

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

May 10, 2010



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614
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2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)

The 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium will be held at Purdue University, July 20-24. Transportation will be provided by the presbytery.

The following link takes you to the [current Triennium web page](#) with the new "Registration Form"

"Guidelines and Medical Release Form"

"Packing List."

If you have not filled out the *Medical Release Form* please do so asap and mail to the presbytery office.

Fill the Registration Form out completely and return to [Julie](#) at the Presbytery of Great Rivers office. **Registration Forms and \$409 Fee Deadline** for Presbytery of Great Rivers is **Monday, May 24.**

ADULTS - If you are an adult attending the PYT you **must** have a background check done by the presbytery. Please fill out the [Authorization Form](#) and return it to the presbytery office.

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

If you haven't submitted your "Ticket Order Form" to [Julie](#) yet, please mail it today.

Mark Your Calendar

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

General Presbyter's Perspective

Rev. Susan Krummel

Last week I was working with a group as we engaged in interim ministry/transitional ministry education with a group of about 40 students in St. Louis. It is always interesting to see who comes to this educational event and how we help them to see that they have not come to learn specific skills for a specific kind of ministry. Instead, we work with them as leaders in the church and help them to think about issues like change, conflict, systems and so on in the midst of a time of such great change, whether that change is for a particular congregation, for our denomination or for the church in North America as a whole.

One of the resources to which I referred is a book called The Art of Possibility by Zander and Zander. I find the book to be very inspirational in its encouragement to think about all of the possibilities that lie before us instead of concentrating on scarcity or loss or downward spirals. One

[Julie](#) at the presbytery
address

COM

Tuesday, May 25
10:00 - 3:00

Northminster, Peoria

OFFICE CLOSED

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31

particular part of the book talks about how, as leaders, we all need to find ways to help our groups, organizations, families and so on to define new possibilities that replace the downward spirals in which we may be caught. There are three stages to accomplishing this; the first one is to help a group to discern a new possibility. This is the story told by one of the authors to illustrate this point.

A little girl has gone through cancer treatment that has left her without hair. She is well enough to return to school before her hair has returned to her head. Her mother helps her to tie a beautiful scarf around her head which suffices until recess. Then the other children, being curious and being eight years old, take the scarf from her head and make fun of her baldness. The little girl has great courage because she returns to school the next day. That morning, she arrives along with the other children at about the same time as their teacher. They are all taking off their coats and hats and hanging them in the appropriate places. The teacher does the same. When she removes the hat that has been covering her own head, the children discover that the teacher is completely bald. She has shaved her head overnight.

That is a story about helping a group to discern a new possibility in the world. The teacher did not teach a lesson on manners or accepting people who are different; she did not punish the wrong-doers or try to coddle the little girl. Instead, she just helped her classroom to become a place in which baldness was no big deal and in which the work of the classroom would go on.

There are two more steps which come after this one. We will talk about those in future weeks. (Or you could read ahead for yourself, of course!) As I read this again in preparation for teaching last week, it struck me that this creation of new possibilities is one way of describing what Jesus did for us.

Remember the story of the raising of Lazarus? Jesus had been warned over and over again to stay away from the neighborhood of Jerusalem because every time he went there, the authorities tried to kill him. When he told the disciples that they were heading back toward Jerusalem because Lazarus was dead, the disciples understood that this very likely could be a decision on Jesus' part that would lead to his death. In fact, Thomas said that they might as well all go and die with him. That was the downward spiral they were in: that the ministry in which they were involved was so dangerous that it would lead to the death of their leader and, quite possibly their own deaths and that would be the end of it.

So, what did Jesus do? He comforted the sisters of Lazarus. He wept with them in the cemetery. And then he called Lazarus--who was truly and completely dead-- forth from the tomb. He created a new possibility for them. He helped them to begin to see the world in a different way, as a place where the most powerful event they could imagine--their own deaths and the deaths of their loved ones--would not be the final word.

We are the heirs of that powerful promise of possibility. Yet, we sometimes get caught in the downward spirals of less money, fewer members, older members, the impending demise of our congregations and so on. As a leader in the church and, more importantly, as an heir of the promise of new life that cannot be conquered by death, how do you help the people you serve to live in the new reality created by Jesus' own death, resurrection, and promise of new life for us all?

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.

Macomb, [Scotland Trinity Presbyterian Church](#)
Mason City, United Presbyterian Church
Media, Community Presbyterian Church
Medora, Summerville Presbyterian Church

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](#)

Small Church Event

Saturday, June 19, 2010

10:00am - 2:00pm

First Presbyterian Church

101 N. Main Street
Lewistown, IL 61542

Join Moderator Danie deBeer and Executive Sue Krummel to hear about Danie's DMin Thesis on revitalizing small churches and to address the issues shared by our smallest congregations. Each participating congregation will receive a \$50 "economic stimulus contribution."

Lunch will be served at no charge for participants.

Please RSVP no later than June 7 to [Julie](#) (800) 537-8592.

Vacationing This Summer?

If you are vacationing this summer and would like to find a nearby Presbyterian church the following is a link to the [PCUSA church directory](#)!

IRS-Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

The IRS has been sending postcards about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Several churches have received these postcards and although churches are tax exempt, there may still be benefits available to churches who provide health insurance for employees. While no definite rules have been determined yet on how this will be applied to tax-exempt organizations, [Click Here](#) for more information.

Organist Needed at Peoria, Bethel

After 22 years, as our organist, CarolAnn Purcell has retired and has moved out east to be closer to her family. Music is such an important part of the Bethel Presbyterian Church worship service. We are seeking an organist, for our 10:15 am Sunday morning service. This position currently pays \$50 per service.

Bethel Presbyterian Church
1001 S. Greenlawn Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 637-6858

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Cliff Quine Jr. (309) 674-8660.

Nashville Flooding

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You are probably aware of the horrible flooding that has happened in Nashville. The shelters are full, many people are still missing, and the economic damage to the entire city is great. Many of us stepped up in response to Haiti and I believe we can do the same for Nashville. I am asking to see if groups in your churches would get together to make PCUSA Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits.

If you come up to Peoria you can bring them by the Presbytery Office and I'll make sure they get sent out. The Presbytery will use some of the Flood and Disaster Relief Funds to ship these kits to Nashville. PDA will distribute these to areas that are in great need.

Here is the information on how to put one of these kits together. ONLY complete kits will be accepted.

Hygiene Kit (previous Health Kit)

- 1 - hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 - washcloth
- 1 - wide-tooth comb
- 1 - nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- 1 - bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 - toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 6 - Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

Thanks for your help. If you have other ideas to help Nashville please pass them along. Perhaps we can unite to do a PGR mission trip down there this summer.

[Stephen Mckinney-Whitaker](#)



Green Energy
By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

Eureka College is launching a new committee of faculty, students and staff to explore ways to "green" the campus. The committee recently hosted "What's so great about a green campus? - an evening discussion with Nan Jenks-Jay, Dean of Environmental Affairs at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont about how colleges and universities can work towards environmental sustainability and why they should." Her campus may be one the greenest in the United States and offers fields of study in areas related to the environment.

What is interesting about any agenda on a campus is that the entire student population turns over approximately every four years. So if something is going to last you constantly have to seek "buy in" from the younger students.

The college buys food locally. The cafeteria cooks with whole foods and the students grow a lot of food in organic gardens.

There is a recycling program with a very high percentage of participation. And many students work part time at the recycling center sorting the items that come in co-mingled to encourage participation. If you make recycling as easy as possible more consumers will jump on the bandwagon.

Much of the heating on campus comes from biomass digesters. Much of the biomass comes from the food waste on campus.

Here is the "green mission statement" if you will from their website "***At Middlebury, sustainability is about more than our renewable energy projects and 'green' buildings. It is an integral part of how we teach, work, and play.***"

With innovative ideas from the campus community, a supportive administration, and the oldest undergraduate environmental studies program in the country, Middlebury provides a unique

atmosphere to explore real-world problems. At Middlebury we have set milestones for carbon neutrality and renewable energy, for greening athletics as well as study abroad, and by increasing local foods in our dining halls and through our organic garden."

While a college campus is not a church - as we broaden our approach to greener living in our spiritual life and our home life we can take bits and pieces from many sources and fit together those that make sense.

It will be interesting to follow Eureka College as they explore their green options and make changes. One of their first decisions was to forgo spraying the dandelions in the campus lawn. That's a good place to start and let's hope they don't get many complaints. If your church is making green decisions it can be confusing and even controversial. Contact me if I can help in any way.

Hopefully you 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.

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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