

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

March 29, 2010



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

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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

Interim Pastor's Group

Thursday, April 8
11:30 - 1:30
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

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

Jury duty-have you had that privilege? I have been called to jury duty three times. Once I lived in a rural county in Iowa. There are only two Presbyterian Churches in the county; my husband was the pastor of one of them and, at the time I was called, I was the interim pastor of the other one. Between the two churches, we knew about a fourth of the attorneys in the county. In that county you are called for three months at a time. The attorneys I knew told me I would never have to serve since I was called for January through March. Most rural attorneys also do taxes and, so, none of them want to go to court during those months. They were correct. I was then called when I lived in Burlington, Iowa. The one day that I might have had to serve, I had a funeral. I had to get a letter from the funeral director stating that and I was excused.

The summons came from Peoria County for last week. In many counties, clergy are not often seated on a jury since the attorneys are not sure how we might vote. Maybe they think that, overall, clergy would be too forgiving. I am not sure. In any case, I still do not know if clergy would be seated in Peoria County since none of the over 200 people in the jury room were ever called into a courtroom. I duly reported on Monday morning and found myself packed like a cow on the way to slaughter in a room FULL of people. Luckily, I sat down at one of the few tables when I went into the room, so it did not seem quite so claustrophobic. Three other women joined me at the table and, after we watched a movie about jury duty, we ended up having quite an interesting conversation about faith and religion after I confessed that I am a minister. But, that is a topic for another week. The woman in charge of the room gave us infrequent updates, like "The civil case just settled, but we may still have two felonies and a misdemeanor." At 11:30 she told us we could get lunch and be back at 1:00. We sat for an hour before she gave us another update and asked for volunteers for the coroner's jury. Many people volunteered because they knew they would serve on Thursday afternoon at a set time and the rest of us were still in limbo. Around 3, she dismissed us and told us to call the phone number with the recording about duty after 5. Luckily, I had a fairly high number. I did not have to report on Tuesday and on Tuesday evening, we were all dismissed for the week.

Here is what I thought about as I chafed at the idea of someone else blowing up my schedule for the week, especially the unpredictable nature of that other entity's authority over me. Do you remember the time, reported in two gospels, when people come to Jesus and tell him they want to be his followers? Then Jesus tells them what that really means. "I

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

will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replies, "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Then Jesus called another person who said, "First let me go and bury my father." But Jesus reminded this person that following Jesus is a single-minded pursuit. Then another, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus told this person that a follower does not turn back, but follows.

Jury duty felt like someone else had taken over my life. It was one of the worst several days of my life in that I could not decide what I would be doing and when-I needed to get my hair cut, I needed to be at a meeting in Urbana, I needed to pick up my grandchildren so that my daughter could fulfill an obligation to a friend. Would I be able to do any of that? I did not know.

During this Holy Week, we will hear again the story of the last week of Jesus' life. We will see how even he struggled with submitting to the will of another. But, as we know, in the end, he went to the cross and died so that we might know the power and eternity of God's love. If, like me, you would struggle with jury duty, how much more do we struggle to truly give ourselves into the hands of our savior and follow him wherever he might lead?

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.

Greenview, United Presbyterian Church
Hamilton, Bethel Presbyterian Church
Ipava, United Presbyterian Church
Jacksonville, [First Presbyterian Church](#)
Kirkwood, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Knoxville, [First Presbyterian Church](#)
LeRoy, [First Presbyterian Church](#)

Lift the Inquirers and Candidates Up in Prayer

This week we prayed at our staff meeting for our inquirers and candidates for ministry as many of them prepare to meet with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry on April 1. You might want to include these individuals in your congregation's prayer life as well as they continue to discern God's call in their lives.

INQUIRERS:

Matthew Downey
Hallie Hottle
Derrick Pehlman
Andrew Sonneborn

CANDIDATES:

Ryan Bradney
Kay Daniel
Josh Erickson
Andy Newgren
Chris Roland
Sarah Ross
Travis Shafer
Paul Stroup
Susan Tindall

Administrative Personnel Association (APA)

The Greater Midwest Regional APA Conference will be held April 22-24, 2010 in Washington,

Missouri. Come join the food, fun and fellowship and opportunity to make new friends and become part of the APA network.

[Brochure](#)

[Click Here](#) for more information regarding APA.

A Note From Our Former Moderator

The FCC has issued a ruling on wireless microphones in the 698-806MHz range. As of June 12,2010, all users of wireless microphones in this range must cease operating. Some of our churches may well have these kinds of microphones. Devices in this bandwidth will interfere with emergency services frequencies and may negatively impact air traffic as well. This could be particularly significant if a church is located on an approach or flight path near an airport.

You may check the [Manufacturers Equipment List](#) on the [Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Web site](#) to determine the impact on your operation. The FCC's [Wireless Microphones FAQs](#) document provides additional information regarding this issue.

Peace!

Mike Claver

The 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.

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 YOUR CHURCH! Do you want to become more involved in the mission and ministry of your church? But you're not sure where to begin, what to do, or how to apply your own unique gifts and personal talents. Begin by coming to this event to learn a whole lot about practical evangelism. AND ALONG THE WAY ... You may discover new ways to apply your talents and skills.



21 Days left to RSVP.

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

Presbytery Night at the Ballpark

Come join churches from our presbytery on Friday, June 11, 7:00pm at O'Brien Field.
Peoria Chiefs vs. the Great Lake Loons
Tickets cost \$7.00

Information has been mailed to your church. Sign-up with your church today.

Hobby Lobby Discount

You may already know that Hobby Lobby is a great source for religious decorations and art supplies for children's programs. But did you know that they also offer a 10% discount to churches? In order to take advantage of this discount payment **MUST** be made with a check or credit card directly from the church (the church's name **MUST** be printed on the check or credit card.) Cash payments or payments with personal checks will not receive the discount.



Green Energy By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

Earth Hour took place this past Saturday from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in participants' respective local time. The purpose of the event is to get people to turn off nonessential lights and electric devices for one hour. It's sponsored by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

A total of 126 countries signed up to take part and it is estimated that over one billion people participated. Did you? Did you notice any changes in your community or the neighborhood you were in at that hour?

According to the Vancouver Sun, Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator reported a four per cent drop in demand for electricity in the province as a result of Earth Hour. Last year, the province posted a six per cent drop. The operator said this year's cool temperatures meant a lower overall result.

"More than anything, Earth Hour gives people a chance to think about their energy use," said IESO's president Paul Murphy. "Ontarians have become keenly aware of the need to conserve electricity - not just during Earth Hour, but at other times of the year as well."

To bring about change of any behavior requires a period of first thinking about the change - "trying it on for size" before actually making the change. It's like the decision on going swimming. Do you stick one toe in the water and ease into it or do you dive off the dock into the water all at once?

Research shows long term success is greater when we think about the change and then ease into it. Churches need to start a discussion on wiser energy use and becoming greener. Then they need to formulate a policy to accomplish these changes. Lastly they need to communicate with members and bring the changes to reality.

If Earth Hour got you to start thinking about energy use - what's essential and what isn't-- then start turning the thinking stage into an action stage. Don't be afraid to start off small. Small changes multiplied by all the members of all the churches in the Presbytery of Great Rivers can collectively be big changes and set an example in all of our communities. Who knows, we might start a ripple effect across Illinois, the United States and eventually the world!

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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