

# GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

February 8, 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



## ATTENTION Clerks of Session!

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

## Mark Your Calendar

### Assembly Papers on Website

Friday, February 12  
after 3:00pm

### COM

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

### Interim Pastor's Group

Thursday, February 18  
11:30 - 2:00  
PGR

### 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

I read a very interesting article in The New Yorker magazine's February 8 issue. The title of it is "Close Listening: Classical Music in a Jazz-Club Space." The article is about some people in the classical music business in New York City who are performing the music in a new kind of venue. Instead of a large concert hall setting, it is being played in a much more intimate space and the setting creates a much closer connection to the audience. But the reason for the change in venue was not initiated solely because of a desire to have a more intimate relationship between the performer(s) and the audience. Instead it was occasioned by a change in the way people in our culture take in entertainment.

The article quotes a "Survey of Public Participation in the Arts: . . . the number of people who venture out to classical performances in a given year has been declining for almost three decades, and . . . such people are getting steadily older." It is also true that no matter the age of those who responded to the survey, they are less interested in attending such events than they were eight years ago when another survey was taken. Sound familiar? That could be a description of many of our worship services.

It is not only classical music, according to the article, that has seen its audiences decline. "Jazz, musical plays, nonmusical plays, and movies have all fallen off since 1982. Sporting events have suffered the biggest drop: thirty-six per cent. Essentially any activity that requires us to travel to a venue, take a seat, and watch people performing in some disciplined fashion is not as popular as it used to be." Okay, that really IS a description of what we expect people to do for worship.

The article then moves to a discussion of the musicians who have moved performances into a new venue. The writer says that it struck them that the music and the audience are not best served by what one of them called the "preacher and congregation seating arrangement." Now, as I was reading, I did not need to draw any conclusions to make the connection. We are fighting a losing battle in many places in trying to convince people that they need to leave behind their computers, their cell phones and mobile devices, their easy chair and their cup of coffee or tea in order to sit in a sanctuary to be in the presence of God and other worshippers.

Christians have not always worshipped in the way we do now, of course. In the early church, they met mostly in homes or in borrowed spaces and it seems that the gatherings almost always included a meal. Then there was a time when the congregation stood for the entire service which was conducted in a language that most of them did not understand. It is really only fairly recently in the history of the church that we have adopted a style of worship that reflects the way people sought public entertainment in the last half of the 19th century and most of the 20th century. It is not, apparently, the way most people are currently seeking entertainment and, perhaps that means that we need to find a new way to interpret and celebrate our faith that can intersect with peoples' comfort zones.

The concert promoters referred to in this article have worked hard to find a way to interpret their passion for classical music to the audience of today. Many congregations find it much harder to adjust what they do in order to reach people as we move deeper into the 21st century. The musicians believe that it is important for people to know and love the music they know and love. Surely we, also, believe that it is important--in fact, it is all-important--for our neighbors and co-workers and family members to know and love the faith we celebrate and the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer whom we worship. Are we willing to find ways to communicate that faith so that it will reach people in 2010 and beyond?

### **We Prayed For Hopedale This Week**

United Presbyterian Church of Hopedale, one of the oldest congregations in the presbytery, will celebrate its life and ministry in a final worship service on Sunday, February 21 at 3 p.m. at the church. Presbyterians have worshipped in Hopedale for 179 years. In recent years, the congregation has declined in numbers but not in spirit. Mark your calendar and join other members of the Presbytery of Great Rivers as we thank the members and pastor for their ministry among us.

**United Presbyterian Church  
301 Washington, PO Box 128  
Hopedale, IL 61747-0128**

### **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.**

### **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.



### **Green Energy**

By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

It's that time of year when the mailbox often contains white envelopes containing W2's, 1099's and other tax documents as American's begin the challenging task of filing federal and state income tax forms.

If you made improvements to your house in 2009 that increased its energy efficiency make sure you check to see if they are eligible for a tax credit. And these rules are in place until the end of year of 2010 so plan accordingly.

These credits apply to an existing home that is your principal residence - not a rental or new construction. The tax credit is 30 percent of the cost up to \$1,500. Some improvements include installation while some do not.

What's included - biomass stoves, certain improvements to heating, ventilation and air conditioning including traditional systems, heat pumps and geothermal, insulation, roofs (metal and asphalt), several types of water heaters including solar and electric heat pump, windows, doors and skylights, small wind turbines, solar panels and fuel cells for cars.

Once again the [Energy Star](http://energystar.gov) website (energystar.gov) has all the pertinent information. Remember not all Energy Star products qualify for the tax credit.

My water heater disintegrated last week. I did extensive research on a tankless system but the up front costs still seem out of reach for many consumers. Hopefully the pay back time for this wonderful concept will continue to come down. I told my plumber I wanted a super efficient model that was Energy Star rated and qualified for the tax credit. And I made sure he recycled the old unit. Make it a goal for 2010 to make at least one improvement to your house that meets these guidelines.

Every day we have a chance to make decisions that may seem insignificant individually but collectively help preserve our environment for future generations.

Please forward this newsletter to others and urge them to sign up. They can sign up by going to the upper right-hand corner of the [Presbytery of Great Rivers](http://www.pgv.org) website.

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

### Do You WANT Your Church to Grow?

Have you or members of your congregation registered for The Magnetic Church event **April 23-24**? COME FOR YOURSELF! Wondering what God's next call for you might be? If it were *your* choice, would evangelism be on *your* list? Then come to learn new models of evangelism appropriate for you! Along the way, you may discover your gifts as author, editor, planter, greeter or shepherd, and reap some of the amazing joy of being God's instrument in changing other peoples' lives.



[Click here](#) for more information and [Registration Form](#).

### 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.*

### Help Make Bio-Diesel Happen in Haiti

If your church is looking for a farm-related, Illinois-connected Haiti mission project, this might be just the one.

Here are the two tractors they need:

John Deere 3005, equipped at \$25,000

John Deere 5083N, equipped at \$46,000

They could use the 3005 at first and then expand with the 5083.

Let me know if you want all the details.

Gary Davis

[gwdavis44@comcast.net](mailto:gwdavis44@comcast.net)

## Security & Emergency Planning for Christian Organizations

Hosted by: St. Paul Baptist Church, 603 W. Nebraska Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

Saturday, February 20

9:00am - 5:00pm

[Click Here](#) for more information.

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