



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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News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

Journey to the Cross

The PC(USA) is participating in the offering of an excellent online daily Lenten devotional guide – "Journey to the Cross". You may link to the daily devotion via <http://www.d365.org/journeytothecross/>

Not Winning!

Watching the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, has reminded me of our culture's obsession with success. There is nothing inherently wrong with winning. We simply become overly fixated on the winners and winning.

Perhaps you have noticed that the media has portrayed failure as the foundation for victory. They have pointed out that several of the medalists have a "back story" of disappointment. Quite a few on the podium in Vancouver were identified as those who "Came in 4th Place" or "Did Not Finish" at the previous Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

In the Church, we transfer these cultural assumptions. We seem to evaluate by numbers alone and to equate size with success. Meanwhile, we appear to ignore Jesus' teaching unless there is a new Beatitudes stating, "Blessed are those in First Place ..." We even may trivialize the Resurrection if we portray it as another example of going from disappointment to achievement.

The reality of the Church is not always a story of turning things around! Many in leadership daily encounter people who are unable to overcome the obstacles presented by life, who seem to go from catastrophe to chaos. Moreover, in this time of economic turmoil, congregational leaders feel as if they always are operating on the edge of collapse. Winning medals is the last thing on their minds!

Perhaps one of the spiritual blessings of a lengthy Season of Lent is that it allows sustained reflection on the Gospel texts. There is a Word for those charged with leading congregations and governing bodies in the honest presentation of flops, failures, and fiascos. In true to life detail, Scripture gives us honest stories of rejection, denial, misunderstanding, accusation, confusion, despair, humiliation, and disaster. Thankfully, these accounts do not end with another rendition of human triumph but rather with the Good News of Divine transformation.



Kevin

News from our Congregations

Peace Presbyterian Church

First Annual Art Show and Art Sale (*This is a juried art show featuring local artists concluding with a silent auction and raffle.*)

Sponsored by: Peace Presbyterian Church and Arts For All, Inc.

Where: Peace Presbyterian Church, 333 S. 204th Street, Elkhorn, NE.

When: Friday March 26 and Saturday March 27th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Cost: \$2 or non-perishable food donation for the Douglas County West Pantry
Lunch is available on site. ~~~ Proceeds to support the two separate missions of Peace Presbyterian Church and Arts For All, Inc.

Walnut and Avoca Churches

The Walnut and Avoca Congregations are joining with Peace United in Walnut, Trinity Lutheran, and St. Mary's, again this year to host **Sunday evening, Lenten "worship and a meal" services.**

When: 5 PM. Sundays during Lent.

Where: March 7~St. Mary's; March 14~First Presbyterian Walnut; March 21~Trinity

Westminster, Council Bluffs

13TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORNED-BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

When: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010 - 4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 517 South 32nd Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Cost: Adults - \$7.00 ~ Children 12 and under - \$3.00

(Dinner includes dessert and beverage)

Tickets available from General Missions Committee Members or at the door.

All profits will be used for special mission projects.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Opportunities

MRV SR. High Spring Youth Event

"Reality TV: Exploring Authentic Relationships."

Join us for games, food, fellowship and to talk a little bit about the relationships in our lives.

When: Sunday, March 21st from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in

Where: United Church of Avoca, Avoca, IA.

Cost: \$10 per group for groups with 10 participants or under
\$20 per group for groups with 11 participants or more.

A promotional flyer is attached, for your convenience.

Contact Kris Adler at 402.553.4500 or kris@centralpresby.org

by Thursday, March 18th with reservations. *This will help us plan for food.*

Special Opportunity for 20 -30 Year Olds

"Bread for the World – Hunger Justice Leader Program"

Bread for the World is looking for the best and brightest 20- to 30-year-old advocates to join our next class of Hunger Justice Leaders.

- Selected participants will attend an advocacy training workshop—**all expenses paid**—in Washington, DC, **June 12-15, 2010.**
- The leaders will then coordinate hunger advocacy efforts in their communities for the next 12 to 18 months.

Vanessa Martinez, a Hunger Justice Leader from Santa Ana, CA, shares her passion and commitment in a short video. Watch it and then apply to become a Hunger Justice Leader—or pass it on to someone who should.

Video: <http://www.bread.org/get-involved/hunger-justice-leaders-training/>

The application deadline is March 12, so don't wait. Apply now.

Calvin Crest Confirmation Retreat

When: Friday-Sunday, April 30-May 2, 2010

Where: Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center ,
2870 County Road 13, Fremont, NE 68025

Who: Confirmation classes of any size church,
along with your Pastor, Youth Leaders and / or Parents.

Why: Experience the larger church, Christ in community, and
to have fun at Calvin Crest!

Cost: \$54

Deadline for Registration: Monday April 12, 2010

Brochure and Registration form attached.

Position Available: Part Time Youth Leader

NEW HORIZON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 30 Valley View Drive in Council Bluffs is looking for a **Youth Leader**. This position will be part time, approximately 4-6 hours a week for 40-45 weeks a year and can start within the next few months. Experience in organizing and executing church ministries is preferred. Salary will depend on experience with a starting hourly rate of \$15.

Responsibilities will be to (1) Plan and lead two weekly youth group meetings. One group is grade school students and the other is middle school and high school students. These meetings should include group building, worship, discipleship, mission and outreach. (2) Communicate with pastor, church staff and leadership, youth, parents and congregation. (3) Develop meaningful relationships with the youth, encouraging them to grow in their faith.

Characteristics of applicant must be (1) Well grounded as a follower of Christ, having a personal theology consistent with the Bible and Presbyterian beliefs. (2) Live a Christian life embracing Christian disciplines, ethics and morals to be a role model for our youth. (3) Have strong inter-personal skills, working well with youth and adults. (4) Be able to create, plan and execute youth ministries. (5) Be able to provide faith based counseling to youth and adult volunteers.

Contact: Donna Pritchard, Personnel Chair at 712-325-8192 or e-mail dj.pritch@cox.net.

Special Opportunity for Youth Groups

Expressing your love for God is a reward in itself. {But \$25,000 makes a pretty sweet bonus prize.} The ymiLIVE *Youth Video Challenge* is a great opportunity for your youth group to work together on a project that will tap into their creativity and talent. Videos accepted until May 31st.

Create a video expressing your groups' interpretation of John 7:38 "Out of the believer's hear shall flow rivers of living waters," then post it on www.ymiLIVE.org. Your youth group will then have an opportunity to receive one of two \$25,000 endowments to benefit youth ministry at your church!

Visit www.ymiLIVE.org to learn more.

Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

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 4th at 7:30pm

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

Presbytery Mission Trip: Meet our Nicaraguan Partners!

When: October 29 – November 5, 2010

Who: Everyone!

Informational Flier: Click on link on [PMRV Mission Page](#) or see attached flier

Contacts: Lyle Franzen at lyl_franzen@yahoo.com or 210-6845, or
Joyce Serenil at 345-6093 or blackcat100@cox.net

Missouri River Valley Presbytery ~ Latino/Hispanic Ministry Student Intern Position

Position Description:

To serve in ministry Latino/Hispanic people in South Omaha, NE particularly around the Castelar Presbyterian Church. He or she should possess the following skills:

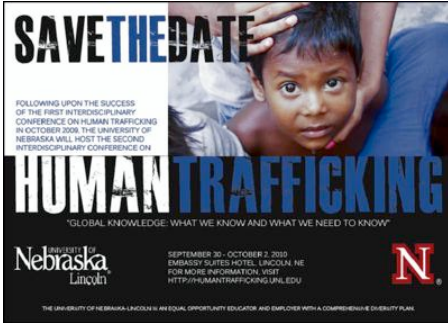
- be fluent in Spanish and English
- be willing and able to strengthen youth and family ministries— particularly the monthly neighborhood Kid's Night
- identify and respond to the social, health, and economic needs of the neighborhood.
- lead worship services in Spanish and English
- have experience in, training, or at least an interest in community organizing.

Site Information: Castelar Presbyterian Church is an historic "immigrant congregation". For many years it served German then Czech people who settled in South Omaha. It once was a thriving congregation with the largest Sunday School in the state. Currently, membership has dwindled to 30-40 aging members. Seven years ago, "The Four Old White Guys", founded a monthly social evening (Kid's Night) for nearby predominately Mexican heritage girls and boys. Most evenings there are games, children's worship, and pizza. Recently, we have been blessed with 60+ children most evenings. Our congregational members have a strong desire to support a third transformation in becoming a neighborhood congregation again. With the prayful and financial support of Missouri Valley Presbytery, sister congregations, and many supportive individuals we would like to become a bilingual and bicultural congregation once again.

Supervisor: The current pastor of Casterlar Presbyterian is Rev. Lyle E. Franzen, MSW. He is an experienced supervisor who recently retired from teaching social work at Creighton University.

Contact: Lyle Franzen, 2402 S. 16th St., Omaha, NE 68108 or
lyl_franzen@yahoo.com, 402.210.6845

Social Justice Conference



When: September 30 – October 2, 2010

What: UNL ~ Human Trafficking Conference

Where: Embassy Suites, Lincoln NE

For more information: <http://humantrafficking.unl.edu/>

Spiritual Formation and Growth Opportunities

Spring Women's Retreat for women of all ages!

When: March 5th & 6th (7:30pm Friday – Noon Saturday)

Where: Lied Lodge, Nebraska City

Cost: \$75* - Includes all retreat events, room, & breakfast

Questions and Reservations: Please contact Jeff McDonald (402) 682-1439

Sponsored by the Murray Presbyterian Church

Poster attached for use in sharing with your congregation.

Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage #7

Where Does God Want To Take You Next?

If someone you trusted came up to you and stated, "Nothing before in my life has given me the opportunity to witness first-hand the body of Christ being built up as this has. It is life-altering. It is empowering. It is inspiring. It is a body of believers, knit together by God, coming together for the sole purpose of nurturing one another on a personal journey with Christ, and then charging them to go home and impact their own churches"...would you sit up and take notice? Would you want what they had? Would you desire it for yourself and your church?

Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a three-day renewal retreat for Christian adults that is designed to further the faith walk of the individual, and thereby strengthen churches. It possesses the ability to truly transform your Christian walk.

Where: Camp Calvin Crest in their comfortable Retreat Center.

When: The weekend begins at 5pm on Thursday the 22nd of April and concludes by 4pm on Sunday the 25th of April.

Cost: \$230 per person (*scholarships available upon request.*) The weekend is all-inclusive, and every guest need is met.

Who: Everyone. All are welcome!

For further Information and Registration Materials: See

<http://www.gpppilgrimage.org> Guest Registrations are currently being taken and can be submitted to the GPPP registrar listed on the form or if you wish, you may send your registration to the editor of this newsletter (pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com or Rev. Jody Filipi, 602 S 78 St, Omaha NE 68114)

The Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

When: April 11-16, 2010

Where: St Benedict Center, Schuyler NE

Speakers: Marilyn McEntyre; "Metaphors That Matter," and
Rabbi David Horowitz; "Hebrew Spirituality and the Path to Shalom."

Cost: \$550, which includes tuition, room (single), and board. *Partial scholarship available for Presbyterian attendees. The deadline for applications is March 15.*

For further information, contact: Doyle Burbank-Williams at doyle.burbank.williams@gmail.com or (402) 369-4453 or Susan or David Davis at Soul Desires in the Old Market, Omaha. *Brochures available at the Presbytery Office.*

Continuing Education Opportunities

"Depression and Suicide Risk"

When: March 15th, 11:30am-1:00pm

Where: Lasting Hope Recovery Center, 415 S 25th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68131

Cost: None

Please join us as Dr. H. John Lehnhoff, PhD, Clinical Psychological Consultant for Alegent Health presents a **program designed to equip clergy to deal with this serious issue.** Program content includes:

- Introduction and Overview of Depression and Suicide Risk
- Depression's signs and symptoms
- Suicide risk factors
- Aspects of self injury
- Treatment and safety considerations

Space for the program is limited, so please RSVP to joseph.omeara@alegent.org or 402-343-4619 by March 11th. *Lunch will be served.*

Presented by the Alegent Faith and Health Network

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

Spirituality and Medicine Conference

When: May 12, 2010

Where: The Nebraska Medical Center, Clarkson Tower, Lower Storz Pavilion

Cost: \$20


Guest Speaker: Farr Curlin PhD. of North Carolina will be sharing research on how physicians and other caregivers integrate their own faith or secular values into their care for patients.

For more information and to register: *see attached flyer*

Event Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Mar	1 7PM YOUTH MINISTRIES (CENTRAL)	2	3	4	5 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	6	7
	8	9 3PM EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP ((MOSHER PILGRIM) 6PM HISPANIC WORKING GROUP (CASTELAR)	10	11 1PM CPM (CNETRAL)	12	13	14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Prayer Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Mar	<p>1 Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Center Ridge Rev. J Keith Cook is moderator.</p>  <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Mary Ann Calta, ordained in 2003. Mary Ann is temporary supply at Benson.</p> 	<p>2 Pray for Rev, Lowell Johnson. Lowell is retired and living with his wife Reta in Woodbine IA.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Gary Eller, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p> <p>Pray for the people of Chili</p>	<p>3 Pray for Rev. William Allen Jones. William is a member-at-large, living in Bellevue.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Leslie Traylor, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p>	<p>4 Pray for Rev. Bob Jordan. Bob is senior pastor at Dundee Presbyterian.</p>  <p>Pray for Bonnie Brown, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p>	<p>5 Celebrate the call of Rev. Jody Filipi, ordained in 2005. Jody is chair of the presbytery's mission committee.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Bob Keefer. Bob is the pastor of Westminster Clarinda</p> 	<p>6 Pray for Rev. Chet Kiehl Chet is living in Kentucky.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Steve Pike, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee</p>	<p>7 Pray for the members of the Nominating Committee. Carole Warnes chairs this committee.</p> <p>Pray for the people of Chili and of Haiti, the relief workers and ongoing relief efforts.</p>

- Please send dates, times, locations of events to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com. However, to plan and schedule events talk with Joan Royer (joan@pmrv.org or 402-553-8300 or 800-603-8980).
- Please report email address changes to please send your new address to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com. To stop receiving Monday Morning drop an e-note to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com