



A Publication of  
Homestead Presbytery

# The Homesteader

March 6, 2012 Issue

## Holy Smoke

By Richard "Doc" Wyatt

### A Smart Phone World!

At the last Presbytery Meeting, I shared that I don't have a smart phone! I am impressed by all the things that these new gadgets do, but figure it's a technology that my life doesn't need. I have a cell phone, and I get along just fine.

But that's really not quite all there is. Although I don't have a smart phone, I do rely on the smart phone. I know other people have them, and I will impose upon others to look something up on the internet while I'm on the road, or get directions, or post something to the web for me. I admit to being one of those feet-dragging, don't-learn-something-new-until-I-have-to-know-it type of fellas. But I am teachable and I do learn to use all the modern amenities...eventually.

I can remember when email was new. I reluctantly got hooked up. But for the life of me, I couldn't understand how I would ever really use it. After all, I had a telephone right there on my desk. If I wanted to chat with someone, I'd give them a call. And if s/he wasn't in, everyone had a phone answering machine, I could leave a message.

Now I have a phone in my pocket but use email almost constantly to communicate. And it's much more convenient for both myself and the person, often multiple people, I'm sending messages to.

Times change and we all change with it.

Now I'm learning something else new: websites and blogs. As Homestead tries to ever-strengthen our sinews of connection among congregations and members, we are adding new methods to our norm. We are 'catching up' to the fast-paced changing technologies everyone is using. Looking at pictures of our congregations' members active in church activities is fun. Sharing news about what our churches are doing in mission and ministry is invigorating. I hope everyone joins the Presbytery's facebook group, simply Homestead Presbytery. If you have difficulty finding us or posting something, contact Kris at [krisp@homesteadpres.org](mailto:krisp@homesteadpres.org). She is a wiz and can help.



We are also available to help

Continued on page 2

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## PDA Responding to Storms and Tornadoes

A powerful storm system spawning multiple tornadoes moved through the Midwest down to the southern parts of the United States from February 28 to March 3, 2012. Hundreds of homes were destroyed or damaged, and at least 50 people died from the storms.

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance \(PDA\) is responding](#) by providing One Great Hour of Sharing funds to several of the affected mid-councils (presbyteries) as they respond within their communities. Several members of the PDA National Response Team (NRT) have been sent to work with the mid-councils in assessing the damage and determining how volunteers may be able to contribute to long-term recovery in the affected communities.

*Please stand in the GAP for families and communities impacted by these storms.*

**Give.** Your faithful and generous support of OGHS makes the initial response possible. Designated gifts to [DR000015 \(Disaster Relief - USA Disasters & Emergencies\)](#) will help meet the long-term recovery and rebuilding needs of affected families.

**ACT.** [Contact the PDA Call Center by email](#) or call **(866) 732-6121** to let them know of your teams' interest in volunteering to help with recovery and rebuilding

efforts. Eden Carroll will take your information and let you know when volunteer opportunities arise.

**Pray.** Our best response is prayer. Please pray for those in the storm-stricken communities including congregations, families, and those seeking to salvage what little the storms left behind. Also pray for strength for those offering assistance, and for those who will participate in the recovery efforts in the upcoming days and months.

Articles and photos from your congregation are always wanted & welcome! Please send them to [krisp@homesteadpres.org](mailto:krisp@homesteadpres.org) or mail to 1135 Eastridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68510

## Smart Phone

Continued from page 1

your church set up a website. You know, if someone is looking for a new church nowadays, they don't search the phone book, they google you and your website is their first impression of you. If you don't have a website...they won't even see you! We don't want to miss these seekers! And we will want to make a good first impression... otherwise we probably won't get a chance to make a second. Again, if you need help, contact Kris.

You may be like me, and don't have a smart phone, but we live in a smart-phone world and we need to be smart about it.