

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

January 4, 2010



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614
800-537-8592 / Peoria 309-683-6980 / Fax: 309-683-6983

Elder Training

Each training event will be held on a Saturday from 8:30am - 3:00pm with lunch served at noon. **Registration is required** for the purpose of preparing the meal and providing training manuals. Registration is accomplished by contacting [Julie](#) at the presbytery office. Let Julie know how many will be attending and which event they prefer. **If there are not at least ten registrations per event, cancellation is possible.** We want to be good stewards of time and resources.

Please RSVP by the dates listed below.

January 9	RSVP before January 4	(RSVP TODAY)	@ First Pres., Lewistown
January 16	RSVP before January 7	(3 days left to RSVP)	@ United, Woodhull
January 23	RSVP before January 14	(10 days left to RSVP)	@ United Pres., Peoria
January 30	RSVP before January 21	(17 days left to RSVP)	@ United Pres., Biggsville

Mark Your Calendar

Clergy Group

Thursday, January 7
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

Interim Pastor's Group

Thursday, January 7
11:30 - 2:30
First, Danvers
Lunch provided

Elder Training

Saturday, January 9
8:30 - 3:00
First, Lewistown

Visioning Council

Thursday, January 14
9:30 - 2:30
PGR

Elder Training

Saturday, January 16
8:30 - 3:00
United, Woodhull

OFFICE CLOSED

Martin Luther King, Jr.

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

I hope you had a happy holiday week. Part of mine was spent with eight high school cheerleaders at Disney World in Orlando. How, you may ask, did that happen? My older daughter is the cheerleading coach at a high school in Iowa and her squad was invited--based on their performance at a cheerleading camp last summer--to cheer along with about 400 other cheerleaders at the Capital One Bowl. If you watched that game on television, then you know that it did not turn out to be quite the beautiful experience it might have been. It rained all morning and through the game and the turf on the field kept coming up in chunks. But, the girls had a good time and will have memories for a lifetime!

This was the first time that I had been with a large group of teenagers since the most recent changes in technology. In other words, I had never before been with a group that spent more time texting (sometimes texting one another when they were in physical proximity to one another) than doing anything else. They are very fast at it and it was obvious that if their coach (my daughter) had asked them to refrain from this, they would have felt deprived of an inalienable right. Constant contact with one another is very important to this age group. When I asked the two girls who were on the same flight that we were on what they were looking forward to most when they got home, they agreed that it was their friends.

Being attached to friends is not new to this generation of teenagers. That has always been important to adolescents. What is new is the technology to create the sense of closeness and intimacy.

But, here is what I was thinking about as I watched these girls. They were

Birthday

Monday, January 18

Administrative Council

Wednesday, January 20

9:30 - 2:30

PGR

Elder Training

Saturday, January 23

8:30 - 3:00

United, Peoria

Nominating Committee

Tuesday, January 26

10:00 - 2:00

PGR

COM

Tuesday, January 26

10:00 - 3:00

Northminster, Peoria

in Disney World at New Year's. There were thousands and thousands of people there. In fact, they closed the Magic Kingdom early in the day most of the days we were there. Some of these girls had been there before and some were there for the first time. But, there were wonders to be seen even if they had been there multiple times. And, instead of spending most of their time taking in those wonders, they spent a high percentage of their time there with their heads down, focusing on their phone's little screen.

It reminded me of the temptation to which we sometimes succumb as congregations and as a denomination. We can become very focused on the internal life of our church and walk through the wonders of the world with our heads down, worrying about what is inside of our walls and within our own group instead of looking around us. We can walk through the thousands of people within the bounds of presbytery who do not know that Jesus died for them; do not know that Christmas has a meaning that could change their lives; do not know that they are beloved children of God without noticing them at all. We miss them because we are too focused on the people with whom we are already friends, too focused on keeping up the current practices of our churches. The teenagers I was with missed opportunities to experience the world in a new way. Are we too often keeping our heads down and missing out on the opportunities to which God is calling us?

I wish you a Happy New Year filled with a sense of the urgency of God's call to help others to know how their lives can be changed when they come to believe to the core of their beings that they are the object of God's love in Jesus Christ.

We Prayed For You This Week

During our staff meetings each week, the presbytery staff prays for some of our churches. We are sharing those churches with you, so that you, too, can pray for them. How strong we all are through the power of prayer.

Bushnell, [First United Presbyterian Church](#)

Canton, [First Presbyterian Church](#)

Carlinville, [Federated Church](#)

Carrollton, First Presbyterian Church

Local Church History Seminar

April 22-25, 2010

Stony Point Center

Stony Point, NY

[Click here](#) for more information or email the [Presbyterian Historical Society](#).

Princeton Forum On Youth Ministry

April 26-28, 2010

Princeton, New Jersey

This conference offers ecumenical theological education for church leaders engaged in ministry with youth. The theme of the Forum is "Hope."

[Click here](#) for the Forum information.

Do You WANT Your Church to Grow?
SAVE THESE DATES.
April 23 & 24, 2010



[Click here](#) for more information and [Brochure](#)

It Might Be You!

Who is the most creative person you know when it comes to planning worship? (It might be you.) As we move into a new way of doing presbytery meetings, we need to gather a group that thinks in new ways about how to go about worship in a non-traditional setting and in a Reformed way. Do you know of someone who might like to work on this, who is available during the day, and who could meet once or twice before each presbytery meeting this year? If so, please let [Sue Krummel](#) know who that person is.

Needed - Grant Writer

Are you an experienced grant writer? Would you be willing to help people in the churches of Great Rivers when and if they decide to apply for grants? If so, please contact [Sue Krummel](#) and we can talk about what that help might look like!

Presbytery Night at the Ballpark

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, June 11, 2010

If your choir would like to sing the National Anthem before the game, please contact [Julie](#) by March 25.

Presbytery Library

Remember that the PGR has a [Presbytery Library](#) of Alban books available to you. If you would like to read one of the books, please contact [Julie](#) and let her know which book you'd like to check-out of the library.

Listed below are some new books recently added to our Presbytery Library.

Synagogues In a Time of Change-Fragmentation & Diversity in Jewish Religious Movements by Heller

The Wisdom of the Seasons - How the Church Year Helps Us Understand Our Congregational Stories by Olsen

Tending to the Holy - The Practice of the Presence of God in Ministry by Epperly, Epperly

Tent Talk

Newsletter of the Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers

[Click here](#) to read Tent Talk.

[Forward email](#)

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