

North Central Iowa Presbytery



Seeking to be Faithful Together:

Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Presbytery will vote on the overture from General Assembly in regards to changing G-6.0106b (Ordination Standards) at our March meeting. We are known as a Presbytery which shows respect for one another. There is a broad range of theological perspectives yet a high level of cooperation and collegiality. Most of our Pastors and congregations have remained in the conversation for which I am grateful.

One of the most helpful documents to ever come from Louisville is "Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement." Hopefully it can guide us again.

- 1 Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ; [John 7:51; Proverbs 18:31]
- 2 Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement
- 3 State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.
- 4 Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus's teachings; [Ephesians 4:15]
- 5 Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;
- 6 Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
- 7 Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree. [Ephesians 4:3]
- 8 Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;
- 9 Follow these additional Guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:
- 10 Include our disagreements in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God/s grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

David A. Feltman

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2009 Presbytery Meeting:

March 3-Nevada

June 6-Ackley

*November 1-
Waterloo
Westminster*

Ames, Northminster— *Gospel Fest—February 22nd*

A winter event will be hosted by the Outreach Committee of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames.

WHAT: *Gospel Fest*
WHEN: February 22, 2009
 2-3 p.m. with refreshments following
WHERE: Northminster Presbyterian Church
 1416 20th Street, Ames

Come, sit in our comfortable seats and listen to the NPC Singers, the men's group, "Three Longs and a Short" and others. There will be a fun "sing-a-long" of favorite hymns.

A free will offering will be received to benefit Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. An ongoing project of Story County churches and congregations that pool their monies to assist with Healthy Food vouchers, rental assistance and utilities assistance.

Ordination Anniversaries February-May, 2009

Scott Milsom	Feb. 6, 1977
Bill Kem	Feb. 21, 1982
Willis Nicholson	Feb. 22, 1952
LaVern Seth	Feb. 25, 1955
David Wood	Mar. 2, 1986
Cathy Young	Mar. 11, 1990
Rick Vesely	Mar. 13, 1988
Doug House	Mar. 22, 1998
Linda Smith	Mar. 22, 1987
Dick Harken	May 21, 1972
Dave Ullom	May 28, 1978
Glenn Wilson	May 30, 2004

2009 is the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin.

Many churches are observing this event.

The Presbytery has resources on the writings and works of John Calvin you may check out through our Resource Center

To find out more go to www.calvin09.org

DEADLINES and REPORTS

Clergy Annual Reports and Form for Implementing Policy of Sexual Misconduct were due January 29

Church Fact Sheets and Forms for Implementing Policy of Sexual Misconduct were due January 29

Church Clerk Questionnaires and the Church Annual Statistical Report Document from the Office of General Assembly are due February 9th.

If you have not completed and return these forms or if you need assistance in completing them, please contact the Presbytery office and speak with Blake Wood, Stated Clerk or Vicki Thordsen, Secretary.

2009 IRS Mileage Rates

55 cents per mile
for business miles driven

24 cents per mile driven for
Medical or moving purposes

14 cents per mile driven
in service of charitable organizations

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: February—May, 2009

February 2009

12	Mission and Ministry Board Meeting	2:00 p.m.	Ackley, First
	Stewardship & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.	Ackley, First
13	Northwest Pastors Cluster Gathering	12:00 p.m.	Algona, Pizza Ranch
17	*Presbytery Prayers and Staff meeting	10:30 a.m.	Waterloo, Presbytery Office
	CLP/ELP Gathering	9:00 a.m.	Ackley, First
18	Lectionary Study Group –SE Cluster	10:00 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
	SE Pastors Cluster Gathering	11:30 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
19	Committee on Preparation for Ministry Meeting	12:00 p.m.	Ackley, First
26	Interim Pastors Gathering	11:30 a.m.	Ackley, Pizza Ranch
27-28	Lay Academy—Spiritual Formation of Congregations		Ft. Dodge, First

March 2009

3	Stated Meeting of the Presbytery	2:00 p.m.	Nevada, Central
4	Lectionary Study Group –SE Cluster	10:00 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
5	Vital Ministry Initiative Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Ackley, First
7-8	Jr. Hi Retreat Presbyterian Camp		Lake Okoboji
9	Committee on Ministry Committee Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Ackley, First
13	Northwest Pastor Cluster Gathering	12:00 p.m.	Algona, Pizza ranch
14	Youth Workers Gathering		
17	Getting into Shape Fiscally—Board of Pension Seminar		Iowa Falls, Bethany Lutheran Ch
18-19	Growing into Tomorrow...Today Board of Pensions Seminar		Iowa Falls, Bethany Lutheran Ch
18	Lectionary Study Group –SE Cluster	10:00 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
	Southeast Pastors Cluster Gathering	11:30 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
27-28	Lay Academy—History of Christianity		Ft. Dodge, First

April 2009

1	Lectionary Study Group –SE Cluster	10:00 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
2	Vital Ministry Initiative Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Ackley, First
10&13	Presbytery office Closed for the Easter Holiday		
10	Committee on Ministry Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Ackley, First
15	Lectionary Study Group –SE Cluster	10:00 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
	SE Pastors Cluster Gathering	11:30 a.m.	Ackley, First
16	Lay Academy Task Force Meeting	10:00 a.m.	Ft. Dodge, First
17-18	Stewardship Workshop with Fred Milligan		TBA
18	PW Spring Gathering		Waterloo, First
24-25	Lay Academy—Christian Ethics		Ft. Dodge, First
30	Pastors Leadership Gathering		Ackley, First

May 2009

1	“W” Night for Senior High youth of the Presbytery	10:30 p.m.	Waverly, Wellness Center
6	Lectionary Study Group –SE Cluster	10:00 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
7	Vital ministry Initiative Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Ackley, First
8	NW Pastor Cluster Gathering	12:00 p.m.	Algona, Pizza Ranch
11	Committee on Ministry Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Ackley, First
12	CLP/ELP Gathering	5:00 p.m.	Ackley, First
14	Committee on Preparation for Ministry Meeting	12:00 pm.	Ackley, First
	Presbytery Council Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Ackley, First
20	Lectionary Study Group –SE Cluster	10:00 a.m.	Grundy Center, Bethany
	SE Pastors Cluster Gathering	11:30 a.m.	Grundy enter, Bethany
25	Presbytery Office Closed for Holiday		

NOTE: * Asterisk indicates 10:30 a.m. Presbytery Prayers held EVERY Tuesday morning followed by Staff Meeting.

Events, Conferences, Training, Gatherings of Interest

28th Annual Rural Ministry Conference, March 1-3, held in Dubuque. PC(USA) is offering a limited number of scholarships to Presbyterian churches sending a first-time participant to this conference. The awards are based upon financial need and limited to one scholarship per church. Contact Heather Hawkinson at hhawkinson@wartburgseminary.edu for details.

Stewardship Kaleidoscope, March 9-11, 2009, Kansas City, MO.

For elders, pastors, presbytery staff, and volunteers. Learn about the theological and biblical basis for stewardship and get whole-life, year-around, practical ideas for meaningful congregational and presbytery stewardship programs. Conference leadership by Marc Carmichael, Laura Mendenhall, Debra Mumford, Shannon Webster. Brochures are available in the presbytery office.

National Pastors' Sabbath—Come Rest, Relax and Renew, April 17-20, 2009, Sawgrass Resort, Ponte Vedra, FL. Mark your calendar now for the 2009 National Pastors' Sabbath. We will gather at Sea Trail Resort in Sunset Beach, NC where our Sabbath time will include key note addresses by Walter Brueggemann and sermons from J. Herbert Nelson and Francis Taylor Gench. Come rest, relax and renew with other Presbyterian pastors. (*NOTE: This was advertised earlier however the location has changed to FL rather than NC)

Annual Recreation Workshop, May 4-9, Montreat Conference Center.

For details access: www.recreationworkshop.org

Calling Youth to the Gulf Coast—YOU have a MISSION. Youth ages 16+ and adults (5:1 ratio) for hurricane recovery work in Presbyterian Volunteer Villages in Louisiana and Texas. Dates are: June 28-July 4, July 5-11 and July 12-18. Adult Team Leaders may register by contacting the PDA Call Center at 866-732-6121. Request a DVD by emailing pda@pcusa.org to share a video of previous youth weeks with your youth and congregation.

Synod School—July 26-31, 2009, Theme—Building a Culture of Peace, Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA Additional information will be available on the Synod website at www.lakesandprairies.org

The Summer Collegium at Virginia Theological Seminary—a project in support of small congregations. June 24—July 2, 2009. For further information or for an application visit www.vts.edu/education/collegium or e-mail: SummerCollegium@vts.edu or call 703-461-1760. Application must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2008.

Ghost Ranch—Transformation 2009—Enjoy the many activities, classes, elder hostel programs, family weeks, art, writing, drama, service corps and a wealth of other opportunities at Ghost Ranch, Santa Fee or one of their other locations. For additional information go to www.ghost ranch.org

The Big Tent Event—Atlanta, GA June 11-13, 2009 “And the Word became flesh”

Big Tent is a first-of-its-kind event combining ten national conferences under one roof and one theme. Discover a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that is more exciting, more diverse and more faithful than you ever imagined. The Big Tent has been called “a denominational happening” and “a big Presbyterian family reunion.” The event will be celebratory, and participatory, with intergenerational activities. There will be common worship and shared meals, an exhibit hall and workshops on elders, peacemaking, evangelism, stewardship, PHEWA, PCN, Health, Multicultural church, Immigrant ministry, Racial Ethnic and more.. Register at pcusa.org/bigtent or call 888-728-7228 ext 2417

Presbytery Mission Trip to Mexico: Immigration Up Close

During the first week of January, nine members of our Presbytery visited Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, just across the border from Douglas, AZ. The purposes were to grow in relationship between Mexican and American brothers and sisters in Christ, to gain an understanding about what we as Christians and the church can do, and have an 'immersion' experience, up close and personal, through Frontera de Cristo, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Mexico.

Mission co-worker Mark Adams, co-coordinator of Frontera de Cristo planned and led the intense week of learning, studying, relating, listening, experiencing. We worshipped three times on Sunday, once at the Douglas Presbyterian church in a very Iowa like environment, a small congregation trying hard to survive. Then after lunch with them, we worshipped with the Lily of the Valley church (Lirio de Valles Iglesia) with a youth praise band at which NCI Hispanic Ministries Bien Acosta preached and then we celebrated the second anniversary of a new church, Casa de Oracion (House of Prayer).

We joined them in enthusiastic singing, passing the peace, prayers and hearing two testimonies of those who had been helped by the congregation. We felt their intense transformative faith. They were a witness to us.

Vibrant Bible study with Mexicans and our own group formed the base for our experience. We studied the book of Mark, once in the shadow of the Border Fence as we discussed Jesus freely crossing from Galilee into other areas; another time Jesus being tempted in the desert as we sat in the desert near the Border Fence; another passage about the rich young man being told to sell all that he had. We pondered deeply the meaning.

They warmly (even tho it was very cold while we were in that high Sonoran desert) welcomed us into their homes for two night home stays. In turn, we prepared and served a typical Iowa supper to the congregation one evening. What do you think it was? Meat loaf and sweet corn, of course.



Mark Adams presenting the morning study for the Presbytery Mission Team

US churches and we hope that we can be 'agents' to sell their coffee to Presbytery churches.

[Article continued on page 14]



Border Mission Co-workers
Mark and Miriam Adams

We spent time in the Sonoran desert in a program called "Agua de Vida", placing emergency water in the paths of migrants arriving from the long trip north, the most arduous part of the journey. We joined Arizona Dep't of Environment Quality personnel picking up trash and discarded clothing, quickly ditched by migrants boarding overcrowded vans fleeing northbound. We visited a drug rehab center, a Catholic immigrant rescue mission and a resource center greeting immigrants returning to Mexico through deportation. We visited the largest Border Patrol Control in the U.S.

We were introduced to CAFÉ JUSTO, Just Coffee, a co-op vertically integrated project in Chiapas which makes it possible for the grower families to earn a living, stay on their land and send their children to school rather than going north to seek work. They market to

Animal Welfare and Christian Responsibility

Part II “Companion Animals”

Thursday, March 12, 2009, 7:00—9:00 pm
Collegiate Presbyterian Church Helser Chapel
 159 N. Sheldon Ave., Ames, Iowa 50014

Interesting Seminar Content

Dave Wood and Skip Mulock will be doing philosophical and theological reflections for this workshop on ethical issues in the world scene for animal rights issues. And, a woman professor, Dr. Baldwin, from the ISU Vets College who works in the area of small animal (not food animals) health care will be the primary presenters. This area of conscious concern seems to be getting bigger and bigger: pets dislocated by natural disasters, pit bull dogs in cities as guard dogs, abandoned pets roaming loose in city neighborhoods, exotic animals for pets (snakes, sharks, etc.), proper nutrition and health care for pets. Do we, or can we, draw some lines on the levels of consciousness in the animal kingdoms as to how we relate to them, etc., etc.? How does our Judeo-Christian "theology of creation" relate to this growing consciousness in human cultures?

Local Response For This Event

The Central Iowa PASTCF, with Dr. George Beran, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University and director of the College's Veterinary Museum will host this event with audience responses, concerning our contemporary care of "Companion Animals".

Sponsored by the

**Central Iowa Chapter of the
 Presbyterian Association for Science Technology and the Christian Faith**
CI-PASTCF Executive Committee

Convener: Rev. Harold P. Martin; Vice Convener: Dr. George W. Beran

Toledo, First Presbyterian Church - Confirmation Class



Pictured are members of First Presbyterian Church in Toledo who were confirmed from the Confirmation Class. They are from left (front) David Bennett, Leah Mann, Shelby Staker, (rear) Eric Bro, Austin Mason and Pastor Clair Hein. Shelby and Leah were also baptized that Sunday.

Prayers for the churches - February—May, 2009

February 2009

- February 1 Marshalltown, First—Rev. Rich King, Pastor
Rev. David Beckmann, Associate Pastor
- February 8 Pray for retired pastors in the Presbytery of North Central Iowa (not currently serving churches):
Greg Bock, Jerry Evelsizer, Richard Harberts, Wesley Harker, Harold Martin, Jack Mauldin,
Larry Mitchell, Willis Nicholson, Charles E. Orr, John Osborn, Barb Pursey,
Charles Quirk, Jerry Riesen, Robert Roof, LaVern Seth, Reuben Topp, Cathy Young
- February 15 Waterloo, First—Rev. Dr. David K. Wood, Pastor
- February 22 Ackley, East Friesland—Lynn Arends, Lay Supply

March, 2009

- March 1 Pray for the Ministers in North Central Iowa Presbytery who are active in Specialized Ministry:
Rev. Judy Mulock, Rev. Mark Pell, Rev. Dr. Linda Smith
- March 8 Ames, Northminster—Rev. Dr. Stacey Jones, Pastor
- March 15 Waterloo, Immanuel—Rev. Paul Uzel, Stated Supply
- March 22 Grundy Center, Bethany and First—Rev. Tom Bower and Elder Jean Bower, Supply Pastors
- March 29 Traer, United—Rev. Rick Vesely, Pastor

April, 2009

- April 5 Lincoln, Salem—Rev. Wade Ditty, Pastor
- April 12 Garner, United -
- April 19 Maxwell, First—Ian McMullen, Pulpit Supply
- April 26 Rudd, Eden—Rev. John Bates, Pastor

May, 2009

- May 3 Boone, First—Rev. Dick Harken, Pastor
- May 10 Fort Dodge, First—Rev. Jeff Martin, Pastor
- May 17 State Center, First—Keith McDonald & Lloyd McDonald, Pulpit Supply
- May 24 Mason City, First—Rev. Paul Collier, Pastor
- May 31 Pray for other Minister members of North Central Iowa Presbytery: Rev. Carol Gailey,
Rev. Susan Cluts, Rev. Mary Wilbur, Rev. Robert EnTin

Prayers of the Presbytery and more...

Each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. at the Presbytery Office the staff and guests take time out to pray for the pastors, candidates, inquirers, churches, ministries of the Presbytery and various special prayer requests. If you are in the area, we would be honored if you would join us or you may always pray where you are at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday. Lifting up one another in prayer in the name of the Lord is a ministry in which everyone in the Presbytery can participate. Join Us!



Disaster Response - New and Clean

Have you ever walked outside on one of those cold winter days, right after a terrible storm? The sun is shining; the air is crisp and has a sense of newness in it. Everything looks so new and clean.

That is the feeling I have been able to experience recently as I visit many of the disaster victims as they move into their new or renovated homes. There is a sense of “fresh air” a feeling of hope, newness and joy.

The joy that you see on the faces of the homeowners is pure. The relief you hear in their voices is audible. Some feel peace, others still experience anxiety, knowing that it is just “stuff” and can be taken away.

Even though there is snow on the ground and temperature is below zero, volunteers have been working in North Central Iowa Presbytery.

Many of you have been following or working on the Lucas home in Clarksville. That project touched many people. It was a life changing event for me personally. With the help of many volunteers we did an old fashioned “House Raising” on September 20, 2008. In two days the house was framed and mostly sheeted. Over the months, many people including Dave and Michelle Lucas, the homeowners worked diligently. On December 20, 2008 the family moved from the FEMA trailer into the house. There is still a little finishing work to be done, but the family is so excited to be in the house. Keith and Daniel can now shower in a handicap bathroom. They each have their own rooms, the halls are wide enough for the wheelchairs. Every time I see them, they say “thank you for building our house.” Their smiles tell a story in and of itself.

I was in Parkersburg last week, visiting with some families and seeing the work being done on their homes. Many of them have moved in to homes with finishing work still needing to be done. They are so grateful for a house, a home.

Tom and Sue Teeple are one of the families I have worked with in Parkersburg. They are so close to moving into their house. Every day is a countdown....painting, trim work next, cabinets next, flooring.....move in. They are patiently waiting. Sue is in a wheelchair so they are excited that the new home is handicap accessible...lower countertops, handicap shower and a gradual ramp to the front door. The little things make such a big difference.

Another family called to invite me to see their finished home. They moved in. Come and see how beautiful it is. I saw the house in the construction phase. It is a very nice modest house and I am excited to see it as a HOME now. Most importantly, I am honored that they want to share this with me.

So many of our churches have sent groups of volunteers, financial support, cookies, notes to the families, and well wishes.

I couldn't have touched so many families without YOU! Being the Disaster Assistance Coordinator is not a one man job. I am just the Coordinator....you are the hands and feet that make the job work.

Many of the Long Term Recovery Committees are working hard to reach those folks who have “slipped through the cracks.” The Unmet Needs Committees are trying to find folks who still need work done and/or financial assistance. The Recovery process is Long Term, probably 3-5 years. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is part of that Recovery Process. The Presbytery of North Central Iowa is part of the Process. Many of your local congregations are part of the process. Are you willing to be part of the process?

*Kaylene Hoskins,
Disaster Assistance Coordinator*

Congo Project Is Now the Ethiopia Project

Over three years ago our presbytery heard about a gift George and Jan Beran had given to a PC(USA) mission initiative called Joining Hearts and Hands. George and Jan chose the Democratic Republic of Congo to be the recipient and asked that an agricultural mission worker be chosen to work in that country. The Presbytery of North Central Iowa was asked to help fund this mission project and a pledge drive ensued. Individuals and congregations have been very generous in supporting this mission initiative.

The mission office in Louisville has tried to find someone to work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have been unsuccessful and as we know from the news this country continues to experience violence and unrest. The Berans were asked to consider another country and project.

In November the Congo Project Leadership Team learned that the country chosen is Ethiopia. A person has been hired to be a Development Coordinator. This mission worker will assist five Bethel synods in planning and implementing cogent, effective and sustainable development programs in conjunction with the churchwide Development and Social Services Commission. The mission worker assigned to this position, Nathaniel Veltman, will also help to interpret the development needs to supporters and partners (such as NCI Presbytery) in North America and Europe.

Nathaniel has a masters degree in international development from the University of Pittsburgh. He has previous experience with both the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in Malawi and with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Washington, DC. He will be working with PC (USA)'s traditional partner in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus.

This is a real change from what we had hoped or expected would happen. However, we feel God is calling us in this new direction and we hope all who have pledged will be open to where God is leading us. Nathaniel, who is 24 and single, is attending orientation this month and will then leave for Ethiopia. We hope Nathaniel is able to visit our presbytery before he leaves for Ethiopia and that we will continue to have contact with him as he carries out his mission work. Africa continues to have many needs. The money we have pledged and collected will be used in a productive way to help the Ethiopian people. Questions about these changes may be directed to those who were on the Congo (now Ethiopia) Project Leadership Team.

Additional information is on PC(USA)'s Web page (<http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/ethiopia/index.htm>) and the Ethiopian Evangelical Mekane Yesus Web page (<http://www.eecmy.org/>).

- Article by George and Jan Beran

PDA—Rebuilding the Gulf Coast—Family Weeks 2009

June 14-20, 2009—Family Week.

Mothers bring your sons and daughters...fathers bring your daughters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and come together in mission in the Gulf coast. Work with other families repairing homes in the New Orleans area destroyed by 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Share hope and build relationships with survivors during family week 2009. Worship together with other village volunteers in the evenings, bonding as a community and reflecting on the faithfulness of Christ in the mission you share. Minimum ages is 14.

June 21-27, 2009 Father and Son Week

Fathers call your sons. Sons call your fathers. Father and son duos together from across the U.S. to work, witness and worship with other father and son teams. Stay in the Olive Tree Presbyterian Volunteer Village in New Orleans and help rebuild homes destroyed by the hurricanes. Minimum ages is 14.

Register for either week at 866-732-6121. Cost is \$20 per night per person including meals and lodging.

What Presbyterian Women Need to Know:

Notes from the PW Moderator

It was my privilege to participate in the **North Central Iowa Mission Trip to Douglas, AZ and Agua Prieta, Mexico January 3-9, 2009** to experience the border ministry under the leadership of Mark Adams, mission co-worker at Frontera de Cristo. It was truly a touching and inspiring learning experience. I look forward to sharing my insights with groups in the Presbytery, individuals and team members. Presbyterian Women or other groups may contact me at 319-824-6554 or 1003 G Avenue, Grundy Center, IA 50638 or through my church at grundyfp@iowatelecom.net.

The **NCI PW Spring Gathering** will be held at **First Presbyterian Church, 505 Franklin St., Waterloo on Saturday, April 18**. The theme will be *“God’s Helping Hands Are Working Wonders”*. Registration may be mailed or called to the First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo office at 319-233-6145. Registration and coffee fellowship will take place in Calvin Hall from 8:30—9:00 a.m.; donations of nonperishable food and paper goods for the Northeast Iowa Food Pantry will be collected in Calvin Hall. Devotions, speaker, skits, Bible study, and business meeting will follow. We will learn how God’s people are responding to the many needs in our area and elsewhere, and ways we can help. A luncheon will be served at Noon and the meeting will conclude at 2:00 p.m. For special dietary needs, contact Rita Campbell at 319-232-5760. An offering will be received during the morning worship.

PW members should be planning now to attend the **Churchwide Gathering, July 11-15, 2009 in Louisville, KY**. Registration booklets were included with the Sept-Oct, 2008 issue of Horizons or are available from me. The theme is *“God Will Do Wonders Among You”*.

Scholarships are offered from NCI PW; contact Treasurer Karen Musser at 109 Linn St., Boone, 50036, phone 515-432-6781 or e-mail at klmuss109@msn.com to request a \$200 scholarship. Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW has 10 scholarships of \$200 for non-voting representatives. You must register for the gathering before contacting SLAP Treasurer Sue McClure at suemcclu@neb.rr.com for a synod scholarship. There are also Churchwide Coordinating team scholarships which cover the cost of registration.

Registration for the Churchwide Gathering opened January 15; early registration extends until May 15 and is \$380, which includes 12 meals and all sessions at the gathering. After May 15 registration is \$430. Hotel, travel and other meals are additional. Special room rates for the gathering in four downtown hotels within walking distance from the Kentucky International Convention center range in price from \$124—\$144 per room, per night, 1-4 person occupancy. Shuttles are also available between the hotels and the Convention Center. There may be a bus going from the Des ones area.

I have attended the Churchwide Gathering twice and it is a great experience with powerful speakers, awe-inspiring worship, thought-provoking and educational sessions plus tours, music, drama, Bible study, mission highlights and Christian fellowship with women from many parts of the world.

My contact information again is: Pat Hauser, 1003 G Avenue, Grundy Center, IA 50638, phone 319-824-6554 or at the church at grundyfp@iowatelecom.net

Pat Hauser,

Moderator, Presbyterian Women, North Central Iowa Presbytery

“Soles for Souls” Ministry and Mission Board Shares A Mission Grant Recipient

First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls, Iowa, has a long history of *doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with their God*.

In 2002 the Mission Committee learned of a church which used its share of the Pentecost Offering to provide school shoe vouchers for children-at-risk. This immediately excited the committee, for one of the first steps to *walk humbly with God* is to have good shoes on your feet!

First Presbyterian Church provides \$20 vouchers for a pair of school shoes to children in our area.

In 2007 a local bank offered \$1,000 grants for community groups to use to raise funds for a project benefitting others. First Presbyterian's mission committee received a grant and used the funds to host a community trivia contest to raise funds for shoes, which doubled the original grant and generated fun fellowship and good publicity for the church.

3,917 shoe vouchers have been distributed since 2002. In 2007 555 vouchers were available, which were all gone in 1- 1/2 days, indicating both the popularity and the need for this program in our area.

The “Soles for Souls” shoe program has helped First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls respond to God's love as we have reached out to humbly walk with brothers and sisters in need. This mission program also unites the community as a family of faith as many individuals, churches and organizations have supported this project, including major mission grants from the Presbytery of North Central Iowa.

It was exciting when another congregation in North Central Iowa Presbytery heard about this program and started a similar program in their community.

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa has 55 churches and 8,983 members.

Prayer: *Gracious and loving God, walk before us, leading us in your way; walk beside us, encouraging us each day; and walk behind us, not letting us in one place stay. Help us walk humbly with others, we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

[This article is written by Rev. Brad Braley, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls and appears in the 2009 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study on page 90 for Monday, March 30, 2009.]

Note: The 2009 Children's Mission Yearbook for prayer and study also has an article about the “Soles for Souls” project above. You will find it on page 24 for Week of March 8-14.

Ames, Northminster shares Lenten Activities

On February 25 at 6:00 p.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church will begin its Lenten season with a soup supper followed by a Taize service at 7:00 p.m. which will include imposition of ashes. The following Wednesday evenings through April 8th, the Taize service will be held from 6:30—7:00 p.m.

Holy week begins with the waving of the palm branches, followed by a Wednesday night Taize service, a Thursday Tennebrae service at 7:00 p.m. and concludes with an Easter Vigil service a 7:00 p.m. on April 11.

A devotional booklet has been prepared and written by Rev. Dr. Stacey Jones and the current Elders and Deacons of the church.

Joys, Concerns and News around the Presbytery . . .

Please pray for: Rev. Jim Davis, Pastor, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Barnum, part of the Country-side Cooperative Ministry, is recuperating following surgery earlier this month. **Brian Hoskins**, husband of Kaylene Hoskins, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper at the Presbytery office. Brian had hand surgery on Feb. 6 to correct an injury to his hand from a fall over the holidays. **Rev. Reuben Topp**, Honorably Retired Pastor, continues to recuperate in Waverly in the assisted living center of his housing area in Waverly.

Nathaniel Veltman, Ethiopian Project Missionary (formerly the Congo Project) who has recently been assigned an Ethiopian mission station as the Development Consultant with five Synods of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the partner church of the PC(USA).

Sympathy: To the family of **Rev. Cal Vanderwerf** following his death in Texas. A Memorial service was held at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Grundy Center.

Celebrations: Marty McCrea, a longtime Office and Resource Center Volunteer at the North Central Iowa Presbytery Office celebrated her 90th birthday on January 31. Marty is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls where she also volunteers regularly. Marty is the widow of Rev. Earl McCrea, who served in this Presbytery at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Waterloo and at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls. The Presbytery recognized Marty during the November Presbytery Meeting.

Goldfield, United Presbyterian Church's 125th Anniversary

Throughout 2009 the United Presbyterian Church in Goldfield will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. The first event will take place on March 1st with a special worship service, fellowship meal and a birthday cake (complete with candles). The theme "March Forward with Christ" will be used as the past, present and future are brought together with a variety of events held during the year. The bell (purchased in 1888) will be rung to start the festivities followed by prayer and a moment of silence giving thanks for all who have been a part of the history of the church. Pastors who have served the church will be invited to take part at different times during the year.

History, mission work and service in the community will be part of the program year. A number of people who have served in the mission field have roots in the congregation.

The United Presbyterian Church of Goldfield was organized on March 1, 1884 under the leadership of the Rev. David Livingston of Traer. There were 13 charter members twelve of whom left their homes in Traer to settle in and around the community of Goldfield. Descendants of these original members make up a portion of today's congregation representing as many as six generations. For the first years the church services were held in the school house. The first sermon was preached by Dr. M.G. Kyle, who was a student at the time at Xenia Seminary. The first church building was erected in 1896 during the tenure of rev. James Duncan. The parsonage was built in 1896 at a cost of \$1,200. A church addition and stained glass windows were dedicated in 1909. In 1961 a narthex and pastor's study were added to the church building. Additional remodeling took place during 1973 with new pews, carpeting, lights and exterior work as well as kitchen updates.

Pastoral leadership for United Presbyterian Church has been: Rev. David Livingston, Dr. M.G. Kyle, Rev. James Duncan, Rev. G. I. Findley, Rev. W. Z. Allen, Rev. W. R. Irvine, Rev. W. G. Comin, Rev. R. M. McCracken, Rev. John T. Haupt, Rev. Ralph Eide, Rev. C. G. McKnight, Rev. Kay Mills, Rev. Frank Elliott, Rev. C. W. McConnelee, Rev. Francis Thom, Rev. Victor Victoria, Rev. Nadim Saikaly, Rev. Ellen Brantley, Rev. Tamara EnTin. Also leading this congregations during interim times have been pulpit supply pastors. Today the church is served by two rotating pastors: Dr. Joyce Garton-Natte, Rev. Phil Somsen as Co-Interim Pastors and Justin Asche, an applicant lay pastor studying in the Lay Academy.

PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE SELECTS NEW CEO

The Board of Directors has hired Julie Hinders, MHA, as the new CEO/Administrator of The Presbyterian Village. Ms. Hinders is currently the Executive Director of Hope Haven Development Center in West Burlington and has over twenty years of experience in the human services and health care industry.

“We are thrilled to have Julie on our team,” commented Board President, Kent Stensland. “With her vast background and leadership skills, The Presbyterian Village will continue to be a mainstay in this community with a bright future ahead.”

Ms. Hinders is filling the vacancy left when current CEO/Administrator, Barb Keninger, accepted the Development Director position for The Presbyterian Village Foundation. The Presbyterian Village is a CCRC located in Ackley and includes independent living apartments, a residential care facility, a skilled nursing facility, a memory care unit and a wellness/rehab center. The Village employs about 150 people.

Lay Academy Classes— 2009

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Responder</u>
Feb. 27/28	Spiritual Form In Congregations	Dr. Gene Miller	Rev. Suzanne Wobig
March 27/28	History	To Be Announced	Rev. Dr. Stacey Jones
April 24/25	Ethics	Rev. Martin McDaniels	Rev. Dr. David Wood
August 28/29	Personal Spiritual Formation		
Sept. 25.26	New Testament		
October 30/31	New Testament		
Nov. 20/21	Old Testament I		
Jan. 29/30,'10	Old Testament II		

Have you checked out the Presbytery Website?

www.presbynciowa.org

Church Stewardship Chairpersons—Have you checked into the Stewardship in a box or have you accessed the stewardship link

Budget/Personnel Chairpersons—Have you taken advantage of the 2009 Terms of Call form and calculator on our website?

There is a Forms section which you may access for use in your church.

There are directories to access: directory of churches, pulpit supply list, presbytery staff.

Our entire Resource Library is there for you to view and to checking out items. We will mail them to you. You may keep them for a month (or longer if you call).

Have you clicked on the Links section?

You can access the Board of Pension of the PC(USA), the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, General Assembly, Iowa Religious Media Center, and several other sites.

The Presbytery maintains this website for your use and convenience. Check us out!

Immigration Up Close... continued from page 5

It was that Fence, or 'Wall' (a more appropriate term) which was the most startling. At least 20 feet high running and eventually to be 750 miles long, the fence is composed of square steel pipes on end, welded with cross members and positioned about inches apart, planted in and often filled with concrete, the fence extends as far as the eye can see into the mountains on either side of the valley. We had a presentation by the U. S. Border Control and learned that the U.S., camera towers can see everywhere, and lights make daytime of the desert at night. Infrared sensors in the cameras detect life the size of a dog, while seismic sensors in the ground detect footfalls, making our border one of the most militarized borders, rivaling the DMZ in Korea or the Palestinian Wall. We saw several men in holding cells having been 'caught' a few hours earlier. One cell held a sad looking 11 year old boy, waiting to be processed and then turned over to the Mexican consul.

While we were not given answers to the border dilemma it became clear that the present system is not working and that, as Christians, our faith compels us to be informed and involved in finding solutions that include human and civil rights for all, justice and dignity for all.

We cannot stand silent while people die in the desert. On Tuesday evenings a prayer vigil is held north of the border crossing in Douglas. Small crosses with the names of those who have died in the desert, with birth and body discovery dates, are placed along the curb, each name being hailed out with all responding "Presente!" (or, present!) When the crosses, representing only a few of the hundreds of the dead, are in place, a prayer vigil is held just feet from the crossing station. This is where humanitarian aid is needed. "Agua de Vida" gives that aid. Collecting the discarded clothes, laundering and distributing them is another way. Providing services to those abused by authorities on either side or by human smugglers is another. Human beings, their lives, well-being, are at stake, all for simply wanting to earn a living for their families in destitute situations in southern Mexico or on to the south beyond Mexico.

Rev. Adams proposed that there are three things that need to be addressed: humanitarian aid, immigration reform and global development. Specifics on these are that on which we, north of the border have to work, to enact our part of being the Body of Christ!

Peace, (written by) Rev. Paul Uzel and the Mission Trip team

Team members were: Rev. Bien & Marinella Acosta, Dr. George & Jan Beran, Selden Spencer, Pat Hauser, Rev. Paul Uzel, Henrietta Van Maanen, and Anne Volker.

Donating Cars. . . .

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa will receive cars or trucks you no longer want or need. You will receive a contribution statement for the fair value of your vehicle. These cars/trucks will be sold with priority going to inquirers and candidates for the ministry and Pastors making minimum salary, then to the general population. The proceeds will go to the Presbytery. You may contact us at dfeltman@presbynciowa.org or at 800-383-3617.

The Also-Rans ... continued from page 15

All ten constitutional amendments and the four ecumenical statements were referred to the appropriate bodies within the Presbytery for review. Several measures were reviewed by the Council. Others were referred to the Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and the Permanent Judicial Commission. Each of those bodies read and deliberated on their respective amendments and ecumenical statements in a civil tone that avoided rancor. Their recommendations will be reported to the elder commissioners, commissioned lay pastors, and ministers that will be voting at the March 3 Presbytery Stated Meeting. Your prayers are appreciated as this process nears its end. Rest assured that these matters have been handled decently and in order. Very Presbyterian!



Blake Wood
Stated Clerk

The Also-Rans

It's been getting all of the attention. Last summer, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved an overture that would change the "Fidelity and Chastity" provisions governing ordination standards that are outlined in the *Book of Order*. With the General Assembly's approval, the overture was then officially designated as Amendment 08-B and sent to all 173 presbyteries for ratification. North Central Iowa began its discernment process during the fall and will vote on the constitutional amendment during the Presbytery Stated Meeting at Central Presbyterian Church of Nevada on March 3, 2009.

Throughout our Presbytery, opinions on 08-B have been offered, prompting frank discussions on whom may be ordained as ministers of the Word and Sacrament, elders, and deacons. Consequently, conversation on 08-B has permeated a host of issues that range from the current state of our society to the future of organized religion, with opponents and proponents of the amendment offering insightful testimony.

After President Barack Obama was inaugurated on January 20, a special luncheon was held in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol. When the television news cameras panned the room, for a brief moment they zeroed in on a conversation among three prominent figures: former Vice President Al Gore, Senator John Kerry, and Senator John McCain. A label for these distinguished public servants came to mind: the Also-Rans. During their respective presidential campaigns, each of them had championed issues that still resonate today, but the candidates that had defeated Gore, Kerry, and McCain were able to use the bully pulpit of the presidency to advance public awareness and discussion. Similarly, the importance of considering the arguments on both sides of Amendment 08-B looms large over dialogue on other documents that our Presbytery has been charged to consider.

They are the Also-Rans. In total, there are 13 of them: nine constitutional amendments and four ecumenical statements. First, here's a brief summary of what the amendments provide:

- cross-referencing the Directory of Worship in examining new members of congregations
- replacing the word "sympathy" with "compassion" in describing how deacons carry out their duties
- changing the name of the General Assembly Council to "General Assembly Mission Council"
- allowing ethnic or immigrant congregations to join non-geographic presbyteries within other synods
- clarifying floor privileges for certified Christian Educators (two amendments pertain to this)
- making changes to synod representation on General Assembly permanent committees
- allowing flexibility for presbyteries in determining when candidates take ordination exams
- altering procedures used by sessions and permanent judicial commissions with respect to alternative forms of resolution within the *Book of Order's* Rules of Discipline.

Ecumenical Statements are agreements that our denomination enters into with other churches that require approval of a majority of the presbyteries in order to be ratified. Four ecumenical statements were approved by the General Assembly in 2008. One ecumenical statement defines a common agreement on baptism with the Roman Catholic Church, a second statement takes steps in allowing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Episcopal Church to recognize each other's ministries as authentic and valid, a third establishes a covenant relationship with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, and the fourth encourages mission partnerships and joint evangelism efforts with the Moravian Church.

[Article continues on Page 14]

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Mission Statement:

*"To proclaim and live out together the
 Good News of Jesus Christ through its
 member congregations."*

Next Contact Deadline
April 25, 2009

Note: Please submit articles in an MS
 Word or compatible format; photos and
 digital images in jpeg format are
 acceptable. E-Mail articles and photos to:
vthordsen@presbynciowa.org

Vital Ministries Initiative
Upcoming events and dates

March 17

Board of Pensions Workshop
"Getting into Shape Fiscally"
9 a.m.—5 p.m. Bethany Lutheran Church, Iowa Falls

March 18-19

Board of Pensions Seminar
"Growing into Tomorrow...Today"
**9 a.m.—5 p.m. both days at Bethany Lutheran Church
 Iowa Falls**

For the above workshops go to www.pensions.org to register
 by going to search and typing in the workshop
 and follow the directions.

April 17-18

Stewardship Workshop
Information coming soon to your church.
Watch E-News for details of all events

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 Postage Paid at
 Waterloo, IA

CONTACT (USPS#009806)

Published four times a year, Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. by the Presbytery of North Central Iowa, PCUSA, 2302 Falls
 Avenue, Waterloo, IA 50701

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CONTACT, 2302 Falls Avenue, Waterloo, IA 50701 or
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