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OUT & ABOUT

June 25, 2009



My son Jesse is a DH (Designated Hitter) for his high school baseball team. Batting at the top of the lineup, the idea is that if he gets a hit, it will inspire the team to "get the bats going" and score runs. We have our own DH in God as our Divine Helper. No matter how many curve balls or changeups life throws our way, we can count on God to hit one out of the park for us if only we have the faith to believe.

MISSION POSSIBLE A Flood of Stories



A presbytery to presbytery connection was made when PEIA received \$394 from the [Presbytery of Missouri River Valley](#) (MRV) for flood relief. Rick Sleyster, Peacemaking Chair, for MRV said they were encouraged by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies to use their portion of the Peacemaking offering to support a mission of their choice. Having returned

from a work trip to Oakville last August with a group from Shenandoah Presbyterian where he is the pastor (see photo), Rick said the flooding in eastern Iowa was fresh in their minds and close to their hearts.

In a letter to PEIA, Rick closed by saying, "Please know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers for strength, encouragement, peace, hope and joy as you

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**Sat. June 27
9:30 a.m.**

PWP Coordinating Team and Fall Gathering Planning Committee

minister in the name of Jesus Christ to people in need."

Just as the headlines about flood recovery are slowly fading, so the efforts of volunteers engaged in flood relief are fading from our memories. To prevent this from happening, Sarah Dyck, PEIA Disaster Recovery Coordinator, contacted Shirley Pantini to see



if [First Presbyterian Church](#) in Marion would be interested in preparing a lunch for the staff and volunteers from the Community Recovery Center in Cedar Rapids. FPC agreed to help and they easily raised the needed funds. Shirley said 35 people turned out to put together 85 boxed meals in 50 minutes. "People who don't normally participate, helped with this project because it was within their abilities. Everyone wants to be able to work on flood relief but not everyone can muck or do construction work." What feedback did they hear from those who were served lunch? One volunteer from out of state said, "I love the people of Iowa but I don't love the smells."

\$5,500, \$3,100, \$1,300, \$1,000, \$500, \$400. Do you see a pattern emerging? The price going down the drain! That's what happened when [Christ Church Presbyterian](#) in Cedar Rapids needed to repair the sewer as a result of the system being overused by the volunteer work teams housed at their church. After receiving an initial discount from the vendor, they were left with \$3,100 to pay. Then, after a series of donations from their own members and from First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, the amount kept going down until they were responsible for only a fraction of the original bill-7%-often referred to as the perfect Biblical number.

Healing the Heartland Festival, sponsored by Serve the City, took place last weekend in Cedar Rapids. As part of the event, [Hus Presbyterian Church](#) hosted a BBQ for the Linwood and Czech Village neighborhoods at Taylor Elementary School. Over 400 people attended. Saturday festivities took place at the Kingston Sports Complex including a Family Fun Zone, Sports Zone and a Community Care/Services Tent that offered job search information and resume writing, a mobile medical clinic and child



Sun., June 28
10 a.m.

Capital Campaign
Success Celebration at
[Marion, First](#)

Mon., June 29
11 a.m.

Administrative Unit

Fri., July 3
Presbytery office
closed

Fri., July 3
6:30 p.m.
Taize Service at
[Davenport, First](#)

Tues., July 7
12:30 p.m.
CPM in the Presbytery
Office

Sat., July 11
PW Church-wide
Gathering begins in
Louisville, KY

Sat., July 11
4 - 9 p.m.
[Praise on the River](#)
LeClaire Park in
Davenport (see news
item below)

OUT & ABOUT Publication Dates

The next Out & About
will be published on
July 9.

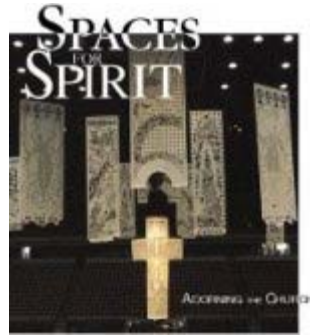
Future editions:
July 23
August 6
August 20

We resume weekly
publication on Sept. 3.

fingerprinting by the CRPD. The day ended with a concert by David Phelps, BarlowGirl and the Newsboys! The goal was to provide a weekend of free activities (with the exception of food vendors and baseball tickets) for the community since many find it difficult to afford fun family entertainment in the wake of the 2008 Flood. The festival concluded on Sunday, but the opportunity to show the love of Christ continues.

LIVING WORSHIP Pentecost Banners at Calvin Sinclair

Streamers of gold, orange, and red were suspended from the ceiling of the sanctuary and a hand-dyed banner hung along the back of [Calvin Sinclair Presbyterian Church](#) during Pentecost. Judy Kash, member of the worship team, said inspiration came, in part, from a book by Nancy Chinn called, *Spaces for Spirit: Adorning the Church*. "The photographs of her work took my breath away, and I saw that fiber and color, thoughtfully combined, can transform a worship space."



Judy dyed the fabric panels with a modified arashi shibori technique. Shibori is the Japanese art of shaped resist-dyeing, from which Americans have derived tie-dyeing. To achieve the effect, she folded the fabric, wrapped it diagonally on tubes, then manipulated it to compress the fabric against itself. Then, she brushed thickened dye over the surface, allowed it to cure, and rinsed. Repeating these processes several times produced a lively, bright, multi-colored design; and though each panel received the same treatment, each piece was unique. "Arashi" means "storm," suggesting wind-driven, even wild, activity--a perfect example of art integrating a Biblical theme.

LEARN AND LEAD RAGBRAI is not the only event Mt. Pleasant is hosting

Social networking guru, Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow a.k.a. Moderator of the PC(USA) will be in Mt. Pleasant at



Prayers

For the family of Coach Ed Thomas and the Parkersburg community as they mourn the tragedy befallen them.

For the family of Janet Boley, flood recovery director at Burlington, First, who was called to Greater Service on June 12th.

For Phil Brown, Synod Executive, and Faith Ralston as they joined their lives together on June 6th.

For safe travel for missionaries returning home for furloughs.

For camp counselors who care for our children each week at Bible camp.

For general presbyters and stated clerks who lead the intermediate levels of the Presbyterian church.

For Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow and Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons who lead the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

For our national political leaders that God's will may be done through their service.

For all those who have suffered recent bereavements that the peace of God may

[First Presbyterian Church](#) during the weekend of September 26 as part of their Scholar in Residence program. Rev. Reyes-Chow will speak about what it means to be a people with a deep historical tradition and theological heritage as well as what it means to be living in a time of rapidly changing worldview. He will explore with you the realities, tensions and opportunities that exist as culture and society continue to change. To read more of his musings, check out Bruce's [blog](#). For more information on the Moderator's visit to Mt. Pleasant, [click here](#).

keep their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

For churches in transition that the Spirit may continue to blow in their midst.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

OUR PRESBYTERIAN NEIGHBORHOOD Governor's Volunteer Awards

The 2009 Governor's Volunteer Awards were presented at a regional ceremony on June 19th at Linn-Mar High School in Marion. The awards are given annually to recognize and thank hundreds of volunteers for the commitment, service and time they donate to benefit others. Recipients from the Presbytery of East Iowa included:



Meet & Eat Program based out of Echo Hill Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids. Deb Sedlacek and Joan Force headed up this ministry that fed, on average, 100 lunches a day to the AmeriCorps VISTA workers and to people from the neighborhoods surrounding Echo Hill. (note:

as of June 11, 2009, the Meet & Eat program has moved to First Presbyterian in Cedar Rapids)

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Iowa City was nominated by the United Way of Johnson County and received an award for hosting and coordinating hundreds of volunteers who have come to Johnson County to assist home and small business owners affected by the floods of 2008.





Carol and Mark Martin of Iowa City received awards for the flood relief work they have done as Disaster Relief Coordinators for United Way of Johnson County.

Kids Hope USA based out of Miles Presbyterian Church was nominated by the Elementary Principal at East Central Schools and received an award for their after school mentoring program.



Zion Presbyterian Church in Coggon received an award for cleaning a section of Highway 13 between Coggon and Central City for the past 6 years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Marion, First](#) is celebrating the end of their capital campaign with festival worship, BBQ luncheon, and dedication of new structures on Sunday, June 28, beginning at 10 a.m. All are cordially invited.
- [Praise on the River](#), a Gathering of Christian Unity, will be held at Le Claire Park in downtown Davenport. Food, music, fellowship, and fun from 4 to 9 p.m. on July 11th.
- [Thanksgiving in July](#) is a community-wide food drive in Johnson and Muscatine counties. [Churches United](#) in the Quad Cities are doing "Fill the Semi." Please support your local food banks in July, but especially the week of July 20-25 when QC and Thanksgiving in July activities culminate.

NEWS AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

- **PEIA Summer Hours:** The Presbytery of East Iowa office will be closed at noon on Fridays from June through August.
- PEIA will be hosting missionaries, Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta from October 9-16. Contact [Lisa Ross Thedens](#) or [Phyllis Van Gerpen](#) if you would like to have the Risakottas speak at your church.
- Cedar Falls, First Pres., has part-time openings for up to 4 students attending college this fall. A Director of Children's Choirs, Youth Fellowship Leader, and two College Peer Ministers are needed. Contact [Heather Libich](#), Director of Child, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries, for job descriptions and applications.
- Cedar Rapids, Echo Hill seeks a Church Music Coordinator to direct the adult vocal choir and handbell/chimes choirs. Send cover letter and resume to mwsearch@echohillchurch.org. Full job description available [here](#).

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