

# Monday Morning in the Presbytery

A weekly news update from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley in Iowa and Nebraska

Distributed by e-mail only to the churches, Clerks of Session, ministers, Presbytery officers and committee members and others who wish to be on the e-mail list.

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**February 15, 2010**

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## **Presbytery Meeting and Clerk Training**

**When: Saturday, February 20**

**Where: Church of the Cross, Omaha**

**Clerk Training: 9am - 10:45am ~ [Please call the Presbytery Office](#)**

**Presbytery Meeting: 11am - 2:45pm**

***\*A lunch will be served at this meeting - Cost \$6.00 - [Please make a reservation by contacting the Presbytery Office](#)***

Docket available on-line for printing at <http://www.pmr.org/docket-02-2010.htm>

## News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

North Platte Church and Central Nebraska are featured in Presbyterian News Service.  
<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10117.htm>

### ***The Smiths Are Leaving the Church!***



***Did you know?*** Congregational leaders hear such words and panic! No one wants any family to depart, especially if a family has been participating and contributing. None the less, families like "Dick and Jane Smith" occasionally do leave and church leaders must respond to the departure in a mature, healthy manner!

***What are you going to do?*** By the time a family decides to move on, there often is little or nothing any person or group may do. The very best course of action for leadership is to pray for and even with the family - asking God's guidance to help them find a new community of faith!

***Well, "Dick and Jane" would have stayed if...*** Playing the "blame game" seldom is ever fruitful. Besides, it is very common for departing members to provide different explanations to different people! Since the "Smiths" want to remain in control of the situation, they will "bend the truth" to avoid confrontations and hurt the feelings of many people! An exception is they do not mind "hurling grenades" at leaders who have crossed them.

***But what will happen?*** A more important question is, "What might happen if the church accommodates "Dick and Jane" in order to retain their membership?" In this scenario, leadership not only is held hostage by one family, but they also establish a precedent for others who might seek to get their way. Those ordained in the church are asked in their vows "Will you follow the Lord Jesus Christ...?" The commitment keeps the focus on serving Christ in order to avoid submission to the wishes of the disenchanted!

***I can't imagine why ...*** While it may be immediately painful, both "Dick and Jane" and the church will be better off. It has been well-observed that there simply are those families/ individuals, who move from one church to another on an average of 3-7 years ... and there always is quite a story about the previous congregation!

***Now, who is going to...?*** Frequently, people like "Dick and Jane" exert influence or wield control over various elements of church life. Others often would be happy to serve or help, but they would like to do so without the regulations or prescriptions of others. Departures have a way of opening up fresh opportunities for new leadership to surface, unseen gifts to be revealed, and fresh talent to blossom.

***What are we going to do?*** Pray and trust in the expansive power of the Spirit! Pray the "Smiths" find a new church. Also ask God to lead new people to the congregation! It has been my personal experience that the very Sunday "Dick and Jane" joined another congregation the Spirit guided two new families to visit! Both eventually joined! One family became very instrumental in the transformation and redevelopment of the congregation! While it may not seem apparent at the time, we cannot underestimate what God has in mind.

Kevin

## News from our Congregations

### **First Presbyterian Church - Bellevue**

#### **First Pres. in Bellevue and Avery will share a meal and service on Ash Wednesday.**

The two congregations have a long history of joining together for a potluck dinner and worship on Ash Wednesday. We alternate the site of the event between the two churches. Dinner is at 5:45 p.m. and the worship service will start at 6:45 p.m. No reservations are required.

#### **Hastings College men's a cappella ensemble, "One Two Five" Performance**

**Where:** First Presbyterian Bellevue - 1220 Bellevue Blvd. South

**When:** Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m.

All are invited to attend. There is no charge for the concert; however, a free will donation will be taken to support the Bellevue Food Pantry.

**Please join us at the concert!**

### **Hope Presbyterian Church**

**All-star Breakfast featuring Ron Brown** (*Nebraska Football Tight Ends coach, co-founder and co-director of a statewide Christian ministry called Mission Nebraska and columnist for Fellowship of Christian Athletes's National Magazine*)

**When:** Saturday February 20, 2010

**Where:** Hope Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall (5220 So. 159th Ave, Omaha)

**Cost:** \$15.00

This year's breakfast is not just for the men. Anyone interested in attending this event is invited, come enjoy a MVP Hot Breakfast including eggs, hashbrowns, sausage, pancakes, fruit, pastries, juices and coffee.

Breakfast will be served at 9:00 am, with the speaker to follow. Cost is \$15.00 each, purchase your tickets in advance as space will be limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis. *Tickets on sale now!* Contact Teresa at Hope ~ 402-895-4044.

#### **Blood Drive**

**When:** Feb. 20 from 7:30 am – 12:00 noon

**Where:** Hope Presbyterian Church (5220 So. 159th Ave, Omaha)

**Sponsored By:** Hope's Mission Committee

*Sign up for a time slot for your donation!* Contact Teresa at Hope ~ 402-895-4044

### **West Hills Church**

#### **West Hills is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**When:** Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am

**Where:** West Hills Church (3015 S 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave)

Rev. Denn Denning will be preaching.



## Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry

### **Older Wiser Livelier Saints Celebration**

**When:** 12:00 (noon) Wednesday February 24

**Where:** Calvin Crest

## Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

### **Crossroads Connection partners with local congregations to be in mission and ministry with ex-offenders and their families.**



Crossroads invites you and your congregation to be part of this ministry.

#### **How can your church partner in ministry with Crossroads?**

- The cooks in your congregation can prepare and serve a meal for Crossroads on a Sunday evening, serving approximately 60 people.
- Your pianists, organists, guitar players and other musicians can accompany hymn singing during worship and/or provide special music for the worship services.
- Your church members can become transportation sponsors to transport people to and from the Work Release Center. (Note: this involves a two-hour training session at the WRC.)
- Your church can provide financial support. (We have several suggestions of how to give financially to the ministry of Crossroads Connection.)
- Your pastor, associate pastor, commissioned lay pastor, or other speaker can preach on Sunday evenings.

Currently, we are especially in need of groups who can prepare and serve a meal on Sunday nights. Crossroads attendance is about 60 to 65 people. If you like cooking, please contact Crossroads!

**For more information, please call or email Becky Balestri at 397-4318 or [bkillion@hotmail.com](mailto:bkillion@hotmail.com)**

### **Help Stop the Oppression of Women**

#### **In honor of International Women's Day, CARE will present "Half the Sky LIVE" in movie theaters nationwide on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**

Participating theaters in our presbytery: Omaha: AMC Oakview 24 ~ Midtown Crossing ~ Village Point Cinemas Council Bluffs: Star Cinema 16

**About "Half the Sky LIVE"** Inspired by the bestselling book from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, this will be an exciting night of musical performances, celebrity commentary, uplifting stories about women and girls overcoming tremendous obstacles and a powerful short film by Academy Award Winner Marisa Tomei and Lisa Leone.

**About "CARE"** Much more than a night at the movies, this event is about helping women around the world turn oppression into opportunity. 30% of ticket sales will go to CARE. CARE is a humanitarian organization that fights global poverty by empowering marginalized women and girls to bring lasting change to their communities. Visit [www.care.org](http://www.care.org) to learn more.

**Volunteer Opportunity** In many theaters, CARE staff and volunteers will distribute information about CARE. Volunteers arrive at the theater an hour prior the film (6:30pm). Prior to the event, volunteers will receive detailed information about their role, CARE materials to distribute and a complimentary ticket to the film. *If you are interested in volunteering at your local theater, please email [halfthesky@care.org](mailto:halfthesky@care.org) and copy me ([sberman@care.org](mailto:sberman@care.org)) listing your name, preferred email address, mailing address and the theater where you would like to volunteer.*

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### "Ethics in Ministry:

#### **Establishing Boundaries, Preserving Connections, and Restoring Hope"**

**When:** March 8-9, 2010

**Where:** Saint Benedict Center, Schuyler, Nebraska.

*Attached to this email is a brochure and registration form*

**For more information, contact:** Sharon Shields, Cotner College Program Administrator - [shieldscotner@windstream.net](mailto:shieldscotner@windstream.net) - 402.474.3207.

### **Third Annual UDTs Mission Conference "Turning Missions Upside Down"**

**When:** will be held on campus March 9-10.

**Where:** Dubuque Seminary

Conference features exciting lectures presented by Rev. Dr. Jin S. Kim, founding pastor of Church of All Nations, Minneapolis, MN and Rev. Fletcher Matandika, founder of Ministry of Hope and Joy to the World Ministries.

**Click here for the conference schedule:** <http://udts.dbq.edu/edu.cfm>

**For information about these events or to register, contact:**

563.589.3691 or [UDTSConted@dbq.edu](mailto:UDTSConted@dbq.edu)

### **Spring Renewal Conference**

**When:** April 5-8 at the

**Where:** University of Dubuque campus.

We are pleased to host three spectacular speakers this year, including the Berger

Lectures: Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, Shadyside Presbyterian Church and Pittsburgh

Theological Seminary; the Woods Lectures: Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Columbia Theological

Seminary; and the Warren Lectures: Dr. Ralph Watkins, Fuller Seminary

**More information will be online at** <http://udts.dbq.edu/edu.cfm>

**For information about these events or to register, contact:**

563.589.3691 or [UDTSConted@dbq.edu](mailto:UDTSConted@dbq.edu)

### **2010 Church Unbound Conference**

**When: August 11-14, 2010**

**Where:** Montreat Conference Center

**Lead plenary speaker:** Brian McLaren.

Complete information and Registration materials can be found at:

<http://www.montreat.org/current/2010-church-unbound>

## Obituary

**Margaret T. Williams** passed away in Olathe, Kansas on February 5, 2010 at the age 91. She was the widow of Rev. Levi B. Williams. Rev. Williams was a longtime pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Omaha.

Please remember her family in your prayers.

## Spotlight on Haiti



**“While Much Is Being Done, There Is Much More To Be Done.”**

**Be a part of God’s answer to prayer for those affected by this disaster.**

**Give:** to the ongoing relief through [PDA account number DR000064](#).

or by sending a check to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. *Please include the special designated giving account: DR000064 – Haiti.*








**Act:** PDA is seeking trauma counselors fluent in French or Creole

**Pray:** For the survivors, for the relief workers and for the government of Haiti and ongoing relief efforts

### Event Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Febr	15	16 5PM SOCIAL JUSTICE & PEACEMAKING (WESTMINSTER, OMAHA)  <b>MARDI GRAS</b>	17  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	18	19 <b>9PM - BEGINS</b> PRESBYTERY YOUTH WINTER LOCK-IN (AVERY – BELLEVUE)	20 <b>8AM - ENDS</b> PRESBYTERY YOUTH WINTER LOCK-IN (AVERY – BELLEVUE)  PRESBYTERY MEETING AND CLERK TRAINING 9AM – 10:45AM <b>CLERK TRAINING</b> 11AM - 2 PM <b>(LUNCH SERVED)</b> <b>PRESBYTERY MEETING</b> (CHURCH OF THE CROSS)	21
Febr	22	23 1PM LOWE AVENUE COMMISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)  4:30PMC COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (NEW HORIZON)  4:30PM SPIRITUALITY, THEOLOGY & WORSHIP (PANERA’S, MALL OF THE BLUFFS)  <b>DEADLINE: ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT (MIDNIGHT)</b>	24	25	26	27	28 <b>10AM</b> <b>WEST HILL CHURCH 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE</b>

# Prayer Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>15</p> <p>Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Carter Lake Community Rev. Deborah Boucher - Payne is serving the congregation as stated supply.</p>  	<p>16</p> <p>Pray for Rev. David Grimm. Dave lives in a nursing home in Cozad NE. His health has failed significantly.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Dr. Gary Eller, chair of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Ernie Gutha. Ernie is retired and living in Carter Lake IA. He is a member of the CPM and active with older adult ministry in the presbytery.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Leslie Traylor, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pray for Rev. John Hansen. John is serving as pastor of the Church of the Master.</p>  <p>Pray for Bonnie Brown, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Mary Hansen. Mary is retired and living in Villisca IA. She serves on the nominating committee.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Steve Pike, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p> <p>Pray for the youth and for the adults who are attending the Presbytery Winter Lock-in.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Mike Harvey. Mike lives in Carson IA and pastors our only three point parish ~ Carson, Wales and Oakland Sharon.</p>  <p>Pray for Dr. Lewis Pinch, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Pray for Sudanese Administrative Working Groups they work with and encourage the Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship and their lay pastor, Michael Kuach. Jackie McLellan is chair of this group.</p> <p>Pray for the people of Haiti, the relief workers and ongoing relief efforts.</p>

- Please send dates, times, locations of events to: [pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com](mailto:pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com). However, to plan and schedule events talk with Joan Royer ([joan@pmrv.org](mailto:joan@pmrv.org) or 402-553-8300 or 800-603-8980).
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