can sing both. Simultaneously! *The Presbyterian Outlook* commissioned noted Presbyterian hymn writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette to prepare four Advent carol texts to be sung to familiar, beloved Christmas tunes everyone enjoys singing. The lyrics are based upon the lectionary text for each Advent Sunday. You can lead your congregation in singing:

- *God, You Alone Know What You've Planned* to the tune of *It Came upon a Midnight Clear*
- *When Old Zechariah Saw What God Had Done* to the tune of *Away in a Manger*
- *John Went Out to Preach God's Word* to the tune of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*
- *Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin* to the tune of *Once in David's Royal City*

The lyrics alone are being published one per week in the *Outlook* magazine, but waiting for each issue gives you little time to work the hymn texts into your worship plans. So we are offering them to you all NOW and all READY to print out for bulletin inserting beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29 – in full music manuscript, like they would appear in a hymnal. You buy and download a master online at www.pres-outlook.com/news-and-analysis/1/9436.html, and then print as many copies as you need for your worship services. One downloadable hymn-carol is \$9.95 OR all four are only \$29.95 (ready to be printed on a two-sided 8.5"x11" page).

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.
