

# GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

March 23, 2010



## [PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

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

### CPM

Thursday, April 1  
9:30 - 4:00  
Northminster, Peoria

### OFFICE CLOSED

Good Friday  
Friday, April 2

### Personnel Committee

Tuesday, April 6  
9:30 - 1:00  
PGR

### Ordination of the Rev. Joshua Erickson

Sunday, April 11  
4:00  
Second, Bloomington

### Clergy Group

Thursday, April 15  
10:00 - 11:30  
PGR

### Administration Council

Wednesday, April 21  
9:30 - 2:30  
PGR

### The Magnetic Church

Friday, April 23 thru  
Saturday, April 24  
Fri. 7:00pm - 10:00pm  
Sat. 9:00am - 4:00pm  
United, Peoria

### COM

Tuesday, April 27  
10:00 - 3:00  
Northminster, Peoria

## General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

This week's message from Sue has been posted for your viewing pleasure on Youtube. Please [Click Here](#).

## 2010 Per Capita Update

We are grateful to the twenty-seven congregations which have made payment in full for their 2010 per capita as of mid-March. Session elders, church treasurers and clerks of session with questions about the amount of 2010 per capita due for your congregations can visit the [Presbytery of Great Rivers](#) website and click on the Per Capita by Church link at the far right of the first page.

Planning for full payment of per capita is an important task, and all are encouraged to follow the leaders who pay in full as early in the year as possible.

Michael Orr  
Treasurer

## Magnetic Church

Don't forget the Magnetic Church seminar for layleaders on April 23 and 24 in Peoria. (See details in accompanying article.) If you are in the midst of gathering your group, please let [Julie Bainbridge](#) know an approximate number. Remember the deadline for real numbers is April 19, but for catering and planning purposes, it would be good to know an approximate number now.

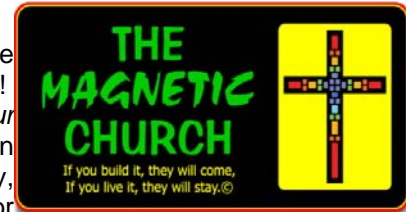


## It's Tax Time

April 15 is rapidly approaching. If you need some help with taxes as they relate to ministers the Board of Pensions has some great information on their web site. If you go to their site at [Board of Pensions](#) select Educational Resources on the top left. Within the Educational Resources section Select Tax Resource Center and there is information specific to active and retired clergy. There is also a tax tips webinar on this page and a section that may be helpful to your church's Treasurer. If you haven't been to the Board of Pensions website lately, check it out. There is a variety of information for individuals as well as churches.

## 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](#)

## Stated Clerk Writes Churchwide Letter on Conscientious Objectors

The 218th General Assembly (2008) directed the Stated Clerk to write a letter to every congregation and presbytery in response to referral 11-22, "On Supporting Those Who Feel Called to Seek Status as Conscientious Objectors."

[Click here to read letter.](#)

## Preaching for Easter, Eastertide, and Beyond

A DVD from the February assembly meeting of "PREACHING FOR EASTER, EASTERTIDE, AND BEYOND" by Rev. Dr. Timothy Slemmons, Dubuque Theological Seminary, Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Worship is available. If you would be interested in receiving a copy of the DVD please contact [Julie](#) or [Patti](#) with your name and complete address!



## Green Energy

By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

One month from today will be Earth Day 2010 - the 40th anniversary on April 22, 2010. I was fortunate to grow up in a family where we learned to treasure the land. Both my grandfathers, most of my uncles and my father farmed for a living. My mother was a huge gardener and even our family vacations were spent camping, hiking and communing with Mother Nature.

I remember the publicity surrounding that first Earth Day. It seemed to make so much sense. Why would anyone want to damage our beautiful planet with pollution or littering or not respect it by squandering our natural resources? But here we are 40 years later regretting our lack of stewardship and trying to get citizens to re-commit.

More than a billion people in 190 countries will observe Earth Day. In the United States the official observation will take place on the mall in Washington D.C. There are special opportunities for athletes, teenage musicians, artists and others to raise awareness.

If you've been thinking about making a change or changes in your life to become more "green" why not prepare for turning over a new leaf between now and April 22? It can be very small and rather simple like starting to recycle at work to something fairly large like installing a well-designed geothermal system.

"Earth Day 2010 can be a turning point to advance climate policy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs. Earth Day Network is galvanizing millions who make personal commitments to sustainability. Earth Day 2010 is a pivotal opportunity for individuals, corporations and governments to join together and create a global green economy," according to [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net).

Perhaps most interesting to readers of this column is the long history of interfaith religious involvement in Earth Day since its early years. Leaders in most major religions have galvanized support for protecting the earth in believers' homes and in their places of worship.

"The Jewish Reconstructionist Synagogue in Evanston, IL, has just become the first house of worship in North America to receive the prestigious Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) ranking from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Rabbi Brant Rosen said: 'More importantly, this singular accomplishment represents our commitment as Jews to the value of 'Bal Tashchit:' the sacred sustainability of our world. Our new building, five years in the planning and building, is an outgrowth of our faith and dedication to being worthy stewards of God's

creation: our magnificent earth. Being the first house of worship in North America to receive this designation confirms the spiritual rewards of pursuing a congregation building where faith, religious values, and thoughtful and innovative environmental construction are mutually reinforcing,' " [Earth Day Network](#)

Feel free to post this column on your church bulletin board or reproduce them in your church newsletter. If you received this newsletter as a forward and want to subscribe click on the link in the upper right hand corner of [Presbytery of Great Rivers](#). Feel free to contact me, [Laurie](#), with questions or suggestions. Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

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