

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

April 5, 2010



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

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Mark Your Calendar

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

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

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

I hope you had a wonderful Easter. As you might imagine, I have been with my grandchildren quite a bit over the last few weeks. So, if you will indulge me, here is a little story about my older grandson, who will be four in June.

A few weeks ago, I was at their house and was helping him get into bed. He goes to worship and Sunday School every week and I think they must have been talking about Easter already. He said to me, "Mimi, why did Jesus have to die?" Well, that is, of course, a question that has filled theological tomes for centuries and millenia. Hmmm. What could I tell him that would be something that he could understand and that would not scare him too much or give him nightmares? After all, the story of Easter for three-year-olds usually does not concentrate too much on the details of the crucifixion. I told him that some people did not like what Jesus was doing, so they were mean to him. I also reminded him that on Easter Sunday Jesus was alive again. I told him that was because God liked what Jesus was doing. That seemed to satisfy him. At least that was where the questioning ended.

Then, about a week later, my daughter (his mom) and my grandson and his little sister were at lunch with a Mathematics professor from the University of Iowa. (My daughter is working on her PhD.) In the middle of the discussion that my daughter and her professor were having, apparently my grandson interrupted by saying, "Hey, guy! Hey, guy!" The professor responded to him. My grandson said, "Did you know that Jesus died because God loves us?" My daughter is pretty sure that her professor is a Muslim. She would probably never have imagined having a theological discussion with him. But, her three-year-old had no similar qualms. He just interjected the gospel into an everyday conversation in a way that no one found threatening or impertinent. The professor just kind of laughed, I guess, and smiled and the conversation continued.

We have all just celebrated again the truth at the heart of our faith: that Jesus' death and resurrection reminds us of God's love. Most of us do not have the same kind of ability as little children have to just cut to the chase and to share that good news with people whom we encounter in our everyday lives. Maybe that is what is meant by having a childlike faith--simple enough to be said in one sentence and so much a part of us that we are willing to tell people about that truth.

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.

Lewistown, First Presbyterian Church
Lincoln, [First Presbyterian Church](#)
Little York, Little Cedar Presbyterian Church
Macomb, [First Presbyterian Church](#)

ATiiM Fall Event

The 19th Annual Conference of the Association of Trained Intentional Interim Ministers (ATiiM) will be held at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center on September 29 - 30, 2010 featuring the Rev. Dr. Kris Tenny-Brittian as the key presenter. This event has been attended by clergy - interim and settled - and has become one of the premier clergy continuing education opportunities in Illinois.

[19th Annual Conference Brochure](#)

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.

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.



14 Days left to RSVP.



Green Energy
By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

Hopefully you had a blessed Easter with family and celebrated in a "green" manner. I took my cloth bags to the store when I purchased my Easter groceries and noticed more and more shoppers are doing the same.

Cash for Clunkers has ended and Cash for Refrigerators is about to begin. Illinois' discount on certain Energy Star rated appliances will start April 16 and end when the federal stimulus money runs out or April 25, whichever comes first. Participating retailers will offer the qualifying appliances at 15 percent off. And you can garner a \$75 rebate if you have your old freezer or refrigerator picked up for recycling when the new one is delivered.

Appliances that are part of the program include refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, room air conditioners and dishwashers. These appliances must be for use in your own home. A household can receive one rebate for each appliance type. For example, you can purchase a dishwasher and a refrigerator but you can't buy two refrigerators.

For more information check out the [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) web site or call 877-782-7005.

The federal rebate program echoes several programs provided by local utility companies to try to get families to get rid of the extra, old refrigerator in the garage or basement or on the porch. These older models are usually very inefficient and are often in an uncooled part of the house. They are also often half full. You are paying a premium for a few extra cans of cold soda.

April 16 will be hectic. I suggest you go to participating retailers now and do your comparison shopping so you are ready to pop in on April 16 and finalize the purchase. Participating retailers are listed at [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) (search by city or retailer). Appliances must be purchased at the store - online purchases will not qualify for discounts or rebates.

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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