



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Oct. 13** – PUP Task Force, 3 p.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **Oct. 13** – Session Records Review, 7 p.m., **First Presbyterian Church, Guthrie Center**
- **Oct. 15** – Lunch & Learn Series, *Public Relations 101 – How to Get Church News Noticed*, Noon-1 p.m., Presbytery Office. To participate by Webconference, contact Kim Coulter at 515-276-4991.
- **Oct. 16** – *Presbytery's PW Gathering*, 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m., **First Presbyterian Church, Audubon**. *Wonder of Mission* workshop is on the Columbia Accompaniment with **Paul Walther**. Lunch is \$5. RSVP by Oct. 12. Contact Angie Williams, 712-563-2213.
- **Oct. 17** – *Presbytery's PW Gathering*, 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m., **Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**. *Wonder of Mission* workshop is on El Salvador with **Betty Dyer**. Lunch is \$5. RSVP by Oct. 12. Contact the church, 515-288-5703.
- **Oct. 18** – **The Rev. Dawn Linder's** installation, 6 p.m., **Highland Presbyterian Church, 321 Euclid Ave., Des Moines**
- **Oct. 18 & 19** – *Healthy Congregations* and *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times* with **Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke**. Sunday's workshop is for session leaders and pastors, 2-6 p.m., Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines. Monday's class is for pastors only, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Plymouth Congregational. For more info, go to: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/SteinkeBrochure.pdf.

Joys and Concerns

The **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church** welcomes the **Rev. David and Desiree Stipp-Bethune's** new baby girl Beulah Rose, born Oct. 5; 9 lbs., 9 ozs.; 21 3/4 in. long; and healthy! Her big brothers, J.R. and Simeon are very happy!

The **First Presbyterian Church in Dallas Center** welcomes interim pastor, the honorably retired **Rev. Gus Nelson** beginning Oct. 1. In the past, he has been interim pastor at Clifton Heights, Windsor, and Heartland Presbyterian churches, all in the Des Moines Presbytery and served as General Presbyter for 19 years.

Invitation to Grimes' Harvest Home Dinner

The **First Presbyterian Church, 410 S. 3rd St., in Grimes** is holding their annual Harvest Home Dinner and you're invited. Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. A traditional turkey dinner is served family style with all the trimmings, including dessert. Cost is \$7-adults, \$4-children 4-12; free for children under 4. Carry-out orders are available for an additional \$.50/per meal. Contact coordinator Donna Lewis, dlewis@fucic.com.

Sunday School Kickoff is Success at Cottage Grove Avenue Church in Des Moines

During Sunday School on Sept. 13, the class loaded 21 students into six cars and headed for the Burnett Ranch, south of town, where they were entertained by the tricks of Jeremiah, a miniature mule; Jennifer, a mule; and Jody, a horse. Owners, the Rev. Bob and Jeanne Burnett, have for years offered a summer trick show with their famous animals. During the show, **Cottage Grove Avenue Pastor Dave Madsen** was

hugged and kissed by Jody. Church youth leader **Ann McGowan** directed Jody in playing the bells and church member **Roberta Victor** played catch with Jody. (Pictured here, far upper right, Kamadal tries on a cowgirl hat and pictured right, Buay gets a ride on Jody with Bob leading the way.) After the equine antics, the children were treated to a ride on Jody. They also enjoyed a picnic lunch and playing on the tree swing.



October 13, 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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New Way to Announce Church Cancellations Due to Weather

During the 2009-2010 school program year, WHO Radio is changing to a completely web-based system for reporting and disseminating information about changes in your schedules. This will replace the phone calls church staff and members have made to them in the past to report cancellations. This new technology allows users to have complete control of the information that is reported on WHO since only an administrator with the proper credentials can access the site.



It also means the information you provide will automatically go onto the websites of the five stations operated by Clear Channel Communications in Des Moines. Note that personnel in the WHO Radio newsroom are unable to access the system to input changes in your schedule because each church will have a different password. The change is for several reasons: it will create better efficiency in handling closing information since you are being given complete control; it also frees up the station's staff resources to continue reporting on the events that make the news in Iowa. To view a step-by-step document about the new system, contact the Des Moines Presbytery Office at 515-276-4991 or pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org. Questions? Contact News Director Jim Boyd, WHO-Iowa Radio Network, 515-245-8821 (O), 515-245-8887 (Newsroom) or jimboyd@ClearChannel.com.

Register For Collegiate Ministries Conference

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies taking registrations for its second annual collegiate ministries conference, "Making Connections in Time of Change." Running Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 9-11, in Cedar Falls, Ia., this event is for college chaplains, pastors and anyone working in church collegiate ministry. Hotel accommodations are at the Holiday Inn University Plaza and most conference sessions take place at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls. Registration cost is \$50 and includes two night's lodging, two continental breakfasts, opening banquet, two lunches and all presentations. To register, contact Duane Sweep, synod associate for communications, at dsweep@lakesandprairies.org.

Campus Pastors Want to Know Your College Students

Campus pastors across the Synod of Lakes and Prairies are trying to identify the Presbyterian students on their campuses. It's no surprise that not all Presbyterian college students are at Presbyterian colleges and universities, but that doesn't mean there is not a campus ministry at the college or university they do attend. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Web site maintains a [campus ministry locator](#). It's an opportunity to help a campus minister identify contacts and to help a Presbyterian student make a connection.

Presbytery Leaders Work on Habitat Houses

When the executive and general presbyters in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies got together early September in Kearney Neb., for their regular forum, they went to work, but in a slightly different way. They went to work for Habitat for Humanity (*Pictured here in the middle, is our own Phil Barrett!*) Bob Hauser, executive presbyter in Central Nebraska Presbytery, made the connection with Habitat through Roger Payne, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Kearney, who is active in the local Habitat organization. "In fact," Hauser wrote, "he and his wife will be going to Vietnam with a group for a Jimmy Carter Habitat Blitz next year." Hauser said he couldn't take credit for organizing the work, noting, "Actually the forum planning team suggested that Habitat might be a possibility and since I was more familiar with it than others in Kearney I pursued that. They worked for about three hours on three different houses." Photo was taken by Chaz Ruark, executive presbyter in Presbytery of the Twin Cities.



White House concerned about spreading flu in churches

By Michelle Minkoff/RNS, WASHINGTON DC – The White House and federal health officials have released H1N1 guidelines recommending worshippers take precautions against spreading germs to reduce the risk of contracting the H1N1 virus. The guide was released Friday, and suggests that houses of worship encourage congregants to wash their hands often, use hand sanitizer, avoid crowded situations and interact without physical contact when possible. It also urges religious leaders to keep in contact with local health organizations and closely adhere to their recommendations.

Related info: [H1N1 flu: A Guide for Community and Faith-based Organizations](#).



Immigration Issues Highlighted in *Presbyterians Today*

Editor Eva Stimson opens her article, "The Faces of Immigration," in the September issue of *Presbyterians Today* this way: "About seven years ago a woman in Presbyterian pastor Gary Catterson's church in Postville, Iowa, came to him with an unusual request: Could a group of Guatemalan Pentecostals use the church's facilities for worship services? The woman taught English to immigrant workers at a local meatpacking plant, and some of them needed a place to worship. The church session approved the request." The complete story is online at www.pcusa.org/today/cover.htm.

Survey Shows Strength, Vitality of PC(USA)

Many Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations display strength, vitality and openness to change despite current resource constraints. These findings are from a fall 2008 survey of 115 PC(USA) congregations that was part of the larger *Faith Communities Today 2008* (FACT 2008) survey. Go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09783.htm.

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.