

From: Julie Bainbridge
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Patti Parrish
Subject: Good News from Great Rivers

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

February 1, 2010



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614
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Mark Your Calendar

Rev. John Zingaro

Installation

Wednesday, February 3
7:00pm
Westminster, Peoria

Clergy Group

Thursday, February 4
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

Assembly Papers on Website

Friday, February 12
after 3:00pm

COM

Tuesday, February 16
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

Supplemental Papers on Website

Friday, February 19
after 3:00pm

CPM Meeting

Tuesday, February 23
8:30am
FivePoints Washington

Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, February 23
9:30am
FivePoints Washington

Annual Stats DUE

Tuesday, February 23

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

Last week I attended an event in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, made up of the six states in the Upper Midwest. When I was a member of that Synod (for about 20 years) I sometimes heard it referred to as "Six -Pack" and I do not think it had anything to do with abdominal muscles! In any case, each year in January in Minnesota (yes, you read that correctly) they invite the leadership of their Committees on Ministry and Committees on Preparation for Ministry to gather together to hear some inspiration from a keynote speaker, worship together and attend workshops (that's where I came in.) Because several of the highways in Iowa were closed in a white-out blizzard when I had intended to drive there, I only got to hear one of the keynote speaker's addresses.

The speaker was Joe Small, who is the Director of the Office of Theology and Worship for the Presbyterian Church. One of the images he used in the address he used really stuck with me. Perhaps that is because the image he used-which he had originally heard from Walter Brueggemann-was so reminiscent of my own childhood.

Were you born in the Midwest and are you, like me, of an age when you had grandmas and grandpas who had grown up on a farm, since moved to town, but still maintained many of the customs of their youths? One set of my grandparents were born in Peoria and never, to my knowledge, raised anything in the soil except for the beautiful flowers in my "Grammy's" garden. But my other set of grandparents were each born on farms in Peoria County and, even though they moved to Peoria as newlyweds, there still was much of the farm in them. Their yard in Peoria was very small, but until the 1990's my family still owned the farm on which my grandmother was born. Someone else farmed the fields, but my family maintained a huge garden full of fresh vegetables from the early strawberries right through the pumpkins in the fall. My grandma had been raised at a time when people did not spend money on store-bought canned vegetables and the like. Well into my childhood-when it was actually less expensive if you counted your time as money to buy a can of green beans than to raise and can them yourself-my grandma spent a large part of her summer and fall canning the produce from the garden. So, in her basement in Peoria, there was a cold storage room



**ATTENTION
Clerks of
Session!**

The annual

stats are due! The deadline is February 23, but the earlier the better!!!

under the stairs that was called the "fruit room". As in, "Run down to the fruit room and get me a jar of tomatoes." (I probably remember it so vividly because it always seemed pretty dark and scary down there!)

Back to the image that Rev. Small told us about. Brueggemann has said that the modern church is like the grandchildren of people who tilled the soil, and planted the crop, and canned vegetables and fruit, and filled the shelves of the cupboard with them. For the last two generations, we have just been taking the fruits of their labors down from the shelves and not replacing them.

Think about that. Most of us worship in buildings which our generation and the one before us (and maybe back several generations) have simply maintained as an inheritance from our forbears. They spent, in many cases, what was a literal fortune to create what was at the time a modern, convenient, welcoming and beautiful space in which to worship. We sometimes maintain their vision as if it were a museum and do not think very hard about how to make it modern and convenient and welcoming and beautiful for this and future generations.

But, beyond that, our forbears in our congregations worked at finding ways to add to their numbers-not because they needed people to help pay the bills or to make them feel better about Sunday morning by filling up the pews-but because they knew that a life based in worship of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer can give meaning to a person's life in a way that nothing else can. So, they started Sunday Schools from scratch when people had no tradition of making sure that children knew the stories of the Bible. They maintained worship even when it was hard to find regular pulpit supply or to be able to afford a pastor. They reached out to those in need because that is what Christ has called us to do, even when the people in need did not seem very appreciative and did not ever come to worship with them.

Maybe your session or Sunday School class would like to think a little more about this image. What fruits of your forbears' labor have you been using? What seems to have been used up? How can you make the kinds of sacrifices they made so that you and future generations will still be enriched by worship of and service to the one triune God?

Haiti Donations and Your 2009 Tax Return

Amy Gardner, Accountant

The House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation that would allow individuals who make charitable contributions to victims of the earthquake in Haiti to claim an itemized charitable deduction on their 2009 tax return instead of having to wait until next year to claim the deductions on their 2010 tax return. One novel feature of the House bill is that it allows taxpayers to substantiate deductions made by cell phone with a record from their cellular provider showing the date, amount and name of the organization receiving the contribution.

Machu Picchu Mudslides

[Click here](#) and you will find that Judy Boutelle of our presbytery is quoted. Her husband, Jerry, recently retired as pastor of White Hall and Carrollton and has served several churches in our presbytery. You may find this to be of interest.

Commissioning of Mission Workers



Bob and Kristi Rice and I are now officially commissioned mission coworkers of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as of this afternoon's worship service. Bob and Kristi are going to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and I am leaving for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on February 14.

We humbly ask that you pray for the ministry that God is doing and will do through us and that we might go with respect, compassion, and humility.

May you be abundantly blessed and be granted the desires of your heart!
Carolyn Weber

Confirmation Retreat

United Presbyterian Church in Peoria invites all confirmation classes to a lock-in retreat at United PC on March 5-6th beginning at 7:00pm and running to 12:00pm on Saturday the 6th. We'll have food, fun, worship, and small groups. If you would like your confirmation class to attend please contact [Stephen McKinney-Whitaker](#) or phone at (309)693-2002. United asks a leader from each group to be present to help lead small group discussions and chaperone. The cost will be \$10 per confirmation student to help cover expenses. This should be a great night of fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)

If you have youth attending the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium, at Purdue University, July 20-24, 2010, please fill out the [PYT Registration Application](#) **completely** and return to Julie at the Presbytery of Great Rivers office.

Application Deadline for Presbytery of Great Rivers is **Monday, May 24, 2010.**

Do You WANT Your Church to Grow?

Have you or members of your congregation registered for The Magnetic Church event April 23-24? COME! Be challenged, motivated, and enthused, as Andrew Weeks, a lay speaker and author, presents fresh ideas for fellowship, community, spiritual growth, and personal connections.



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



Green Energy

By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

Sometimes our government works extremely well and makes wise use of our tax dollars. I spent time this week checking out several web sites that were supposed to be excellent resources for our congregations to save energy concerning church buildings. Well, [Energy Star](#) has a whole program just for congregations! There is so much information it can be overwhelming - especially if you are a volunteer serving on a church committee charged with caring for your church building. Sometimes it's easier to arrange to fix a leaky faucet at the church than to spend your free time reading information on how the building can be more energy efficient.

But church custodians and those on the building committee or the equivalent at your church should be excited about this resource. I'll try to break it down to some key points for you to more easily digest. Do bookmark this site and refer back to it often.

First of all we encourage you to sign up and "join." It's free. It gives you free technical support, information and a free copy of "Putting Energy into Stewardship" - the 39-page booklet on energy conservation for churches. And as an added bonus you will be eligible to compete for awards and be able to network with other congregations to share ideas and solutions. This is another win, win,

win.

A challenge for your custodian and/or building committee is to print out the "How To Guide" for analyzing your building and evaluate your physical plant inside and out. Present the Session with a proposal on changes with cost estimates. But most importantly attach an estimate on how soon the energy savings will pay for the upgrades. Some changes such as changing out lightbulbs have a relatively short payback timetable. For projects with long payback times, grants may be available

Here's what the website says about this program:

Energy Star For Congregations

"Most congregations can cut energy costs by up to 30% by investing strategically in efficient equipment, facility upgrades and maintenance. With free, unbiased information and technical support from ENERGY STAR, your congregation can more easily improve stewardship of your budget's energy dollars, and of the earth by reducing energy waste and energy costs, while protecting the environment."

Until next week. . . let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

Installation

The Rev. John Zingaro will be installed as pastor of the Westminster (Peoria) Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m.

All are invited to attend to show support for a new member of the Presbytery and his congregation!

Members of the installation commission will be:

Mr. Gary Davis, Lincoln First Presbyterian Church (for the Moderator)

Rev. Mike Shirey, Northminster, Peoria

Elder Pat Bensing, United, Peoria

Elder Fred Brotherson, Westminster, Peoria

Elder Pam Scranton, United, Peoria

Certificates Available For Your Use

Thank you to Trish Depperman from United, Peoria for creating and sharing the following certificates with all of us. You can find these certificates on the [presbytery website](#) under 'resources'.

The certificates are:

Deacon Ordination

Deacon Installation

Elder Ordination

Elder Installation

New Member

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.

Living Our Story - Narrative Leadership and Congregational Culture by Golemon

Teaching Our Story - Narrative Leadership and Pastoral Formation by Golemon

Finding Our Story - Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change by Golemon

A Lifelong Call to Learn - Continuing Education for Religious Leaders by Reber, Roberts

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, contact [Julie](#) by March 25.

Stephen Ministry Workshop at Resurrection Lutheran, Bloomington

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 4114 East Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, Illinois, is hosting a Stephen Ministry Workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and refreshments will be served.

This workshop is an excellent opportunity for church leaders and other members to learn about the Stephen Series, a ministry system that equips and mobilizes laypeople for effective caring ministry. At the workshop, you will experience a sample of the training Stephen Ministers (lay caregivers) receive, and you will take home practical knowledge and skills on "Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief" and "How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way."

The cost of the workshop is \$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more from the same congregation. For more information, or to register for the Stephen Ministry Workshop, call Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600. You can also [register online](#).

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