

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

May 3, 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, May 6

10:00 - 11:30

PGR

Presbytery Night at the Ballpark

RSVP DEADLINE

with the Peoria Chiefs

Friday, May 7

4 days left to RSVP

Visioning Council

Thursday, May 13

9:30 - 2:30

PGR

Interim Pastor's Group

Thursday, May 13

11:30 - 2:30

PGR

Youth Triennium Registration and Fee

DEADLINE

Monday, May 24

Please turn information in to

[Julie](#) at the presbytery
address

COM

Tuesday, May 25

10:00 - 3:00

Northminster, Peoria

OFFICE CLOSED

Memorial Day

Monday, May 31

Session Record Review

There will be four Session Record Reviews offered this year. The reviews will be held on Saturdays from 9:30am to noon. Clerks of Session, please RSVP as soon as possible to [Julie](#) and let her know which date you will attend.

June 5	United, Peoria	RSVP by May 27
July 17	First, Springfield	RSVP by July 8
August 14	First, Macomb	RSVP by August 5
September 18	United, Woodhull	RSVP by September 9

Be sure to bring your worksheet and fill it out prior to the meeting.

[2010 Session Record Review Cover Sheet](#)

[2010 Session Record Review 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.*

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

4 days left to RSVP

Interim Associate Pastor Position Open

Westminster Presbyterian Church of Springfield is seeking a full-time Interim Associate Pastor to share in ministry with two installed clergy. The Interim Associate Pastor will participate in leading worship, officiating for weddings and funerals, coordinating adult education and pastoral care activities, and resourcing the Board of Deacons and key committees of the church during a time of staff transition. Westminster is a 1,200 member congregation with excellent programs for children, youth, and adults and a strong emphasis on serving the community. For more information contact [Dr. Lonnie H. Lee](#) by email or 217-522-4415.

Institute of Faith and Public Life

May 19-21, 2010

The Institute of Faith and Public Life, sponsored by Princeton Theological Seminary's School of

Christian Vocation and Mission, formerly Continuing Education, features a diverse group of experienced pastors, scholars, community activists, authors, and leaders in the non-profit world. Clergy and lay leaders who participate will be able to choose from a range of elective and plenary sessions over a three-day period, during which time they will learn and discuss what it means to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly" from within an integrated theological and ethical framework. [Click here](#) to find out more.



Green Energy By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

This is a continuation of last week's column on Ed Begley Jr., who is currently featured in his own television show Living With Ed. He has also published a book "Ed Begley Jr.'s Guide to Sustainable Living." He was at Illinois State University for Earth Day observances.

Ed shared that he has a close friend who started a new business doing energy audits. He told the friend he had an energy audit when he moved in and didn't need a new one. The friend insisted, pointing out that there was new technology such as blower door testing and infrared imaging. Begley finally gave in.

Begley was stunned to find he had what was for all intents and purposes a huge "hole" over the French doors in his office. He hurried to insulate the "hole" and make the other repairs recommended by the friend.

"I have a book, I have a television show but my natural gas and electrical bills went down," Begley shared.

Begley urged everyone in the audience to have a modern energy audit and to make as many improvements as possible from the recommendations. He went one step further and said he is working to get a federal bill passed to provide free energy audits for every home in the United States.

Another small and rather easy change Begley suggested is to properly dispose of toxic cleaning products in your home and start using simple products such as vinegar and baking soda or at least buy products with the "green seal."

Begley and his family live in California where water is a precious commodity. He re-plumbed his house so the grey water from the laundry, showers and bathroom sinks is collected and used to water the landscaping. He has a desert landscape and does not believe in watering lawns - especially in dry climates. He is also against lawn services that use lots of chemicals and do not follow good environmental practices.

Along those lines the television star is concerned about the bees. He is closely following the research that will hopefully determine what has been affecting our bee populations and what is myth. "We need to protect our bees," he said.

Begley is a vegan but does not try to force his eating habits on others. He just urges everyone to buy local food so fuel is not used to transport it long distances and to eat organically.

Consumers should consider the environment in every decision in their lives, Begley said. He recently started banking online and changed all his bills to paperless.

After a consumer has made all the inexpensive and easy lifestyle changes they could consider alternative power such as solar and wind. Wind is king according to Begley who points out it is still much less expensive than solar. His neighborhood has very little wind but many could have a small, vertical turbine on their property while complying with local codes, he noted.

Begley definitely practices what he preaches. Hopefully some of his ideas will inspire you and your church to become more "green."

Hopefully you all read my recent column announcing a new opportunity to bring FREE energy audits to all of our Presbytery churches. If want to get on the list or need more information shoot me an e-mail using the hot link below.

To contact me, e-mail greenenergy@greatriverspby.org. Until next week let's all strive to be good

stewards of God's earth.

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