



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Oct. 27** – *Mission Dollar Challenge Consultation 2010*, 1-4 p.m. at **St. Paul Presbyterian Church**, 6426 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston. Sponsored by the Stewardship and Mission Interpretation and the Budget and Finance committees. Churches are asked to send 100 mission dollars and bring 2008/2009 church annual budgets. Participants will learn prepared to help sessions set goals for funding 2010 mission work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). To RSVP, contact the Presbytery Office, 515-276-4991.
- **Oct. 28** – Pastor's Welcoming, 10 a.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale. Lunch is included. RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 27.
- **Oct. 29** – Staff Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Presbytery Office.
- **Oct. 29** – Last of the Session Records Review, 7 p.m., **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, West Des Moines.
- **Oct. 30-Nov. 1** – Annual Tentmaking Conference, *Doing Ministry With Muddy Feet* at the University of Saint Mary's of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois.

October 27, 2009

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

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Urbandale, IA 50322-4306
515-276-4991

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Office Hours are:

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

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- Youth Leaders and High Schoolers, Check out PYT 2010 Plans
- What can We do to Achieve Peace? New Booklet Released this Summer
- Fair Trade: Using our Purchasing Power for Justice and Hope
- Alternative Giving Opportunities for Christmas
- Tax Tips Webinar for Ministers and Churches

Joys and Concerns

The **Newton First Presbyterian Church** pastor the **Rev. Tiare Mathison** had a big day on Sunday, Oct. 19, as she ran in the Des Moines Marathon, 26.2 miles! A few of her support crew were on hand, the **Rev. Ann Johnson (Monroe)** and elder **Helyn Wohlwend (Newton First)** was at the finish line with her daughter **Andie Hollenbeck**. At 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning, Newton church members began praying when she was halfway done. At the *Healthy Congregations Workshop* the next day, Tiare confirmed support of her church members, "I am convinced the gift of the sabbatical this past summer made it possible for me to rest deeply enough to experience the healing graces of the Holy Spirit as I trained and then ran. Thanks be to God!"

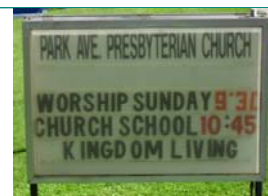
The Center for Lifelong Learning of the Columbia Theological Seminary (www.ctsnet.edu) is offering a *Journey of Faith* blog, the next few weeks as one of our pastors, the **Rev. David Stipp-Bethune of Park Avenue Presbyterian Church**, travels to the Holy Land! If you register as a "follower" of this blog, you will have the opportunity to follow the pilgrims as they deepen their spiritual journey. Go to: <http://journeyoffaithfall2009.blogspot.com/>, and share in this unique pilgrimage to the Holy Land!

Funds are still available for Disaster Assistance and Flood Recovery

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance grant that our Des Moines Presbytery received this spring is ready now for disbursement. Is your church part of organizing a long-term recovery committee in your county? Do you need help reporting losses? We have funds available for unmet needs from our south central Iowa churches. If you know of individuals still in need, contact the Presbytery Office, pbcommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org or 515-276-4991. We are currently in touch with the SWILT Recovery Committee, the Wapello Long-Term Recovery Committee and the Central Iowa Recovery Network in Polk County.

Lighted Church Sign for Sale: FREE!

The **Park Avenue Presbyterian Church** is about to have a "used" front sign available for free. The sign company doing the replacement is offering to deliver the sign "if it's not too far away." The sign is lighted with letters, although it is older. All that's needed is to have a new name painted on it. "We're interested in giving it away if there is a church interested in using it." If you need more information, please contact the new sign project coordinator **Chuck Russo** at 515-288-4749.



Westminster Church to Host Blood Drive

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines will host a Blood Drive for The Blood Center of Iowa on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, from 3-7:30 p.m. This Blood Drive is also be a fundraiser for **CROSS Ministries**, a social outreach program of the Des Moines Presbytery and **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church**. For every donor registered, the Westminster Deacons will give \$5 to CROSS Ministries. CROSS serves low- and no-income families in the Des Moines area. To make an appointment for the Westminster Blood Drive, please contact Sue Freeman, 515-473-4699, or contact Joan in the church office, 274-1534 or jmahaffey@westpres.org. Walk-ins are welcome. Eligible donors must be at least 16 years of age, in general good health, and must weigh at least 120 pounds. For information on donating, visit www.bloodcenterofiowa.org. Westminster is located at the corner of Beaver and Franklin Avenues in Des Moines.

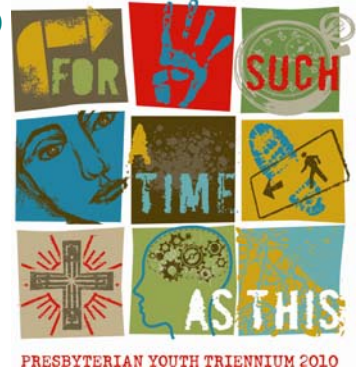
Employment Opportunity

Administrative Assistant, Windsor Presbyterian Church, Windsor Heights, Ia. – This half-time position requires experience and patience in handling church matters with compassion and discretion. Verbal, written and visual communication skills are required as well as the ability to manage a diverse range of tasks and people. Seeking a self-starter capable of initiative and independent work. Proficiency with computers and ability to learn new skills and applications is required. Describe facilities with computer applications in resume. Church administration and/or tenant management experience a plus. Send resume to windsorpresby@yahoo.com or Windsor Presbyterian Church, 6301 University Ave., Windsor Heights, IA 50324.

Youth Leaders and High Schoolers Check out PYT 2010

The [Presbyterian Youth Triennium \(PYT\)](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/) is an event sponsored by the PC(USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches (CPC and CPCA) for the purpose of gathering Presbyterian and Reformed young people from all over the U.S. and the world together for worship, prayer, play and community. The Triennium also hosts Global Partners, youth from the Presbyterian Church in Canada, ecumenical guests and hundreds of volunteers.

PYT is held on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., and runs from Tuesday, July 20 through Saturday, July 24. Registration is coordinated through our presbytery or your church. Individuals must register as a part of either a church or presbytery delegation. Youth Participants must be entering high school and no older than 19 years old on July 20, 2010. Delegations must include one adult for every 10 young people of the same gender. Adult Advisors must be at least 21 years old on July 20, 2010. (www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/)



Through the presentations, the studies, recreational events and free time PYT strives to connect youth and adults with activities that inspire them to be alert, be active and seek ways to connect their lives with their growing faith. Young people are prime carriers of the hope Christians are called to possess. And PYT is the perfect place to generate substantial energy and action on behalf of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Send your estimated number of participants to our Presbytery of Des Moines' PYT Registrar **Sara Lamb** by Nov. 16, 2009 at yndsara@q.com or 515-462-3261.

What can We do to Achieve Peace? New Booklet Released this Summer

The booklet and DVD *Steadfast Hope, The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace* is being offered from the Israel Palestine Mission Network (IPMN) www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/index.php. A 48-page, magnificently illustrated booklet challenges common myths and misperceptions about the origins of the Middle East conflict. This new resource offers a snapshot of the situation on the ground in Israel/Palestine and is a guide to the challenges that lie ahead in the quest for peace by Muslims, Jews and Christians. Designed for individual use or as a one-, four- or seven-week church adult education series, it includes a free DVD with short, informative clips linked to the booklet content. Copies are \$5 each for 20+ or \$10 a single copy and are available online through the Presbyterian Marketplace, order item number 26466-09-001 (www.pcusa.org/marketplace or 800-524-2612). Or a single copy is available for check out at the Presbytery Office. Questions? Contact IPMN members the honorably retired **Rev. Liz Knott** and **Connie DePond** at 515-962-2088.



Fair Trade: Using our Purchasing Power for Justice and Hope

Hunger Action Enabler **Nancy Lister-Settle** has Bible study booklets available from the PC(USA) Joining Hands Mission. They're on *Fair Trade: Using our Purchasing Power for Justice and Hope* and are available for checkout in the Presbytery Office. This book, written by Rev. Judy Hoffhine and PC(USA) Mission Co-worker Ruth Farrell combines the definitions of Fair Trade and scriptural foundations with personal stories to help you understand what Fair Trade is and why we should commit to it, even with all its challenges. Begin exploring your consumption practices and how they are felt worldwide. Learn how to use your purchasing power to affect social and economic justice. Get your copy today!



Alternative Giving Opportunities for Christmas

As many congregations prepare for the upcoming gift giving seasons of Advent and Christmas, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance asks that you consider a gift to help families recovering from disasters. For the past 10 years, PDA has responded to requests from individuals and congregations for alternative giving and other special giving opportunities for this purpose. This year's alternative giving brochure features opportunities to support PDA's response to international or national disasters, and an opportunity to offer your gift to be used where it is most needed. Call PDS at call 800-524-2612 to order the brochure (#25412-09-005) or go online to the PDA Web site, www.pcusa.org/pda/tools/alternativegiving.htm. Giving cards are also available.

Tax Tips Webinar for Ministers and Churches

What common errors should you be aware of as you prepare your 2009 returns? How could recent tax law changes affect how you report income and expenses in 2010? Hear renowned clergy and church tax expert Richard R. Hammar, J.D., LL.M., CPA, explain *Tax Tips for Ministers and Churches*, Dec. 9, 2009, from 3–4 p.m. Eastern time. Register online by Nov. 20 at <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=e5a49a64-fa26-4bb1-800a-13aad276a6fa> for this FREE Webinar or call 800-355-4487. You can also submit your tax questions when you register. *Space is limited.*

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.