

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

April 13, 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, April 15
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

Administration Council

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

COM

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

Retired Pastor's

Tuesday, April 27
10:00
First, Lewistown

Clergy Group

Thursday, May 6
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

RSVP DEADLINE for

Presbytery Night
at the Ballpark
with the Peoria Chiefs
Friday, May 7
24 days left to RSVP

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

At our November Presbytery workshop entitled, "The Church's Call to Orphans and the Charter of Compassion," Evelyn Thomas, elder from St. Luke Union Church-Bloomington, learned from Dr. Jane Liedtke about the needs of orphans in the People's Republic of China. Dr. Liedtke is the founder of Our Chinese Daughter's Foundation, and she helps distribute knitted baby caps to both orphanages and to the first [children's hospice unit in China](#). Evelyn, a retired nurse, got started right away knitting baby caps, and when she found herself temporarily at Manor Care nursing home after an illness, she also began teaching knitting to the residents there, so they too could knit caps for the orphans. Evelyn blooms wherever she is planted, and the gift of her time and talent, in this way, means that babies and their caregivers half a world away will be warmed by more than the knitted caps.

Meanwhile, First Presbyterian Church of Normal held a vitamin drive during Lent, and collected over 50 pounds of infant and children's vitamins for the orphanages, along with baby caps from their knitters too. Presbyterians Mike Orr, from Springfield First Presbyterian Church, Jacques DelliPaoli from the Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and Sarah Anderson of New York City, will be joining with others from around the globe to volunteer in Chinese orphanages during the week of April 10-18th. Volunteer opportunities are available at [volunteer](#) as are orphan support projects [support](#). "I thank my God every time I remember you," is how Paul begins his letter to the church at Philippi, and those words of thanks are fitting here. Thanks to all who give to children here and half a world away.



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.*

REMEMBER to have your church "Ticket Order Form" turned into [Julie](#) at the presbytery office no later than Friday, May 7, 2010. *24 days left to RSVP*

The Magnetic Church

As you know by now, we have cancelled The Magnetic Church event. But, the leader has given us permission to distribute to you this link to his resources. [Magnetic Church Resources](#)
You can also purchase his book, [Welcome!](#), through The Alban Institute.

Celebrating Fifty Years Ordained The Reverend Eugene (Gene) Bilotti

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois is celebrating the fiftieth year of ordination of The Reverend Eugene Bilotti. On Sunday, June 6th at 10:30 AM the gathered community of worship will give thanks to Gene . . . for his deep faith . . . for his love for Jesus Christ . . . for his kindness and good humor . . . for his many years of service to The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Gene's dear friend The Reverend Doctor David MacDonna, Jr. will be delivering the message. Testimonies of love from friends, and colleagues will be given.

You are invited to this wonderful event, and we would like you to share your testimony during a luncheon that will follow the service of worship. If you are unable to attend, please send your written words of care to: [The Revered Clifford Hayes](#), First Presbyterian Church, 321 South Seventh Street, Springfield, IL 62701.

Blackburn College

Blackburn College is pleased to offer a new networking/mentoring opportunity for women on the Blackburn campus and in surrounding communities to connect more personally. This is an effort to prepare female students for future careers and to help women of the community achieve career goals and personal development. Please join President Mim Pride as she hosts a series of lunches, during which women professionals will talk about their professional experiences and what they see as opportunities for women...of all ages.

This week's luncheon will feature Dr. Elizabeth Zobel presenting on the Performing Arts.

Location: Auxiliary Dining Rooms (ADRs) of the Demuzio Campus Center

Date: THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

Time: 11:30 a.m. Lunch begins

12:00 p.m. Program Begins

For more information or questions, please call Ann Allen, Exec. Asst. to the President at (217)854-5506.



Green Energy By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

It seems like when my children and I talk about church we often talk about how to use one's unique talents to help a church. It's often an accountant or CPA who pitches in and serves as treasurer. Someone handy with carpentry, plumbing or landscaping is always welcomed with open arms. My mother served as church organist and related tasks for over 50 years on a purely volunteer basis.

While attending the Assembly meeting in February an engineer (who is clerk of session at his church) approached me and volunteered his services to conduct energy audits on church buildings in the Presbytery of Great Rivers - *free of charge*. He said he wanted to use his professional skills and talents to "give back."

Here are the guidelines we have established: he will do one energy audit per month. The congregation will be asked to sign a waiver acknowledging that the audit is being performed on a

voluntary basis and that the congregation will hold the engineer harmless. It is suggested that the church reimburse the volunteer for mileage traveling to and from the church.

Our volunteer, Mark Cordes, is also interested in teaching some Saturday workshops on how churches can make some changes (large and small) to reduce their energy consumption. Mark works for an architecture firm in Peoria and is fully qualified to conduct these audits.

This is an exciting new offering in the Presbytery's mission to help all churches learn more about their buildings and what options they have to make them more energy efficient. To get on the schedule for a free energy audit simply e-mail me using the hot button below and I will work with Mark to set up an appointment.

I will also be working with Mark to set up some Saturday workshops at three or four locations so churches can learn more about saving energy (which saves money) and becoming more green in every aspect of church life and home life. Watch this column for workshops announcements.

Feel free to contact me, [Laurie](#), with questions or suggestions. Until next week let's strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

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