

# GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

March 1, 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

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Clergy Group

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

#### Installation of

Rev. Kathy Stoner-LaSala  
Sunday, March 7  
3:00  
First, Macomb

#### Visioning Council

Thursday, March 11  
1:30 - 6:30  
Westminster, Peoria

#### Interim Pastor's Group

Thursday, March 18  
11:30 - 1:30  
PGR

#### CLP & Spouse's Luncheon

Saturday, March 20  
11:00 - 1:30  
Barrack's Cater Inn  
*RSVP to [Julie](#)  
by March 11*

#### COM

Tuesday, March 23  
10:00 - 3:00  
Northminster, Peoria

### 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)

Presbytery of Great Rivers will have **41** youth attending the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium, at Purdue University, July 20-24.

Now that you have made this commitment, your next step is to fill out the [PYT Registration Application](#) **completely** and return to [Julie](#) at the Presbytery of Great Rivers office.

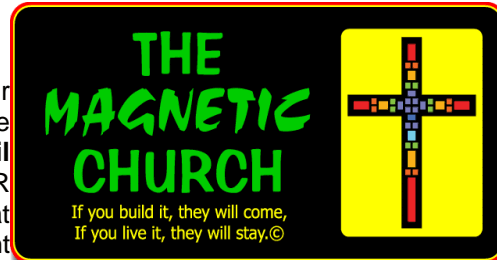
**Application Deadline** for Presbytery of Great Rivers is **Monday, May 24.**

### 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.*



**Green Energy**

**By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant**

I enjoyed meeting many of you at last week's Assembly. In this day of e-mail, Facebook, cell phones, internet, etc. it's still good to meet people face-to-face, shake hands and interact on a more personal level. Please look over the Green Energy materials and contact me to discuss ways to improve the energy efficiency of your church building. As I said in my remarks at lunch I don't have all the answers but I have the time and resources to go and find the answers for you.

Driving to and from Washington, IL last week I spent some time reflecting on driving and its enormous impact on our environment. My car has high mileage and while I have no immediate plans to trade I know a new car (a new-to-me car as our family calls them) is a decision I will face in the near future.

Hybrids have certainly captured the attention of environmentalists. And now they are available in many makes, models and sizes including pick-up trucks. And they're available from foreign and domestic companies although researching what is made or assembled in America or not can be challenging to decipher. The Toyota Prius is not only attractive because it is a hybrid but because of it's 50 mpg highway, even using the new government scale. Individual owners often average 60 mpg.

Honda has an exciting new feature - an Eco Assist computer built into the dashboard. The computer gives the driver feedback with the display going from blue to shades of green to let you know if you are driving in the most efficient manner possible. The more green displayed the better gas mileage you are getting. Drivers report that after a few weeks they have retrained their driving habits and hardly have to look at the display. They are probably better drivers when they drive other cars.

Ford also has the Smartgauge cluster with an Engage Mode showing detailed power flow, average mileage, and a "leafy green driving indicator" that adds leaves to the tree as your driving gets more efficient. And Empower Mode displaying mileage history bars and an accessory drive power draw indicator, which shows how much power things like the air conditioning, wipers and lights are drawing.

Coming from a farm background I am also excited about flex fuel vehicles. My mother and brother drive flex fuel vehicles. Flex fuel has a higher percentage of ethanol - a renewable fuel made from plant matter - at this point in time usually corn. And flex fuel gas stations are on the rise giving us more options. You have to do the math to see if the lower cost of fuel saves money with reduced mpg but it's still better for the environment and the ag (local) economy.

The Chevrolet Volt has been causing a buzz at this year's car shows. Due out in the 2011 model year the car can run on battery for about 40 miles before the traditional engine would take over.

Keep your car serviced and tuned up and the tires properly inflated to get the best mileage possible. Before making your next car purchase please take some time to do some research and consider the environmental consequences of your decision. And if you stick with a traditional vehicle pick the one with the best gas mileage. Like many environmental decisions what's good for the wallet is good for the environment.

Next week we're going to take a look at hypermiling and how, if we are careful to do it safely, we can save gas and wear and tear on our cars!

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.greatriverspb.org) website.

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

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