



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

"... and taxes"

Clergy – if you have not begun or completed your 1040 for 2009, and if you did not receive or misplaced the tax resource sent to you by the Board of Pensions, you may download it at

<http://web.pensions.org/Publications/pensions/Home/Forms%20&%20Publications/Booklets%20&%20Brochures/tax-000.pdf>

Focusing

During the hectic weeks before Easter, many pastors pray to keep their heads above water much less to maintain clarity in the commotion. The irony is that all the while they are called to interpret Gospel texts that offer powerful stories revealing Jesus' ability to maintain focus in the midst of chaos.

Stephen Covey's "Time Management Matrix" is a practical tool to help one remain attentive. While it is designed for a secular audience, it may be used as to navigate the sacred. The Covey Matrix distinguishes between those tasks/ duties that are "Urgent" and "Not Urgent" as well as between which of those that are "Important" and "Not Important":

	<u>Urgent</u>	<u>Not Urgent</u>
<u>Important</u>	<i>Manage</i>	<i>Focus</i>
<u>Not Important</u>	<i>Avoid</i>	<i>Avoid</i>

Covey contends, and the Lenten witness of Jesus supports, that where we need to be make effective use of our time and energy is in the "Important" half of the Matrix to "Manage" the "Urgent" and "Focus" on the "Not Urgent".

Most pastors are able to distinguish that information for the bulletin is both "Urgent" and "Important". Conversely, checking out a colleague's Facebook update falls into the "Not Urgent" and "Not Important" category ... especially if the bulletin deadline is before noon!

Focusing on the "Important/ Not Urgent" is a challenge – especially when there are so many "Important/ Urgent" matters demanding attention. The "Important/ Not Urgent", however, helps maintain our core values through planning, preparation, prevention, clarification, and relationship building. Is this not what we see revealed in Jesus' journey to Jerusalem?

Another way to distinguish between the "Important/Urgent" and the "Important/ Not Urgent" might be to identify that the former reflects *what we do* and the latter reveals *who we are!* During the remainder of this Holy Season, I hope and pray that the Spirit might enable each of us to maintain focus in our lives on that which reveals who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ.



Kevin

Scholarships For Seminary Students

A reminder:

Apollos Scholarship Program for those enrolled in one of the 10 Presbyterian seminaries. Applications are due by April 30th. Online applications are available at Omaha Seminary Foundation website:

http://www.omaha-sem-found.org/studentaid_apollosprogram.html.

News from our Congregations

First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue

Seeking Part-Time Director of Children's Ministry (25 hrs per week)

First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue is currently seeking a part-time director of children's ministry to resource, administer, and lead the ministry to young children (infants-sixth grade).

- Qualified candidates should possess love and appreciation for children and their faith development, an ability to empower and give ownership to volunteers, an ability to be organized, and a personal faith in Jesus Christ.
- Some experience, either paid or volunteer, in children's ministry is preferred.

Interested candidates should send a resume to Don McCon, Personnel Chair, First Presbyterian Church, 1220 Bellevue Blvd S., Bellevue, NE 68005 or by email to donmcccon3@cox.net. Job description is posted at 1stpresbvue.org.
Application deadline is April 20.

Hope Presbyterian Church

Come hear music and dance to all types of music from years past to present at our HOPE HOP ~ an Intergenerational Dance

When: Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Where: 5220 South 159th Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska.

Cost: \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students and children.

Concessions will be available.

The dance is sponsored by the Middle School/Senior High Youth at Hope Presbyterian Church and all proceeds will go to the Youth Mission Fund for summer mission trips.

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 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.

Organist Seeking Position

Is your congregation in need of an organist?

An organist / pianist from the Federated Church in Columbus NE is going to school in Omaha and is interested in serving as an organist / pianist for a local congregation.

If you are interested in her services, contact Jessica Muhle, jmuhle1@hotmail.com

(from the Communications and Resource Coordinator, Homestead Presbytery)

Longtime PW Leader Dies

The Rev. Leslie Traylor notified the Presbytery office that **Marjorie Douthit**, longtime member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clarinda, Iowa, entered the church triumphant early on the morning of March 10, 2010.

Marjorie was an active member in her church, in the Presbytery and served a number of years as Moderator of Presbyterian Women. Marjorie passed away at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. She had been staying with her daughter during her illness.

Marjorie's memorial service will be Saturday, March 20, 10:30 AM, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clarinda. Her obituary can be found at:

<http://www.efc.cc/obituaries/database/Details.aspx?id=3653&obitsDir=Asc&obitsPageSize=10&funeralhome=Eickemeyer>

Please her family in your prayers.

Speakers Available

Do you need a speaker or a program for an upcoming event? Crossroads Connection provides interesting speakers and programs for the organizations of Presbyterian churches. If you want several live witnesses from our Project LIFE

(Living in Freedom Eternally) ministry, just give us a few weeks notice. If you want to become more informed on the Nebraska prison system we can provide a speaker. If you want an hour workshop, Crossroads can provide an experienced leader. If you want a power-point presentation followed by a group discussion, Crossroads can respond. There is no cost to inspire fellow Christians to be in a Christ-centered ministry with inmates and their families.

For further information or to schedule a speaker or program, contact:

Tim Locatis (557-8192) or Roy Fox (397-1833), or see Crossroads Connections website: Crossroadsconnectionomaha.org

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.

Contact Kris Adler at 402.553.4500 or kris@centralpresby.org

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

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.

Social Justice Opportunities

Immigrant Health Care Access and Benefits

Our pregnant mothers need prenatal care regardless of their immigration status. There have been several bills coming out of the Nebraska Unicameral that will have a dramatic impact on health care access for our undocumented immigrant communities in Nebraska. Join us as we discuss LB 403 and LB 1110 and explore what some of the options are for our brothers and sisters in need of medical treatment.

See commentary in Omaha World Herald related to LB 1110

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20100304/NEWS0802/703049993>

Wed. March 17th 3:30 PM

Grace Lutheran Church 1326 South 26th Street (East of 75 and South of Poppelton)

Contact: Rev. Howard Dotson hr_dotson@yahoo.com 612-702-3151

Presbyterian Hunger Program's Heaven on Earth Agrarian Road Trip to the US Social Forum

Join a delegation of college students, farmers, musicians, bloggers and other adventurous souls

When: June 13-26.

Where: Starting in Louisville, Kentucky, and making stops in six other states along the way to Detroit, Michigan to visit with congregations and community groups who are participating in the grassroots sustainable and just food revolution that is sprouting up everywhere.

For More information: <http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/roadtrip>

Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

Presbytery Mission Trip: *Meet our Nicaraguan Partners!*

When: October 29 – November 5, 2010

Who: Everyone!

Informational Flier: *Click on link on [PMRV Mission Page](#)*

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

Transportation Sponsors Needed for "Direct Relief Sewing," a Mission Project Sponsored by Crossroads Connection

Women inmates from the Work Release Center sew baby blankets and hats for mothers and their babies in developing countries every Wednesday afternoon at Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church. Transportation sponsors pick up the women, who are on a four-hour pass, at the Center, bring them to Underwood Hills, stay with them while they sew, and then return them to the Center. If you are interested in being a transportation sponsor for this ministry, or learning more about it, please call/email Becky Balestri at 397-4318 or bkillion@hotmail.com.

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

Mission Stories Sought

The Presbytery Mission Committee is seeking stories about how your congregation has carried out special disaster relief efforts for Haiti. Please send your stories to jody@czechconnections.org or to this publication at pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com by Thursday, March 18th. Include the amount of money raised, how it was raised, and how funds were distributed.

We think there must be some great stories out there. We will share your stories in a future Monday Morning and with the wider church.

Special Meeting of Presbytery Council

When: March 18, 2-4pm

Where: Central Presbyterian (Omaha)

"Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep."

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Resources to help engage your congregation more deeply in understanding and connecting with the ministries of this offering:

- Forward this information to members of your session and committees responsible for promoting the offering.
- [Watch the video](#) *What Can I Do to Change the World?* and embed it on your congregation's Web site.
- Send a letter to your congregation encouraging members to consider how they will contribute to the offering through your congregation — or, if they won't be present when your congregation receives the offering, to [give online now](#). [Find a sample letter](#) that you can adapt.
- Visit the [One Great Hour of Sharing Web site](#).
- Make sure your congregation has received their offering materials — [contact Alan Krome](#) if you have questions.
- Make copies of the [Lenten devotion guide](#) available in your narthex and encourage members to use it.
- [Find tools](#) that can help your congregation promote the offering, such as ads for use in newsletters and minutes for mission.

Because together ~

we can change the world



Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Plow by Paul Jeffrey, ACT International

 Actually, we don't always do the feeding. But if we can help people plow the fields or plant the seedlings, God takes care of the growth so people can feed themselves. Help plant a seed. Support One Great Hour of Sharing with a generous gift.

For more information about One Great Hour of Sharing, visit the OGH's Web site, www.oghs.org/oghs, or call the Office of Special Offerings toll free (888) 709-7238, ext. 3183 or 3188.

Spiritual Formation and Growth Opportunities

Presbytery of Central Nebraska 3rd Annual Spring Prayer Retreat

Sabbath ~ Recovering God's Gift of Rest and Renewal

When: April 12 – 14

Where: Country Inn and Suites, Kearney NE

Speaker: Kris Haig

For More Information and Registration Materials: see attached brochure

Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage #7

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"

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.gppilgrimage.org](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)

Continuing Education Opportunities

Take advantage of life-long learning opportunities for pastors ...

Boudnot Library Fund Provides grants of \$200 to small Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations (with 150 or fewer members) to purchase books for the church library selected by the pastor, for the pastor's use.

Leadership Training Scholarship Provides grants of \$200 to pastors of small churches to use to attend training events. Available Now.

Continuing Education Grant Provides grants of \$1000-\$1500 for the first three years of a Doctor of Ministry program. Available Now for pastors of congregations with 150 or fewer members.

For More Details: go to Financial Aid for Studies

<http://www.pcusa.org/financialaid/programs-pastors-smallchurches.htm>

Click on the link for the program you are interested in for complete information and applications.

Montreat Conference Center

<http://www.montreat.org>

New Center for Faith & Life

Presents Great Summer Adult Conferencing Line-Up

PREACHING THE WORD. TEACHING THE WORD.

Two annual summer favorites at Montreat Conference Center,

[Proclaiming the Text](#) and [Christian Education](#), once again run simultaneously, May 31-June 4, sharing dynamic worship and key leadership.

Proclaiming the Text, with its theme "Lift Up Your Voice With Strength," offers the biblical scholarship, theological insights, and contemporary tools for preaching that help preachers proclaim a confident, exuberant, and expansive faith.

Christian Education, "Words to Build a Life On," draws from Jesus' parable about the wise man who built his house on rock.

Click on the links above for more information and to register online

THE WOMEN'S CONNECTION 2010 - Take advantage of a special offer!

July 6-10, Eugenia Gamble heads a stellar cast of leaders for the third annual [Women's Connection](#) at Montreat Conference Center. This year's theme, "Named, Redeemed and Called," incorporates timely workshops, lively worship, and life-changing fellowship designed to empower and rejuvenate the daughters of God.

New this year, the conference offers a money-saving special:

register with a daughter, niece, friend, neighbor - any woman younger than you - and she can attend for a reduced program fee of \$100.

[Learn more](#) when you register online.

BEING "CHURCH" IN A CHANGING WORLD: Two Timely Conferences

New in 2010

[FAITHFUL POLITICS](#), August 8-11.

If God Doesn't Quit When Things Get Political, Why Do We?" For all the talk about faith and politics in the media, there are precious few conversations in our congregations about faithful political engagement. It is time to do better.

Back by popular demand [CHURCH UNBOUND](#), August 11-14.

The dialogue continues ~ take part in fashioning a new vision for the church are invited to join the conversation.

For more information or to register online, click on the links above.

Annual Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation School for Pastors

When: June 16-23, 2010.

Where: Hasting College

The four faculty members who are participating this year are:

Dr. James E. Cobble, Jr., Christian Ministry Resources, NC

Dr. Mike Graves, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City

Dr. Bonnie Sue Lewis, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

Dr. Paul Allen Williams, UNO at Omaha

More information and an online application are available at:

<http://www.omaha-sem-found.org/PastorRegistration.aspx>

Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Lectures

Fifteenth Annual Daniel W Nelson Lectures

When: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 ~ 9:30am – 2:30pm

Where: Thompson Alumni House, University of Nebraska Omaha

Speaker: Dr. M. Craig Barnes "The Pastor as Minor Poet"

Cost: \$25.00

Third Annual Heartland Lectures

When: Monday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Where: Heartland Presbyterian Center 16965 NW Highway 45, Kansas City, MO

Speaker: Dr. Cynthia M. Campbell ~ "Being Faithful People in a Multi-Faith World"

For more information and to register: see attached brochures

Interim Pastor Course at Ghost Ranch.

When: April 5-9, 2010

Where: Ghost Ranch in Santa Fe

What: Beyond Basics Interim Ministry Week:

Two advanced training tracks are being offered for Interims who want continuing education. Courses are also open to governing body folk who want to grow in their ability to support their interims.

- 1) First Responder Ministry (concerns following the difficult departure of the former pastor) (Prerequisite: Weeks One and Two)
- 2) Congregational Transformation and Transitional Ministry (fostering transformation in the congregation) (Prerequisite: Week One only)

For Further Information see: www.ghostranch.org or

http://www.ghostranch.org/index.php?option=com_oscommerce&osMod=product_info&cPath=193&Itemid=199&products_id=891

Scholarship money is available. Register Now.

Presbyterian Women

MRV Women's Spring Gathering

When: April 10 8:45 – 1:15pm

followed by SOAR ~ PW Leadership Development Workshop

Where: Bethany Presbyterian, 1900 S 7th St., Council Bluffs IA

Speaker: Kay Olson "The Roma People"

Two Mission Areas are being supported at the Gathering.

1. An offering will be taken for the Roma people
2. "Hands-On" Offering for Mission for All Nations in South Omaha (~ hygiene products such a bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine products).

To make a reservation to attend the meeting and / or reserve a brown bag lunch, use the form in the attached "PW Spring Gathering Info" pdf.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Gathering of Women

When: June 16 – 19, 2010

Where: Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Iowa.

Highlights:

- Worship and Music
- Workshops & Focus Groups
- Soul Desires Book Store
- Ten Thousand Villages – Gift Shop

For more information or to Register: see attached PW Synod Gathering pdfs. MRV PW scholarships are available. **Deadline for applying for a scholarship:** March 31. See attached application.

Editor's Note: These opportunities are for all women in our Presbytery. There are no dues and women do not need to be part of an organized PW Group at their home church. If they are interested, they are welcome to attend---it is that easy.

Spotlight on Haiti

Resurrection From the Rubble!

The Resurrection Dance Theatre of Haiti is an internationally recognized dance troupe of former orphaned street children and child slaves in Haiti.

Presented by The Haitian Timoun Foundation and The Resurrection Dance Theatre Of Haiti the dance troop **is coming to Omaha to raise funds to rebuild group home.** The troupe uses drumming and dance to vibrantly tell their story and lift up hearts. It is a liberating message that with God all things are possible.

This event is being presented as a testimony to the Saint Joseph's Family and as a plea to help us raise up the Saint Joseph's Family from the rubble. Come join us in this dance of new life. Offer them your encouragement, your helping hands and your financial resources. By our raising up Saint Joseph's to be better than before we will also be raising up Haiti.

The troupe will be in Omaha

- **Monday, March 22nd, 7pm – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 13271 Millard Ave.**
- **Wednesday, March 24th, 7pm – Millard West High School, 5710 S. 176 Ave.**

Editor's Note: Kris Adler travels to Montreat, North Carolina each May to attend the Annual Recreation Workshop. She told me that for many years, the Presbytery of Charleston-Atlantic has sponsored a few conference participants from Haiti; specifically young men who work with the orphaned children who reside at St. Joseph's Family group home. All of these young men were residents of St. Joseph's as children. Some of the young men who attend the conference are part of this dance troupe. Kris is excited about their trip to Omaha to raise funds to rebuild the group home and she hopes you will make time in your schedule to attend their offerings!

- 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

